

day 1: (Matthew 25: 31-46) These are powerful words that speak to our relationships with others. What is Jesus telling us? What lessons are here for the people we work with, worship with or live next to? Are there changes you might consider after studying this passage?

day 2: (James 1: 1-18) Most often this passage is read to instruct believers about dealing with trials, but there is something powerful here about God's gifts to us. Take a moment and try to find these gifts in this passage and then consider how God has given them to you: wisdom, undivided heart, contentment, eternal life. Every good and perfect gift does come from God, and all of his gifts are good and perfect.

day 3: (Luke 2: 1- 35) As we think about giving and gifts, no other gift compares to the gift of God, His Son, Jesus. But as we think of Jesus, we must also think of Mary. From the moment of the angel announcement and Mary's obedient reply, she began giving. For Mary, God's will brought about some pain, yet she was willing to give. Does giving obedience to God ever require pain from us?

day 4: (Luke 2: 8-11) The angels made a startling announcement. A gift for all time, for all people, everywhere. But lest we get lost in that crowd, let's remember that the angel declared that Savior was born "...to you." Being a Christian means that we have a personal relationship with Jesus. We have repented of our sins and have the assurance that Jesus has forgiven us --personally. If you haven't prayed to become a Christian yet, why not today? And if you have, why not spend some time thanking God for the gift of His Son, Jesus.

day 5: (2 Corinthians 8,9) Clearly in these passages, Paul was teaching the church that their giving should mirror that of God. He taught them that the heart condition matters as it relates to giving. He taught them of God's care for those who give. What else can we learn from these readings? Are you a giver according to the example of the Lord?

day 6: (Psalm 118) "This is the day that the Lord has made..." Someone once said that everyday is a gift, that's why we call it "the present". A little corny maybe, but so true. What did we ever do to earn the days we are given? Nothing. Each morning we awaken is a gift from God. What will you do with the gift he has given you today?

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