



**Forty Days of Reflection
and
Drawing Closer to Jesus**

Week One -Three

Church tradition established the forty days prior to Easter as a time for introspection and self-denial. The tradition seeks to follow Jesus' forty days of testing in the wilderness before He started His formal ministry. Christians are suffering severely all around the world for their commitment to Jesus. Here North America we have become soft and lukewarm in our commitment. Jesus is not the center of our life, He has become more of an add on to our basic lifestyle.

I challenge us as a church family to concentrate our focus on Jesus for the next 40 days ending on Good Friday. Each week I will offer some suggestions but you are free to engage in this exercise in whatever way keeps your eyes on Jesus.

*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:1-3*

I will try not to make the exercises too extensive so that you will not become discouraged. You should be able to complete the suggestions in less than a half hour but also take opportunity for a longer deliberation.

The commitment at the beginning is to engage with God and the Bible EVERDAY for the next forty days. Hopefully you will establish a habit that continues after the forty days.

Collaborate with an encouragement partner to help you keep consistent and perhaps who you might share the insights you picked up from your reading and interaction.

Each day will revolve around the following three areas.

Inspection Reading and thinking about a Bible passage or two regarding the person of Jesus

Interaction A conversation with Jesus about what you read.

Introspection A time for personally introspection base on a passage dealing with life issues.

Investment A suggested action that encourages us to focus on others.

□ Day 1 – Jesus, The Great Mediator of a new Covenant

Inspection Read Hebrews 9

For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. 1 Timothy 2:5-7

Consider the benefit of having Jesus as our mediator.

Interaction

In your conversation with Jesus, review the things He did for us as our mediator.

I.e. You entered the true tabernacle with Your own blood.

You offered Yourself without blemish.

Introspection

To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 'Because you say, I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,'and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"Revelation 3:14-22

What would a letter from Jesus to you look like?

It is not whether you think you are lukewarm that matters. It is what Jesus thinks.

We must compare ourselves to HIS standard not the what other people do.

Jesus called for a specific response to the sin of luke-warmness. Consider yours.

Confess your sin. Recommit your life.

Investment

Lent often focuses on fasting. Fasting is the choice to give up some personal practice for a higher purpose.

Many of us find ourselves complaining. Try going on a complaining fast for a whole week.

If you mess up, you need to say two good things in place of the complaint.

Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, Philipians 2:14-15

□ Day 2 – Jesus, the Eternal Word

Inspection – Read John 1:1-18

What image does the use of the term “Word” bring to mind concerning Jesus?

When did the Word come into existence?

What was the Word’s relationship to God?

What was the Word’s responsibility?

What two responses did the world have to the Word when He visited the earth?

What happens to those who received Him?

Have you received Him?

What was the reaction of the disciples who lived with the incarnate (in flesh) Word?

What was the reason the Word entered the world as a man?

Interaction

Focus on as many truths as you have time to think about and talk to Jesus about them.

I.e. What was it like for You to enter our world? Thank you.

I am glad I received you.

Thank you for help us know what God is like?

Introspection

Let’s try another letter to the early church that lets us know how Jesus feels.

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. 'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent. 'Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.' Revelation 2:1-7

What did Jesus commend here?

What bothered Him?

What kinds of actions and feelings do you remember about when you were first dating your spouse?

How would you compare your actions and feelings when you first committed your life to Christ and now? Have you left your first love? Jesus calls us to remember and repent and return.

Confess your sin. Recommit your life.

Investment

Complement your spouse (or a family or friend) every day this week. I appreciate your... Thank you for... Your ___ means a lot to me.

☐ Day 3 -- Jesus, God's Superior Spokesman

Inspection – Read Hebrews 1-2:4

Think about the characteristics attributed to God's last spokesman. I.e. heir of all things

What was Jesus' relationship with the Father?

What did Jesus come to say?

If (and He is) God's final spokesman, how should we respond to Him? (Hint 2:1-4)

Interaction

Talk to Jesus about His attributes? You are...

Affirm your desire to pay closer attention.

Talk to Him about whatever else struck you in this passage.

Introspection

Scripture records numerous lists of sins we should put off (stop doing) as well as virtues we should put on (practice). These serve as check points for our daily life. Hebrews calls for daily encouragement lest we become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Such passages keep us accountable. These passages are not intended to condemn us but to encourage us to continue our journey to becoming more like Jesus. I will suggest these passages along the way.

