



MON 3-21

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Matthew 22:36-39
- ✓ THOUGHT "Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?' He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.'" [CEB] Jesus gets to the heart of what truly matters when it comes to our religious beliefs. Take a moment to reflect on the ways you might unnecessarily complicate your faith.
- ✓ PRAYER Loving God, help me to get back to the basics of my faith. I don't want rules or issues to ever come before my devotion to you or my commitment to loving and serving others. Amen.

NOTES: _____

TUES 3-22

- ✓ SCRIPTURE 1 John 3:17-18
- ✓ THOUGHT "If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions." [NLT] If our religion does not bring us to a place where we are helping others, it is only empty words and ideas! Let the love of Jesus guide you into action.
- ✓ PRAYER Lord Jesus, thank you for your example of love at work in the lives of people. Help me to keep moving along in my faith journey, continually growing in this area. Inspire me to be generous with my time. Amen.

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WED 3-23

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:40
- ✓ THOUGHT "Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'" [CEB] Jesus explains that we are loving him when we love people in need. He regularly reminded the Jewish leaders and teachers of the law that people are his priority.
- ✓ PRAYER Loving Jesus, help me to see you in the faces of those around me who need my help. Remind me each day that you have placed me in these specific moments so I can be your light to others. Forgive me when I have been unwilling to help or when I have failed to notice when I am needed. Amen.

NOTES: _____



THURS 3-24

- ✓ SCRIPTURE 1 Timothy 1:5
- ✓ THOUGHT "The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith." [NLT] Make this your prayer today! Ask God to help you understand more specifically how this needs to play out in your life.
- ✓ PRAYER Almighty God, create in me a pure heart. May love guide my steps so I enjoy a clear conscience. Help me demonstrate a genuine faith in the way that I prioritize helping those around me. Amen.

NOTES: _____

FRI 3-25

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Colossians 2:8
- ✓ THOUGHT "See to it that nobody enslaves you with philosophy and foolish deception, which conform to human traditions and the way the world thinks and acts rather than Christ." [CEB] Christ must remain in the center of what we believe, and these beliefs must fuel our behaviors. Is there an area of your life or a specific habit that needs to be adjusted in order to keep Christ in first place?
- ✓ PRAYER Jesus, I want you to be my primary focus. Reveal to me anything that might be getting in the way of the way you have called me to live and give me the courage to change it. Amen.

NOTES: _____

SAT 3-26

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Colossians 3:23
- ✓ THOUGHT "Whatever you do, do it from the heart for the Lord and not for people." [CEB] When we start looking for ways to help others, sometimes it is tempting to seek recognition from people for our good deeds. Ask God to help you keep your motives pure. Seek God's approval and reward!
- ✓ PRAYER Loving God, it is you I want to please out of gratitude for the great love you have freely shown me. Help me to serve others without striving for the approval of the people around me. Amen.

NOTES: _____

DIGGING DEEPER

✓ **Intro** **Just outside of Jerusalem, Jesus performed a miracle that changed a man's life forever. For 38 years, this man was unable to walk. But when Jesus said, "Get up," the man was healed. However, it's what Jesus said next that made this miracle a clear sign of who Jesus really was.**

✓ **Reflect**

- What is one law or cultural expectation you wish was different?
- Can you remember a time when someone went against the rules or the norm so you could benefit? Explain.
- Read John 5:1-21, where the apostle John recounts the story of Jesus healing a paralyzed man.
 - What are some details about this story that would lead a reader to believe this actually happened?
 - Before healing him, Jesus asked the man, "Do you want to get well?" Why do you think Jesus asked him that?
 - In verse 9, notice how quickly the author (John) pivots from the miraculous healing to the fact that this happened on the Sabbath. What does this say about the main reason Jesus captured this story?
 - Verses 16-18 lay the groundwork for why religious leaders were at odds with Jesus. What do their comments tell you about their religious priorities?
- Read John 5:39-40. Describe how the religious leaders may have felt hearing this.
- Give an example of how your past version of Christianity got in the way of loving people God loves. Is your current version getting in the way?
- Is there a step you can take to make a particular person a bigger priority than a potentially flawed belief or tradition?

✓ **Consider** **When your version of religion gets in the way of love, you have the wrong version. The person beside you must take priority over the potentially flawed religious views you have.**

DIGGING DEEPER

✓ What did I learn? _____

✓ How might it apply in my life? _____

✓ What is a next step I can take? _____

