

## DAILY READING PLAN



### Week of March 12, 2023

**Reframe:** Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?

**Luke 6:43-49**

**Day One:** Read Luke 6:46-49 | *"So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say? I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins."*

What aspects of Jesus' teaching do you find it most difficult to obey? Why? What are the potential consequences for your daily life?

**Day Two:** Read Luke 6:43-45 | *"A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart."*

Consider the words you've spoken in the last day or two. What do they reveal about what's in your heart? Did you build people up, or tear them down? Did you gossip or compliment? Or was it "all of the above"? What might need to change in your heart in order to change your words?

**Day Three:** Read Romans 7:15-25 | *I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin."*

In what ways can you relate to what St. Paul says here? According to Paul, what's the problem? Are you responsible? Why or why not? What might Paul say to Jesus in response to Jesus' question, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and not do what I say?"

**Day Four: Read James 1:22-25 | *But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.***

How is Scripture like a mirror? What does it reveal to you? What changes when you put the teaching of Scripture into practice instead of just listening to it? Does your image (your heart or life) change?

**Day Five: Read Ephesians 2:1-10 | *Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world.<sup>[a]</sup> He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.***

All week long we've been exploring the power of sin in our lives and how it hinders our ability to obey Jesus' teaching. What does today's reading say about all that? Spend some time expressing your gratitude for God's amazing grace in your life.