

August 1

John 7:37-52

In this passage, it is becoming increasingly clear that the coming of Jesus is forcing people to choose, and they are making different choices.

Question to Consider:

Can you think of someone with whom you have a strained relationship because of your faith in Jesus? How do you deal with it?

Prayer:

Father God, I have decided to follow Jesus and I know that some people will not like my decision. I pray for them, but I also pray for my own strength – that I will stand firm in my faith. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

August 2

John 7:53-8:11

These verses tell one of the best known stories about Jesus, as he challenged those who were without sin to cast the first stone.

Question to Consider:

Be honest. When someone is accused, convincingly so, of wrongdoing, is your reaction more like that of the Pharisees or more like that of Jesus?

Prayer:

Gracious God, Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount reminds me to remove the plank from my own eye before I remove the speck from my neighbor's eye. Help me to see my own sin and to recognize my own need for forgiveness. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

August 3

John 8:12-20

In this passage, Jesus says he is "the light of the world."

Question to Consider:

What does Jesus' claim to be "the light of the world" mean to you?

Prayer:

Almighty God, there is much darkness in the world. I pray that my spirit will be filled with the hope of Jesus, the light of the world. And once that happens, use me to bring some light into the life of others. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

August 4

John 9:1-16

This is part 1 of a story about Jesus healing a blind man and the various reactions to it.

Question to Consider:

One reason the Pharisees were upset was because Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath. Think of an area in your life where there are definite rules of conduct. How do you react when someone acts in a way that is contrary to those rules?

Prayer:

Loving God, help me to love my neighbor and to willingly set aside rules and habits when they get in the way and keep me from loving as Jesus loves. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

August 5

John 9:17-41

This is part 2 of a story about Jesus healing a blind man and the various reactions to it.

Question to Consider:

The blind man said that he may not know much about the one who healed him, but he was sure of one thing, "I was blind but now I see!" In other words, Jesus had made a specific, identifiable difference in his life. What identifiable difference has Jesus made in *your* life?

Prayer:

Almighty God, I thank you for sending Jesus, and I thank you for sending him into my life. I pray that I will always be open to the difference Jesus can make in my life, and grateful for it. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.