

Day One: Job 3

- After seven days of mourning, what did Job do (1)? Summarize the ways he “cursed the day of his birth” (2-10). Which curse puts you most in touch with the magnitude of Job’s grief? Why?
- Job then begins asking “why.” Describe those questions pertaining to his birth and existence (11-12, 16). What value does Job see in death (13-15, 17-19)? When confronted with life’s unfairness, what path do your thoughts and emotions tend to take? If it’s dark or futile, turn to the Lord. Receive his love and partner with him in the renewal of all things, including your own spirit.
- Describe Job’s “why” regarding “those in misery” (20-22). What is another “why” he asks about himself (23)? How does Job describe his condition (24-26)? When worst fears come to pass and send us into despair, healing is often a long journey. Pray God’s comfort for those on this trek: may they deeply sense God’s love and renewal and long to be part of what he’s doing in *this* life.

Day Two: Isaiah 43:19-21

- What is God drawing our attention to (19)? How does the prophet describe this “new thing” (19)? Spiritually speaking, what do you think it means for water to spring up in dry land? Why do you think we sometimes fail to notice when God is on the move like this?
- Who honors the Lord (20)? Why (20)? How does it feel to think that animals can acknowledge what God is doing in their lives? How do you think the Lord wants *you* to respond to his activity in your life? What lies does he want you to exchange for truth?
- How does the Lord describe his people (20-21)? Because he views them this way, what ought to spring forth from his people (21)? Do you identify with these attributes: chosen, formed by God and proclaiming his praise? Why or why not? May you embrace and live by all that it means to be a part of God’s people.

Day Three: Luke 13:1-5

- Set the scene of this text (1). When people shared this story with Jesus, they probably expected him to fear he may be Pilate’s next victim. But in what surprisingly different direction did Jesus take the conversation (2)? How does he answer his own question (3)?
- What other example does Jesus give to support his assertion that we don’t always reap what we sow, and that it’s not within our ability to understand *why* certain things happen (4)? And how does he once again answer this question (5)? What examples do you think Jesus would give today in order to help us understand we don’t always get what we deserve?
- In verse four, note that Siloam, which means “sent,” is also mentioned in John 9:7. Jesus’ mission was to send his followers in a direction quite different from their narrow and ubiquitous obsession with overthrowing Roman occupation. Pray for power to turn from the destructive and life-zapping paths in your own life.

Day Four: John 3:16-21

- How does God feel about the world (16)? How did he express his love, and what does it accomplish (16)? What clarifications does John then make (17-18)?

- God's love always makes the first move and is perfectly embodied in Christ. Read 1 John 4:10, another place where John testifies about God's love. Life in Christ begins and ends with love, never condemnation. Open your hands to receive more of this love now.
- Despite the beautiful light God has brought into the world via Jesus, some reject it. Why (19-20)? Ask the Lord what role he wants you to play in helping others to "come into the light" of his love. What is he speaking, and how will you respond?
- What is characteristic of those who "live by the truth" (21)? In what ways is this a reflection of your own life? In what ways is it not; what are you hiding in darkness? Repent and come into God's truthful and loving light so that he can transform you.

Day Five: Hebrews 8

- What is the author's "main point" (1-2)? Picture this scene in your mind's eye; anything humans have tried to create to represent it – namely the Temple – pales in comparison. Jesus is the real thing, and as our high priest in heaven, he will make all things right.
- What does Jesus have in common with other high priests (3)? What sets him apart (4-6)? Re-read verse six. Ask the Holy Spirit to testify to your heart about Jesus' promises and superiority. May his testimony increase your resilience in this unfair world.
- Why did God make a New Covenant with his people (7-8)? Summarize Jeremiah's Old Testament prophecy about it (8-12). Pray this prophecy would give you a better understanding of our savior and help you fall more in love with him.
- What's the Old Covenant's current status (13)? Obsolete or false beliefs can muddy our connection to Jesus, especially in times of great need. Let go of lies; receive Jesus and his loving truth!