Friday, October 4: Read Matthew 5-7

Jesus' Beatitudes set forth examples of the kind of person someone in his Kingdom should be. In essence, a Christian is a "Kingdom person", someone who lives under the Lordship (Kingship) of Christ. Let God's word instruct, correct and direct you as you read these familiar and challenging words of Jesus. Ask God to show you any attitudes or actions contrary to his will for your life as it is spelled out by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

Friday: Pray for Our Missionaries

Juan & Adriana Palacios (Angola, Africa), David & Miriam Trott (Cochabamba, Bolivia), Mario Bloise (Argentina), Dan & DeAnn Gerard (San Antonio, TX), , Craig & Shelly Shafer (Sentani, Indonesia), Sue Saunders (Bosnia), Matt and Becky Kooi (Tijuana), Daniel Jezowski (Wycliffe), Andrew & Sara Williams (Ethnos360), Brad and Christa Babjack (University of West Virginia), Salomon and Megan Guzman (Tijuana), Alvaro and Rachel Garriga (Central Asia), William and Salma Garcia (Tijuana church plant)

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Spiritual Disciplines Guide:

- Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.
- Read the chapters and underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advise 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 30 Read Matthew 24:14

The focus for our devotional time this week is "Extend the Kingdom". What does the Bible mean by the Kingdom of God? Read the following verses and note any insight you gain on God's Kingdom as it relates to the Christian life.

Matthew 6:9-10, John 3:3-8, Matthew 6:31-33

Romans 14:16-18, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Monday: Pray for: —My relationship with God

—My life roles

-My personal needs/weak areas

—My goals and objectives for the fall season

Tuesday, October 1: Read Mark 4:1-34

Jesus taught in parables using earthly examples to explain heavenly realities. (Note verse 11) In what sense is the Kingdom seed-like? Note the three examples given in this chapter. Note the different responses (soils) to God's word (the message of the Kingdom) -- which soil best represents your heart? What kind of crop is the Kingdom producing in your life? How could you be more "fruitful" for God's Kingdom?

Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.

Wednesday October 2: Read <u>Matthew 25</u>

Notice the connections between these three parables of Christ -- the Kingdom of heaven (God) will divide people into two categories. What are they? What determines which way people go? What are the evidences in each example that people do or don't belong to the Kingdom of God? How is Jesus' warning of judgment and his promises of rewards instructive for you personally? Check yourself to be certain you are among "the wise", "the faithful" and "the righteous".

Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church

- 1. <u>Leadership</u>: 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. Ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up more workers for the harvest (*Matthew 9:38*)
- 2. <u>Worship</u>: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Pray for more musicians to help lead the church in worship. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
- 3. <u>Fellowship</u>: Pray that God would deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers. Pray that we incorporate newcomers into our church fellowship. Pray through this past Sunday's congregational prayer requests.
- 4. <u>Discipleship</u>: Ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries at BGCC. Ask God to bless our small group ministry, to raise up new groups, new teachers and more leaders.
- 5. <u>Outreach</u>: 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, especially through the Kingdom Initiative.
- 6. <u>Future Faith Goals</u>: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in our 2020 plan as we call our members to a greater love and commitment to the Lord and his service. Ask God to bless our finances so that we can better accomplish his purposes for our congregation.

Thursday, October 3: Read <u>Matthew 7:21-27</u>

The Kingdom of God, in one sense, represents everything over which God rules as King. In New Testament lingo, we often speak of this as the Lordship of Christ. Read the following passages. Reflect on what each says about Jesus' rule and how it relates to you personally. What does it mean for you to call Jesus your "Lord"? How does a person under his Lordship live and act? And how does his Lordship affect your decisions, your relationships and your possessions? Good food for thought! Wrestle with it.

Matthew 7:21-27, Luke 6:46-49, Romans 10:9-13

1 Corinthians 12:1-6, Philippians 4:4-7

Colossians 2:6-7, 3:23-24

1 Peter 3:15-15, 2 Peter 3:18

Thursday: Pray for "My World"

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

- Neighbors People who live around me. (Focus Four)
- <u>People at Work</u> 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?
- <u>Community</u> -- 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.
- <u>America</u> -- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.