

September 1

Matthew 25:31-46

In this passage, Jesus teaches that we serve him when we care for those who are hurting and in need.

Question to Consider:

What have you done in the past month to help someone who was hurting or in need?

Prayer:

Loving God, you want me to love you and love my neighbor. Help me to love as Jesus loves and to generously care for those who are in need. They are precious children of yours and I pray that I come to love them more. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

September 2

Matthew 26:1-5

These verses tell of the beginning of a plot to execute Jesus.

Question to Consider:

Have you ever disliked or feared a person so much that you wanted to see that person dead? How do you react now, looking back on the way you felt?

Prayer:

Forgiving God, Jesus says that I am to love my enemies and pray for those who curse me. Those are difficult commandments and can only be obeyed with your help. Please help me. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

September 3

Luke 22:1-6

The theme of this passage is the same as yesterday's reading, although now there is the additional information about Judas and his offer to betray Jesus.

Question to Consider:

Do you think that Judas really understood what he was offering to do?

Prayer:

Gracious God, sometimes I say and do things that I later regret. Please help me to do better at thinking before I speak and being thoughtful and prayerful before I act. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

September 4

Luke 22:7-14

In these verses, Jesus told his disciples to go into Jerusalem and make preparations for them to observe the Passover together.

Question to Consider:

At this point, Jesus had a clear sense of what was going to happen, but the disciples did not. Think of a time when you expected events to unfold in one particular way, but instead the outcome was totally different. What were the circumstances? What was the outcome?

Prayer:

Almighty God, there are times in my life when I am surprised by the way things turn out. When those surprises occur, help me to remain faithful to you and to always put my trust in you. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

September 5

John 13:1-11

This is part 1 of the story of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples.

Question to Consider:

Washing someone's feet was one of the most humble tasks anyone could do in Jesus' day, and yet our Lord was willing to do it. Be honest. How willing are you to do the most humble of tasks – whatever it might be?

Prayer:

Gracious God, you call me to love and serve my neighbor. That requires humility and love. Help me to always have a humble spirit, ready to love and serve. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.