

Scripture Reading Schedule

Week 5: February 5-11

Monday	Mark 5:35-43
Tuesday	Mark 6:1-6
Wednesday	Mark 6:7-13
Thursday	Mark 6:14-16
Friday	Mark 10:46-52
Saturday	James 5

Week 6: February 12-18

Monday	Mark 6:17-29
Tuesday	Mark 6:30-44
Wednesday	Mark 6:45-56
Thursday	Mark 7:1-13
Friday	John 6
Saturday	1 John 1

Week 7: February 19-25

Monday	Mark 7:14-37
Tuesday	Mark 8:1-10
Wednesday	Mark 8:11-21
Thursday	Mark 8:31-9:1
Friday	Mark 9:30-37
Saturday	1 John 2

Week 8: February 26-March 3

Monday	Mark 9:38-50
Tuesday	Mark 10:17-31
Wednesday	Mark 10:32-45
Thursday	Luke 7:36-50
Friday	Luke 5
Saturday	1 John 3

Scripture Reading Schedule

Week 9: March 4-March 10

Monday	Mark 11:12-25
Tuesday	Mark 11:27-33
Wednesday	Mark 12:18-27
Thursday	Mark 12:28-44
Friday	John 8:1-11
Saturday	1 John 4

Week 10: March 11-17

Monday	Luke 19:1-9
Tuesday	Luke 10:38-42
Wednesday	Luke 7:1-16
Thursday	Luke 7:18-35
Friday	Matthew 17:1-8
Saturday	1 John 5

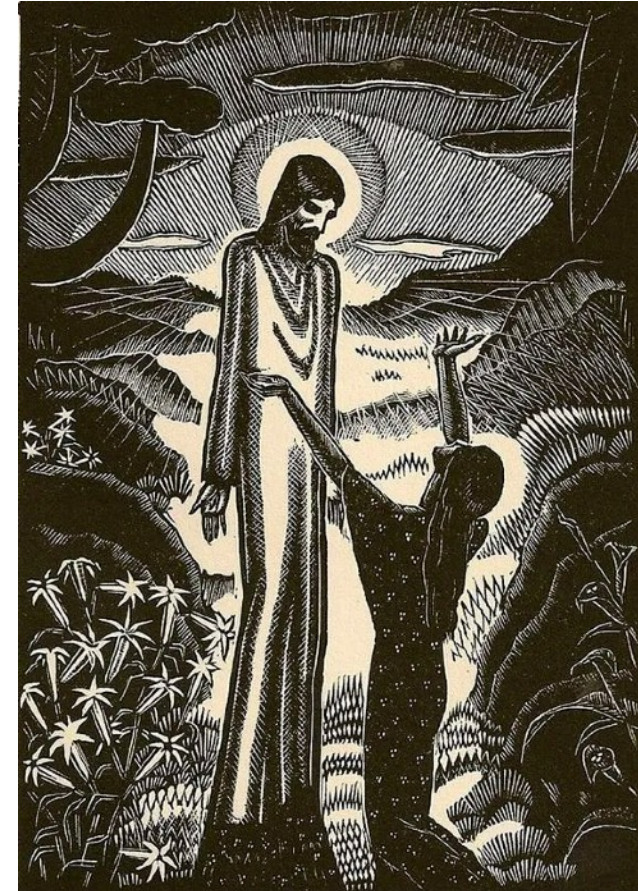
Week 11: March 18-24

Monday	Matthew 14:1-12
Tuesday	Matthew 14:22-36
Wednesday	John 13:1-17
Thursday	Matthew 16:13-28
Friday	Mark 11:1-11
Saturday	Jude

Week 12: March 25-31 Holy Week

Monday	Mark 14:1-11
Tuesday	Mark 14:12-25
Wednesday	Mark 14:53-72
Thursday	Mark 15:1-15
Friday	Mark 15:33-47
Saturday	Mark 16

The Graspable God



Stories from the Life of Jesus

Why is God Hanging Out with Them?

Everyday on the job as the Public Relations manager for Jesus would have been part comedy, part nightmare.

For starters, he had poor taste in friends. Case in point: the common people of Jesus's day detested the money-hungry, backstabbing tax gougers; but Jesus marches right up to one of those traitors and says, "Follow me."

Jesus welcomed a violent Zealot into his inner circle, even though they were the ancient equivalent of terrorists.

He rubbed shoulders with women in the sex trade, Samaritan heretics, leprous outcasts, and other undesirables and deplorable of society.

Jesus has friends in "low places".

Jesus also couldn't keep his mouth shut. He gave a tongue-lashing to the most powerful men in the religious establishment, calling them attention-hungry "Sons of Satan".

Jesus even seemed to invite slanderous accusations against him. Because he hung out with the wrong crowd, his enemies mocked him calling him: "...a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" (Matt. 11:19).

Imagine the reaction of Jesus dining with tax collector Zacchaeus. The top earner for the Romans eating with Christ at his dinner table. The outrage!

Jesus ruined his reputation by not only welcoming, but actively seeking out the wrong people.

From the perspective of respectable society: Jesus was a controversial disaster.

From a career perspective he was a failure.

From a religious perspective he was a troublemaker.

But from God's perspective, Jesus could do no wrong.

To ask the question: "What would Jesus do?" Is to be set up for failure, because the Jesus we encounter is so ***unpredictable.***

If you ask me, "What would Jesus do?" I'd say, "Probably what you would least expect." He would ruin his reputation among the religious by hanging out with those with poor reputations. He would speak hard truth when soft white lies would make life easier. He would touch lepers; compliment prostitutes and insult priests. He would flaunt his freedom in the face of legalists and eventually get himself so deep in trouble that he ends up on trial and condemned to a cross.

The wisdom of God will always look like foolishness to us. God chooses ungodlike ways to bring ungodly sinners into his kingdom of outcasts who get everything by grace.

Jesus just doesn't match any of our expectations. Thank God he doesn't.

He befriends all of us, no matter who we are, no matter how ruined we are, no matter how good or bad we think we are.

He calls us, one and all, to himself. And in him we become part of that motley crew of redeemed fools whom Jesus calls friends.

As you read and listen to these stories of Jesus walking, talking, dining and touching the varied people of his time, may you too meet Jesus again and be grasped by his love and changed once more.

Scripture Reading Schedule

Week 1: January 8-14

Monday	Mark 1:1-8
Tuesday	Mark 1:9-13
Wednesday	Mark 1:14-20
Thursday	Mark 1:21-34
Friday	Matthew 4:1-11
Saturday	James 1

Week 2: January 15-21

Monday	Mark 1:35-45
Tuesday	Mark 2:1-12
Wednesday	Mark 2:13-17
Thursday	Mark 2:18-22
Friday	Luke 5:17-39
Saturday	James 2

Week 3: January 22-28

Monday	Mark 2:23-28
Tuesday	Mark 3:1-6
Wednesday	Mark 3:7-19
Thursday	Mark 3:20-30
Friday	Matthew 8:28-34
Saturday	James 4

Week 4: January 29- February 4

Monday	Mark 3:31-35
Tuesday	Mark 4:35-41
Wednesday	Mark 5:1-20
Thursday	Mark 5:21-34
Friday	Matthew 18:1-11
Saturday	James 4