

July 1

Mark 8:1-10

In these verses, we are told of another instance when Jesus miraculously fed a large crowd.

Question to Consider:

The disciples saw as impossible the challenge of feeding such a large crowd. Think of a time when you faced a challenge that seemed insurmountable. What was it, and how did it turn out?

Prayer:

Almighty God, I know that with you all things are possible, even those challenges that seem completely overwhelming. When I face a challenge that seems impossible, help me to do what Jesus did – to trust you and turn to you in faith. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

July 2

Matthew 16:5-12

Jesus teaches his disciples about being on their guard against “the yeast” of the Pharisees.

Question to Consider:

Jesus urged the disciples to be cautious about the teaching of the religious leaders. Has there been a time when you heard someone teaching something that you just knew was wrong? What was it? How did you know it was wrong?

Prayer:

Father God, there are many teachers out there and some of them are false teachers who would lead me in the wrong direction. Help me to listen well, with a discerning mind and spirit, and help me to know when teaching is good and true, and when it is not. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

July 3

Matthew 16:13-20

This is a significant passage in which Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ.

Question to Consider:

When someone asks you who Jesus is, what do you say?

Prayer:

Gracious God, I thank you for giving me a Savior and pray that I am always willing to say – honestly and boldly – who Jesus is. Help me to say with Peter that Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God.” In His name I pray, Amen.

July 4

Luke 9:23-27

In this passage, Jesus teaches that his followers must be willing to take up his cross and follow him.

Question to Consider:

Jesus does not just say that we are to take up his cross and follow him. He says that we are to do so *daily*. What does it mean to take up Jesus' cross every day???

Prayer:

Forgiving God, you do not promise that life with Christ will be easy, but you do promise it will be worth it. I understand that as a follower of Jesus, I am to take up his cross and follow. That does not come naturally, so I will need your help. Help me to be the follower of Jesus that you want me to be. In my Savior's name I pray, Amen.

July 5

Luke 9:28-36

These verses tell the story of the transfiguration of Jesus.

Question to Consider:

This was a powerful "mountaintop" experience for the three disciples, so it is no wonder that one of them suggested something permanent (three shelters) as a way to make the experience last. Think of a time when you have had a wonderful, "mountaintop" experience. What was it? How long did it last?

Prayer:

Loving Father, I thank you for the occasional "mountaintop" experiences, and yet I know that we cannot live on the mountaintops. You call us to live with your people, down in the valleys. I pray for wonderful experiences that will feed my soul, and enable me to better to serve you and share the love of Jesus. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.