

August 21

Matthew 21:33-46

In this passage, Jesus tells the chief priests and the Pharisees a parable – *about them*.

Question to Consider:

What was it about Jesus that so angered and threatened the chief priests and Pharisees? What is it about Jesus that threatens people today?

Prayer:

Loving God, I know that there are people who are threatened by the coming of Jesus, who do not want their lives interrupted by his teachings. I pray that I am not one of them. Help me to be a person who always embraces Jesus and the Good News he proclaims. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

August 22

Luke 20:20-26

In these verses, Jesus turns the tables on some people who were trying to trap him.

Question to Consider:

Can you recall a time when someone tried to trick you and you were able to see through it? How did it feel, and what is your relationship with the person today?

Prayer:

Father God, I believe that Satan is at work trying to deceive me. Help me to see through attempts to lead me away from you, and to stay strong in my faith. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

August 23

Matthew 22:23-33

Once again, religious leaders tried to trap Jesus and once again, the effort failed.

Question to Consider:

Jesus says that at the resurrection, people will “be like the angels in heaven.” What kind of image does that create for you?

Prayer:

Merciful God, there is much about you and your creation that I don't understand. What I *do* understand is that it is in you that I have faith and hope, and for that I give you thanks and praise. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.

August 24

Mark 12:28-34

In this passage, Jesus is asked about the greatest commandment.

Question to Consider:

Jesus says that above all else, we are to love God and love our neighbor. What might you change in your life in order to better live by each of those commandments?

Prayer:

Gracious God, I love you and want to love you more. Please help me with that. And Lord, I also want to love my neighbor more. Help me to love the way Jesus loves. In His name I pray, Amen.

August 25

Luke 21:1-4

Jesus teaches about generous giving in these verses.

Question to Consider:

Jesus saw what the woman was giving and he used her as an example. If Jesus were to watch as you give back to God, what might he teach from *your* example?

Prayer:

Almighty God, you have created everything and all of the good things that I have come from you. I pray that I will grow as a generous steward, as one who lovingly and generously shares the incredible bounty you have given. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.