Today focus on what we should put off, tomorrow things we should put on.

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. Colossians 3:1-11

Let the Holy Spirit nudge you all through this passage. Consider how your current life style matches to the standard here.

Confess your sin. Recommit your life.

Investment

Focus on "things above" by limiting your connection time to the world. (TV, cell phone, computer games. Decide to either fast (unplug) until Sunday or establish a time limit each day until Sunday. You can do it!!! Its only 4 days.

☐ Day 4 -- Jesus, the Great Intercessor

Inspection – Read John 17; Heb 7:23-25

John 17 is the longest recorded prayer of Jesus. Try to get a sense of His heart. This was the prayer He prayed shortly before going to the cross. What seemed most important to Him? Feel it. What makes Jesus a great intercessor (Hebrews 7:23-25)

Interaction

Talk to Jesus about His desires for you. i.e. be one, be sanctified in truth
Affirm that these are what you want to see as well.

Introspection

Today look at the next section from Colossians.

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. Colossians 3:12-17

How are you doing with the things listed here.

Sin means missing the mark or the God established standard.

It applies as much concerning the things we don't do that we ARE supposed to as the things we do that we AREN'T supposed to.

Confess your sin. Recommit your life.

Investment

Jesus is our intercessor. We are instructed to intercede for others. Pray that God will lay on your heart at least five people you will pray for everyday for the duration of our exercise.

☐ Day 5 -- The Good Shepherd

Inspection -- Read John 10 Psalm 23

What do you learn from the shepherd parable in the beginning of chapter 10?

What are the characteristics of sheep from this passage? Can you relate?

What are the characteristics of a good shepherd?

What is the sheepfold? Meditate on the significance of being safe in His sheepfold.

Is He your shepherd?

Now think about the ministry of the Shepherd from Psalm 23.

Interaction

Use Psalm 23 as your own prayer and thank Jesus for doing that for you?

i.e. You make me lie down in green pastures. Thank you for daily nourishment and rest.

Introspection

Paul provided the evidence of the Holy Spirit in control of our life or the flesh.

Today focus on the evidence of the Holy Spirit's control.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another. Galatians 5:22-26

If these were a check list or each one on a scale of 1-10 how would those closest to you indicate the presence of these 9 character traits?

Confess your sin. Recommit your life.

Investment

Consider at least one person you failed to demonstrate one of these character traits and then consider going to them and asking forgiveness.

☐ Day 6 – Jesus, the Incomparable Christ

Inspection – Read Colossians 1:13-23

Make a list of the descriptions of the character or ministry (works) of Jesus.

Take the time to meditate on as many as you can.

I.e. the contrast to living in the kingdom of darkness and Jesus' kingdom.

How did He rescue us from that dark kingdom?

Interaction

Talk to Jesus about the things that stand out to you in this passage. i.e. I am so grateful for Your forgiveness. You created everything. What a fabulous demonstration of Your power and wisdom!

Introspection

Not the other half of the Galatians list – deeds of the flesh.

These are practices that will not be allowed in God's kingdom.

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21

Notice the bulk of these issues have to deal with broken relationships.

Confess your sin. Recommit your life.

Investment

Ask God to reveal someone you offended and never made it right. You will be surprised how clearly and quickly a name comes to mind.

Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. Matthew 5:23-24

☐ Day 7 – Jesus, the Nurturing Vine

Inspection – Read John 15:1-17

Take some time to visualize the imagery used here. Think about a grape arbor and the components of growth.

What is the point Jesus makes regarding our critical relationship with Him?

What is the natural result of connection to the vine?

How does the Father (gardener) draw more fruit from the branches?

What is the main fruit the Father desires from His branches?

Interaction

Talk to Jesus about your connection. Do you feel disconnected? Tell Him. Talk to Him about what tugged at your heart from this passage. How is your “love” life? Are you bearing fruit, more fruit, much fruit or no fruit? Talk to Him about it.

