

**Friday**, September 7: Read [Matthew 28](#)

The first Easter Sunday arrives to find the two Mary's back at the tomb just in time for the earthquake, the arrival of angels and the opening of the tomb. The angels affirm Jesus' predictions, showing the empty tomb and sending the women to alert the disciples of his resurrection. On the way, they meet the Lord himself who sends the disciples to Galilee for a future meeting. It is there that Jesus gives them his great commission and promises his presence both for them and for us as well today. We continue in their train -- making disciples, baptizing and teaching in his name. And He continues with us always, even to the end of the age.

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** (Bosnia), **Matt Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (Ethnos360), **Brad and Christa Babjack** (University of West Virginia), **Salomon and Megan Guzman** (Tijuana), **Alvaro and Rachel Garriga** (Central Asia)

# *Thru the New!*

(Reading through the New Testament in 2018)

- *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**, September 3 Read [Matthew 22](#)

Jesus' opening parable in Matthew 22 sets the stage for opposition as he pointedly suggests that the Jewish leaders were first in line for God's kingdom, but rejected their invitation to participate. Others will fill their spots. Sandwiched in the traps set for Jesus is his Great Commandment -- to love God with your whole self. Second is to love your neighbor as yourself. According to Jesus, these two commandments summarize the essence of the Old Testament. They also set our lives in motion today as Christians, calling us to love God and to love others.

Notes:

**Pray for:** ---My relationship with God

---My life roles

---My personal needs/weak areas

---My goals and objectives.

## Tuesday, September 4: Read [Matthew 23](#)

Having been put to the test by the Pharisees, Jesus now sets out to expose their hypocrisy, duplicity and false teachings. Seven times Jesus pronounces judgment (Woes) upon them, declaring their guilt and their eventual punishment. He has no patience left for them and declares that their generation will be the guiltiest of all those prior. Their house will be left desolate, a proclamation that is fulfilled when Rome levels Jerusalem some forty years after Jesus spoke.

**Pray for family and friends by name.**

## Wednesday September 5: Read [Matthew 24-25](#)

The next two chapters of Matthew couple together around the end times and the second coming of Christ. Matthew 24 should be read carefully, because it points to two different events -- the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. and the yet to occur second coming of Jesus. Chapter 25 goes on to explain in parable form what that final day will be like. Note the phrase "At that time" and "when the Son of man comes in his glory".

Both parables require perseverance and faithfulness on the part of God's people. The final evidence of faithfulness (faith) is revealed by works of mercy done as unto the Lord himself. Are you faithfully serving others in need as unto the Lord?

### **Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church**

1. Leadership: 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. Pray for the church council and the various ministry team leaders.
2. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
3. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
4. Discipleship: Ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries at BGCC. Pray for our small group ministry.
5. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ. Ask God to embolden our people to intentionally reach out to others.
6. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for our upcoming 150th anniversary celebration. Ask God to use our church anniversary as a testimony to Branch County. Pray for God's clear leading in our upcoming 2020 plan.

## Thursday, September 6: Read [Matthew 26-27](#)

The next two chapters map out the events that occur around the passover celebration. The plot, Jesus' anointing by Mary, Judas' part in setting Jesus up, the dinner including communion, his arrest and abandonment by the disciples, the first trial and Peter's denials. Chapter 27 continues with his trial under Pilate, his scourging, crucifixion, final words, death and burial by Joseph and the two Mary's. Matthew includes the detail of the tomb being secured by Pilate to avoid any kind of foul play with Jesus' body. Jesus' earlier predictions come true minus his resurrection, yet to occur on the third day. ([Matthew 16:21;17:22-23](#))

### **Notes:**

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

(Write down names as God brings people to mind.)

- 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.