

## **July 11**

### Mark 12:28-34

In these verses, Jesus answers a question about which commandment is greatest.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Think of the different commandments (rules) that you have been taught. Which one has had the greatest impact on your life?

#### *Prayer:*

Loving God, I live with many rules that govern my life. Help me to remember that the two most important rules – commands – are to love you and to love other people. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

## **July 12**

### Luke 10:25-37

This passage tells the story of the Good Samaritan.

#### *Question to Consider:*

The message of the story is clear -- we are called to help others when the opportunity arises to do so. Think of situations in your life when you have had an opportunity to help someone else. Recall a time when you were like the priest and Levite and passed by on the other side. What were the circumstances? Now, recall a time when you were like the Good Samaritan. What were the circumstances?

#### *Prayer:*

Gracious God, I know that there will be many times when I have an opportunity to help someone else. When those times arise, help me to be like the Good Samaritan and share the love of Jesus. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.

## **July 13**

### Luke 10:38-42

These verses contrast different ways to approach our relationship with Jesus.

#### *Question to Consider:*

When it comes to your relationship with Jesus, are you more like Martha (overly busy and stressed) or like Mary (quiet and contemplative)?

#### *Prayer:*

Merciful God, I know that I can get so busy doing good things for you and in your name, that I wind up forgetting about you because I have become so focused on the tasks. Help me, Lord, to not lose sight of you and of the purpose behind the good things I try to do. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

## **July 14**

### Luke 12:2-9

In these verses, Jesus teaches about the huge value each of us has, but also the huge challenges we may face as his followers.

*Question to Consider:*

Jesus makes it clear that we will face challenges because of our faith. Do you believe that the Christian faith of Americans is being challenged these days? How so? Is that good, or bad?

*Prayer:*

Almighty God, these are increasingly challenging times to be a Christian in America. I pray that the promise in these verses is fulfilled, that your Holy Spirit will guide me when my faith is challenged and I need to stand up for you. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

## **July 15**

### Luke 12:13-21

In this passage, Jesus tells the parable of the rich fool.

*Question to Consider:*

What sort of parable might Jesus tell if he were describing the way *you* handle material things?

*Prayer:*

Merciful God, you have blessed me incredibly. Help me to be a blessing, and to use *well* the gifts you have given to me. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.