Introspection

1 Corinthians 13 stands as the supreme description (not definition) of true love. We can easily say we love people. It may be a feeling or simply a statement. The reality is that God provided a standard by which we can measure the genuineness of our love. Measure your love against God’s standard. Obedience has as much to do with a failure to do what we ought as a choice to do what we ought NOT. Using 1 Cor 13 as a standard, evaluate your expression of love from both the negative and positive angle. i.e. love is patient. Is patience evident in my life or impatience. Confess your sin. Recommit your life to love like Jesus.

Investment

Ask God to lead you to someone you can demonstrate love to this week.

Or ask God to recall to mind someone you failed to show love and purpose to make it right.

☐ Day 8 – Jesus our Ultimate example

Inspection – Read 1 Peter 2:21-25; Matthew 11:28-30, John 13:5-11; Eph 5:1; John 15:12

Identify the areas where Jesus called us to follow His example.

How does His example compare with mine in these areas?

Interaction

Thank Jesus for His clear example and ask Him to do a work in your heart so that you can live like Him. To the point where you could say as Paul did...

Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. Philippians 3:17

Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:1

Introspection

Use the passages under introspection to evaluate you own practice.

How does your life match or not match His?

Investment

Is there a book of the Bible you have wanted to read but haven't?

Commit to sitting down and reading it through at one sitting sometime this week.

☐ Day 9 – Jesus, the Great High Priest

Inspection – Read Hebrews 2:14-18, 4:14-5:14; 6:19-7:28;

The main idea in these passages is to consider Jesus as our eternal High priest. The High priest interceded to God for man. The prophet spoke on behalf of God to men.

These are some difficult concepts. That is why the writer expressed difficulty in trying to explain them to those who had become dull of hearing. He wanted to teach them more about Christ as our High Priest but couldn't.

Think about the vast distance between sinful man and a holy God and our need for someone to intercede for us. Now consider what these passages teach about what Jesus does today as our High Priest.

What makes Jesus a better high priest than any earthly one?

Interaction

The point in all this is that we have confidence to approach the holy place.

Talk to Jesus about how you feel. Approach the throne of grace where you can receive mercy and find grace (enabling power) to help in your time of need.

Introspection

Read James 3:1-12. The Bible addresses the issues associated with our speech often. Ask God if you how you might improve both your tongue and tone.

Investment

Ask God who you might use your tongue to bless or encourage with positive words this week.

☐ Day 10 -- Jesus, the Lord over Nature

Inspection

Before Jesus took on flesh at Bethlehem, He created everything and everyone. In order to demonstrate He was the same Sovereign over nature He publically demonstrated His power over nature while on earth.

Today is a different day. I suggest some recorded accounts of those public demonstrations. There are numerous accounts. I suggest just a few. Enter each scene as a bystander and marvel at the Lord over nature.

Power over fish – Luke 5:1-11

Power over the wind – Matt 8:23-27

Power over elements – Mark 6:33-52

Power over death and disease – John 9:1-12; Luke 8:40-56

Power of the spirit world – Luke 8:26-39

Interaction

Tell Jesus how awesome He is. Chat with Him about what He did for those people.

Introspection - Investment

Your body is a marvelous creation of God. Consider how you are treating it. What will you do to change a habit that is harmful to the body or start one that would be helpful to the body?

☐ Day 11 -- Jesus, the Humble Servant

Inspection – Read Philippians 2:1-18

Here Paul holds up Jesus as the ultimate illustration of humility and service.

We are to imitate the kind of thinking Jesus had.

Consider what it took for the eternal Jesus to take on flesh.

The immortal to take on mortality.

The all-powerful to take on weakness.

Interaction

Talk to Jesus about how He felt. Express your gratitude. Purpose to become like Him and be a servant as expressed in this passage (doing all things without grumbling or disputing).

Ask Jesus to change your thinking or attitudes to reflect His attitude when He took on flesh.

Introspection

What does sacrificial service look like for us? How do we demonstrate a servant's humble heart?

Would others characterize us as selfless or selfish? Read 2:19-30 for examples of selfless service.

Confess and renew.

Investment

Ask God to put on your heart some selfless action you might do for someone else even if it might inconvenience you.

☐ Day 12 – Jesus, the Suffering Servant

Inspection – Read Isaiah 53

This is a powerful description of what Jesus did for us.

Go back through the passage and where our specific problems are mentioned, think about specific examples in your life.

i.e our transgressions and iniquities -- think specific personal sins of our charged to Jesus.

