

'THE REALLY GOOD LIFE'

(The Life of Christ Series)

Studies in Luke's Gospel

'The Day-Planner'



Other than the Bible, there's one important book you should have if you want a *really good life* like Jesus' – a *day planner* or appointment book, or whatever you want to call it – something to put in order what you need to remember to do.

The Lord Jesus was / is God so He didn't need one, but the rest of us mortal humans do need something to keep us on track with appointments and all the things we need to do. When we're immature children, we have parents to keep us on schedule, but being grown-up includes being responsible, being at the right place, on the right day, at the right time.

The Lord Jesus' *Day Planner* was the heavenly Father's written Word-- the biblical calendar of Scripture and God the Holy Spirit's *Spirit-filled* hour by hour appointments (**John 5:19-20, John 3:34**) for His daily walk in the world (**Luke 21:37-38**). Growth in grace of mature Christian disciples is evidenced by their *decent and orderly* daily spiritual routine around which God builds in other previously unknown divine appointments.

A *day planner* record can also be helpful in reviewing our life from time to time to be sure we are living life *on purpose* and not just wandering through life without rhyme or reason to it. An unplanned life wastes time, lacks direction, and is full of anxiety and depression. A deliberate life is not unnecessarily rigid, but it does have structure and direction which gives security and peace of mind. To be sure some daily routine disciplines don't need to be written because they are so much a part of our life structure that everything else just has to *fit in* around them.

In the gospels, it is apparent that there was a general predictable pattern to Jesus' life that the Father used in directing Him day by day in His earthly ministries (**Luke 21:37-38**). Occasionally, there was variation to it, but His typical *day plan* was early morning devotions (**v 38a**), work (*ministry*) (**v 38b**), teaching in the temple (*His place of work / v 37*) during the day, and at night peaceful, quiet times walking and talking with God (and sometimes others) before bedtime (**v 37b**). And then the next day, His *day planner* began again with early morning prayers before sunrise (**Mark 1:35, etc.**). In between these divine appointments, miracles, ministry, and moving from one place to another fit in easily.

Too many Christians fail to discipline themselves with a divine *day planner* lifestyle like the Lord Jesus gave us for an example. And because of an almost totally spontaneous and random whirlwind of activities set by others and/or sheer spur of the moment emotions, they end up *fitting in God* around everything else, if, and when they even get around to it. This is just the opposite of the way Jesus lived and still wants to live through us.

The high cost of the *unplanned daily life* is the loss of peace and order and loss of that sense of purpose Christ called '*the abundant life*' (**John 10:10**). It really is possible (and necessary) to "...*lead a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands... walking properly toward those without (unbelievers and carnal brethren)...*" This is the abundant Christian life that *lacks nothing* because it is based on a Christ-like biblical *daily plan* for living (**1 Thessalonians 4:11-12**). **PtL**

'The Day that The LORD has Made'

(A Really Good Day that Leaves You Rejoicing and Glad in It)

A typical Day in the life of Jesus – Luke 4:40-44

(Matthew 4:23-25 & Mark 1:32-39)

Synopsis:

Jesus had established Himself in the seaside town of Capernaum in Galilee. The residence of Peter's mother-in-law became His base of ministry for the *Great Galilean Ministry*. His practice of attending and teaching in synagogues on the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday) included Him speaking in the synagogue of Capernaum.

As He spoke in the synagogue, a demon-possessed man in the congregation cried out for deliverance and Jesus set him free of the unclean spirit. Following that, Jesus went to Peter's mother-in-law's home and healed Peter's wife's mother, after which she arose and served Him, the family and the four of His disciples present that day. It is assumed that the rest of the afternoon was filled with quiet, gracious fellowship together. It was a really good Lord's day!

The Night Shift (after sunset)

(After sunset around 6 pm ended the Sabbath, beginning the next day, Jewish time)

*"When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to (Jesus); and **He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.** And **demons also came out of many**, crying out and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak, for **they knew that He was the Christ.**"* **4:40-41**

The Day Shift (after sunrise)

(Sometime as dawn began to break, Jesus went out to pray)

*"Now when it was day (dawn / **Mark 1:35**), (Jesus) **departed and went into a deserted place.** And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; but He said to them, "**I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.**" And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee." **4:42-44***