

**Friday**, May 25: Read [Luke 19:11-27](#)

According to verse 11, what is the context of this parable? How long has it taken for the kingdom of God to fully appear? If you are represented by the servants, what is your present responsibility before God? What kind of business is our master in? What work should you be doing each week? Are you trustworthy and busy doing his will? Or are you distracted by many side projects and lesser commitments?

“To whom much is given, much is expected” What has God given you? What does God expect from you? How are you doing? Now is a good time to make adjustments: Now, before the King returns to settle accounts with his servants.

Notes:

### **Pray for Our Missionaries**

**Juan & Adriana Palacios** (Angola, Africa), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), **Robert and Kailey Newkirk** (South Sudan), **Mike and Fran VanBruggen**, (Word of Life), **Craig & Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Sue Saunders** (Reliant), **Matt Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (New Tribes), **Brad and Christa Babjack** (InterVarsity), **Salomon and Megan Guzman** (Tijuana), **Alvaro and Rachel Garriga** (Interserve USA)



## ***Spiritual Disciplines***

- *Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.*
- *Read the chapters and underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advice or wisdom gleaned from your reading.*
- *Note any unclear passages or teaching and seek insight, answers or help.*
- *Think about what you're reading. Ask:*
  1. *How does this apply to me?*
  2. *Are there any temptations to avoid, sins to confess, commands to obey or promises to claim?*
  3. *What insight do I gain on God, myself, others, or life?*
- *Ask God to show you any specific action you need to take as you read.*

**Monday**, May 21 Read [Mark 13](#)

We will finish the month of May in our Spiritual Disciplines by reviewing Jesus teaching from the Olivet Discourse on the end times. Next week, we'll look beyond the gospels to broaden our view of biblical prophecies related to Christ's second coming.

Re-read Mark 13. Note any present signs of the times and how they could point to the coming of Christ. Count the number of exhortations to be on guard, keep watch or be alert. Why do we need these admonitions? Are Christians asleep? Could we miss what's coming? Are you personally ready?

Notes:

**Pray for:** ---My relationship with God  
---My life roles  
---My personal needs/weak areas  
---My goals and objectives.

## Tuesday, May 22: Read [Mark 12:1-12, Psalm 2](#)

Today let's go backward one chapter and read Jesus' parable spoken to the Pharisees. Notice here the history of Israel in a nutshell leading up to the death of Christ. What happens to the vineyard (Israel)? Who are the "others"? When will the rejected stone become the capstone?

Now read Psalm 2. Take to heart King David's ancient description of the Royal Son who is challenged by the nations, who triumphs over them and eventually rules all. Notice the blessing in verse 12 that is available to all today -- Salvation in the Son! Have you taken refuge in him?

*Pray for family and friends by name.*

## Wednesday May 23: Read [Matthew 23:37-24:51](#)

Matthew's rendition of the Olivet Discourse is more detailed than Mark's version. It actually begins in chapter 23 and concludes at the end of chapter 25. As you read, notice added details which help to broaden our understanding of the last days. Matthew 24:12 is especially telling in light of current events related to marriage and family breakdown and escalating crimes of hatred and violence. Verses 28, 31, 40-41 are curious statements which promote the theory of the rapture of Christians off the earth. Note also the closing exhortation toward faithfulness in God's service as opposed to negligence and hypocrisy.

Notes:

### **Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church (Consider fasting one, two, or all meals this day.)**

- a. Pastors: Pray for God's grace and guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for Linda Penn in her work at BGCC.
- b. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.
- c. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
- d. Discipleship: ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries here at BGCC.
- e. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ.
- f. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in our 2020 plan. Pray for our upcoming 150th celebration. Ask God to use it as a testimony to Branch County.

## Thursday, May 24: Read [Luke 21:5-37](#)

Luke's version of the Olivet Discourse offers a few more details not covered by Mark and Matthew. Verse 25-28 tell us to look up. What might we see in the sky? Note the state of humanity in light of these astrol signs. Has anything happened like this yet? Verse 32 states that this generation will live through all the signs. Which generation would that be?

Finally notice Jesus' exhortation to not get trapped by worldly things. Is this a possibility for you? Remember Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed? God's word (truth) will not germinate and grow in hearts weighed down by the anxieties of life ([Matthew 13:21-22](#)). You may want to refocus your perspective in light of today's reading. Philippians 4:4-9 could help.

[Luke 19:41-44](#) reminds us of the consequences of missing God's visitation (his presence, his provisions) in our lives as well. Find peace in him today. Seek it and you will find it!

*Notes:*

### *Thursday Pray for "My World"*

- Neighbors • People who live around me.
- People at Work • Others God brings into my life. Take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help. Who can you invite to church this Sunday?
- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County. Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation.
- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.