Picture Jesus taking the all punishment for all your sins.

Interaction

Use this passage as a prayer. Substitute "Him" with "You" and "we, our" with "me and my".

Be aware of you feel about someone else taking the "rap" for your sins.

Tell Him how you feel.

Introspection

The interaction portion involved some deep introspection. Add some more sins. Ask the Holy Spirit to recall some other examples.

Confess and renew.

Investment

Realizing Jesus' forgiveness of you, forgive yourself.

☐ Day 13 – Jesus the Ultimate Servant

Inspection

Jesus taught about true servanthood.

Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."Mark 10:42-45

John 13:1-20 documents a vivid illustration of the servant heart of Jesus.

Read the passage and observe the account as one of the disciples. What do you see and hear? What do you feel? What do you wonder about? What do you think foot washing symbolizes? What do you think about His instruction to do what he did?

Interaction

You read Peter's reaction. Tell Jesus your feelings about Him washing your feet. Express your gratitude that the Lord who flung the universe into existence is willing to stoop down and wash your feet.

Introspection

Foot washing is all about daily forgiveness. I know I have had you contemplating areas that need attention. Today focus just on today's need for forgiveness. Ask God to unearth anything that should be confessed.

Investment

I guess the obvious action stirred by this lesson would be to think about anyone that you need to forgive.

☐ Day 14 -- Jesus, the Ultimate Sacrifice

Inspection – Read Hebrews 10:1-25

This is obviously a comparison to the Old Testament sacrificial system that was a picture of what Jesus would accomplish once for all.

Consider the comparisons and contrasts between the two sacrifices.

What three commands did the writer issue in light of Christ being the way to enter the presence of God.

How are you doing with those three things?

Interaction

Obviously, a major response would be deep gratitude. Personalize verses 19-25 in a conversation with Jesus.

I.e. "Since I have confidence to enter the holy place because of Your blood..."

Introspection

This passage deals with our sacrifice for Jesus. It is the least we can do considering His sacrifice for us. List the things listed here that God considers a sacrifice to Him. Are we offering a worthy sacrifice.

*Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of **praise** to God, that is, the fruit of lips that **give thanks** to His name. And do not neglect **doing good** and **sharing**, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:15-16*

Investment

Ask God to lay someone on your heart to minister to this week.

☐ Day 15 – Jesus, the forgiver of sins

Inspection

Read Matt 18:21-34. Jesus shares a parable in response to Peter's questions about how many times we should forgive someone. Peter suggested seven times. Jesus multiplied his suggestion by 70. I believe this parable demonstrates the hazard of failing to reciprocate forgiveness and the failure to realize forgiveness. One results in bitterness, the other results in guilt.

What is the Spirit stirring in your own heart concerning forgiveness? What does this passage teach about the nature of forgiveness?

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Colossians 3:12-13

Interaction / Inspection

Talk to the ultimate forgiver of sins. Thank Him for His complete forgiveness and ask Him to reveal an area of unforgiveness.

Investment

Purpose to forgive anyone Jesus revealed in your interaction with Him. Remember, forgiveness is free to the forgiven but costly to the forgiver. Because Jesus supplies us with ultimate emotional resources by His Spirit we can bear that cost if we choose to.

☐ Day 16 -- Jesus, The Great Teacher Matt 5

Inspection – Matt 5

This chapter begins the sermon on the mount which goes through chapter 7.

These chapters focus on the character of the citizens of the kingdom.

There is much to interact with in this chapter. The chapter covers many subjects. Give attention to anything the Holy Spirit draws to your attention.

Inspection

The inspection part of this passages comes easily.

Begin with how do my attitudes measure with the beatitudes?

Think about the opposite characteristics of each one. I.e. Poor in spirit verses proud in spirit.

Address any other areas highlighted by the Holy Spirit.

Interaction

Turn the chapter into a conversation with Jesus about your desire for each of these things to be true of you. I.e. I want to be gentler. I want my light to shine. I want to be salty. I want your love to be evident in me.

Investment

Express thanks in a letter or send an email to someone who has had positive influence on your life and character.

☐ Day 17 -- Jesus, the Great Teacher Part 2 Matt 6

Inspection / Introspection – Read Matthew 6

This is a continuation of Jesus' teaching from the Sermon on the Mount.

What lessons does Jesus teach concerning giving, prayer, fasting and worry?

How are you doing? Does your life measure up to the principles taught here by Jesus.

Interaction

Talk to Jesus about these things. Ask Him to intercede and work in your life.

Finish by praying the Disciple's Prayer and fill in the details.

I.e. May you name be Hallowed – your name is...

May your kingdom come.

May your will be done in my life down as your will get done up there. Have your way in...

Give me enough to sustain me today.

Forgive me in the same way that I forgive others. (Name what sins Jesus brings to mind.

Talk to Jesus about what worries you.

Investment

Consider fasting something. Fasting deals with giving up something pleasurable for a specified period in order to tame the flesh and demonstrate devotion to God.

Sweets, all food, TV, electronics etc.

☐ Day 18 Jesus, the Great Teacher Pt 3

Inspection / Introspection – Read Matthew 7

This is the last chapter in the Sermon on the Mount.

As you are reading, ask God to point out anything that applies to your current situation. Are you building a good foundation by hearing and acting on His word? Are you a judgmental people? Are you sometimes hypocritical? Etc.

Interaction

Talk to Jesus about anything He pointed out. Confess and renew.

Investment

Renew your commitment to keep interacting with the Word daily by hearing AND doing.

☐ Day 19 -- Jesus, the everlasting love

Inspection – Read Romans 8:28-39

Pay attention to the question and answers.

Review all the things included that we think might separate us from God's love. In this extensive list are there any that Paul didn't include?

Interaction

Turn this into a personal prayer of affirmation.

I.e. "I know that You work all things together for good..."

"What can I say to these wonderful things you have done for me?"

"I am convinced that nothing can separate me from the Your love Jesus."

Introspection

Sometimes we have trouble believing God loves us. Such doubt hinders our relationship. This passage indicates the more we understand His love, the closer the relationship. Take some time to evaluate your feelings toward God's love. Confess, if necessary. Rest in His love.

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us. 1 John 4:16-19

Investment

Thank God for His love every morning for the next three days.

☐ Day 20 -- Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith

Inspection / Introspection – Read Hebrews 12:1-17

This chapter follows a chapter on those who exhibited conquering faith and enduring faith.

There were those who believed God to overcome impossible obstacles. Others believed God to endure unimaginable suffering. Hebrews 12 is all about the source of our trust and an admonition to trust God as they did.

How am I running this race? Reflect on Jesus' suffering. He was one who endured suffering. How did He do it? How can we do it? How can we keep from losing heart? What part does God's training discipline play in it all? What should we look out for in the family?

Interaction

Turn this passage into a conversation with Jesus. I.e. You say you instilled faith in me and you are responsible for perfecting it. Help me run this race with endurance by looking to you for every aspect of my life so I won't grow weary and be disheartened.

Help strengthen the weak. Pursue peace with all men and root out bitterness in my life.

Investment

We are to strengthen the hands that are weak. Ask God to bring someone to mind you can strengthen in some way.

☐ Day 21 -- Jesus , the eternal I Am

Inspection

Jesus claimed to be equal to the Father. He used the term "I Am" which is the Old Testament equivalent to Yahweh the eternal God. Today I suggest reading the ten passages where Jesus makes some amazing claim regarding Himself.

I am – John 8:52-39

I am one with the Father – John 10: 22-40

I am the Light of the world -- John 8:12; 1:9-13

I am the Bread of Life – John 6:26-58

I am the Good Shepherd (read previously)

I am the Door (Read previously)

I am the True Vine (Read previously)

I am the Resurrection and the life -- John 11:1-46

I am teacher and Lord – John 13:13

I am the Way, the Truth, the Life – John 14:6

Think back through each of these bold claims. If these things are true of Jesus (and they are) what are the implications for us? I.e. True vine – I need to connect to Him to bear fruit.

Interaction

Now ask Jesus to touch your life in each of these areas. I.e. Teacher – Jesus teach me.
Shepherd – Jesus lead me and protect me.

Introspection

Since Jesus is the Eternal God, do I respond to Him at that level. Think about your perception of Jesus. Just a “good buddy” or the eternal God? Confess and renew.