



BIBLE JOURNALING

By Addie



But Jesus shot back, "You frauds! Each Sabbath every one of you regularly unties your cow or donkey from its stall, leads it out for water, and thinks nothing of it. So why isn't it all right for me to untie this daughter of Abraham and lead her from the stall where Satan has had her tied these eighteen years?"

When he put it that way, his critics were left looking quite silly and red-faced. The congregation was delighted and cheered him on.

The Way to God

Then he said, "How can I picture God's kingdom for you? What kind of story can I use? It's like a pine nut that a man plants in his front yard. It grows into a huge pine tree with thick branches, and eagles build nests in it."

He tried again, "How can I picture God's kingdom? It's like yeast that a woman works into enough dough for three loaves of bread—and waits while the dough rises."

He went on teaching from town to village, village to town, but keeping on a steady course toward Jerusalem.

A bystander said, "Master, will only a few be saved?"

He said, "Whether few or many is none of your business. Put your mind on your life with God. The way to life—to God—is vigorous and requires your total attention. A lot of you are going to assume that you'll sit down to God's salvation banquet just because you've been hanging around the neighborhood all your lives. Well, one day you're going to be banging on the door, wanting to get in, but you'll find the door locked and the Master saying, 'Sorry, you're not on my guest list.'"

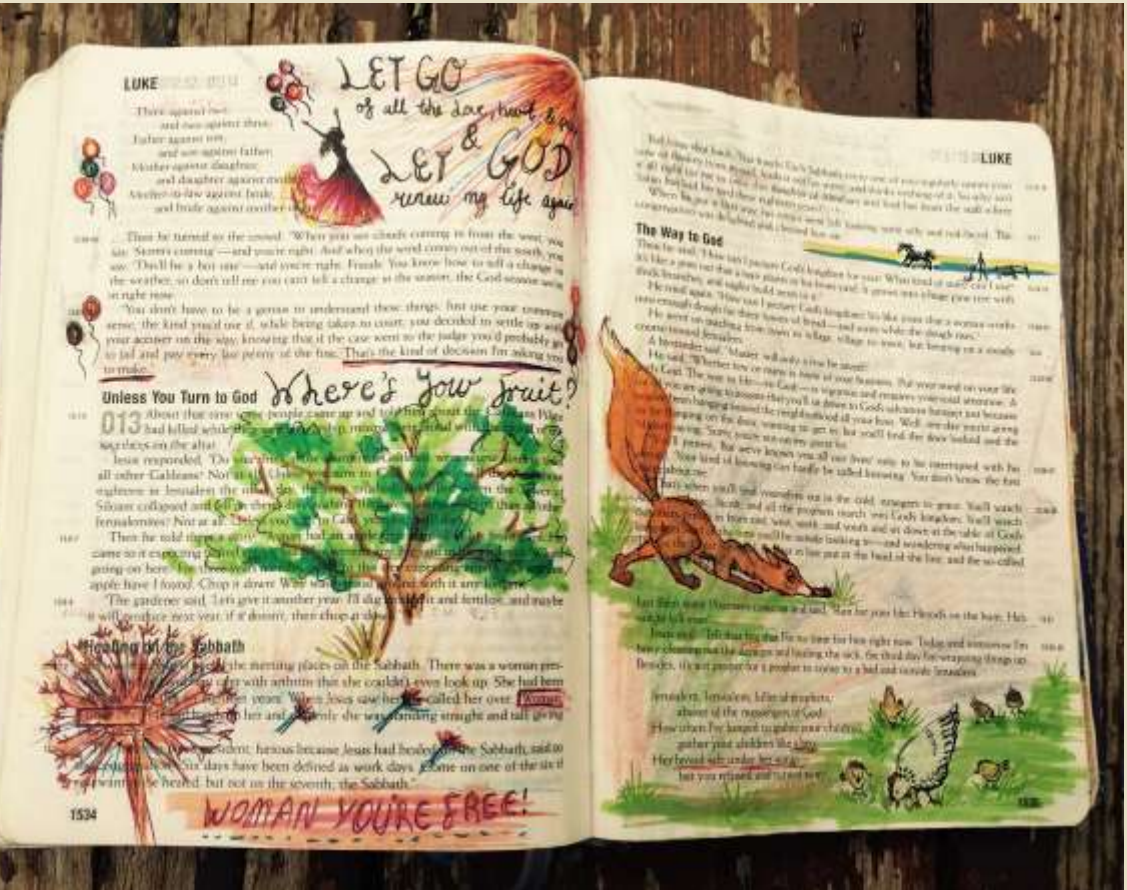
You'll protest, "But we've known you all our lives! only to be interrupted with his abrupt, 'Your kind of knowing can hardly be called knowing. You don't know the first thing about me.'"

That's when you'll find yourselves out in the cold, strangers to grace. You'll watch Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets march into God's kingdom. You'll watch countless streams in from east, west, north, and south and sit down at the table of God's kingdom. And all the time you'll be outside looking in—and wondering what happened. It's like the great fox that I met in line put at the head of the line, and the so-called

Just then some Pharisees came up and said, "Run for your life! Herods on the hunt. He's out to kill you."

Jesus said, "Tell that fox that I've no time for him right now. Today and tomorrow I'm busy clearing out the demons and healing the sick, the third day I'm wrapping things up. Besides, it's not proper for a prophet to come to a bad end outside Jerusalem."

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killer of prophets, abuser of the messengers of God! How often I've longed to gather your children, gather your children like a hen, Her hood safe under her wings—but you refused and turned away!



LET GO
of all the dog, heart & sin
LET & GOD
renew my life again



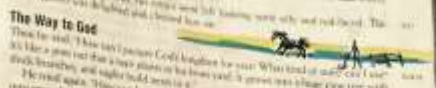
Unless You Turn to God
Where's your fruit?

013 About that time some people came up and told him about the Galilean who had killed his brother. Jesus responded, "The man who kills the body but does not kill the soul is more guilty than you and all other Galileans! Not at all! Who can kill the soul? Only God can do that. So why are you worrying about the body? The soul is more important. The soul is what lives on after death. The body is what dies. The soul is what God judges. The body is what the world judges. The soul is what God sees. The body is what the world sees. The soul is what God loves. The body is what the world loves. The soul is what God saves. The body is what the world saves. The soul is what God redeems. The body is what the world redeems. The soul is what God glorifies. The body is what the world glorifies. The soul is what God honors. The body is what the world honors. The soul is what God respects. The body is what the world respects. The soul is what God values. The body is what the world values. The soul is what God cherishes. The body is what the world cherishes. The soul is what God treasures. The body is what the world treasures. The soul is what God prizes. The body is what the world prizes. The soul is what God esteems. The body is what the world esteems. The soul is what God honors. The body is what the world honors. The soul is what God respects. The body is what the world respects. The soul is what God values. The body is what the world values. The soul is what God cherishes. The body is what the world cherishes. The soul is what God treasures. The body is what the world treasures. The soul is what God prizes. The body is what the world prizes. The soul is what God esteems. The body is what the world esteems."

Healing of the Sabbath
A woman who had been crippled for eighteen years was sitting straight and tall going to the meeting places on the Sabbath. There was a woman present who had been crippled for eighteen years. She had been sitting on the ground, leaning on a mat. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, "Woman, you're free!" She immediately stood up and went home.

WOMAN YOU'RE FREE!

The Way to God
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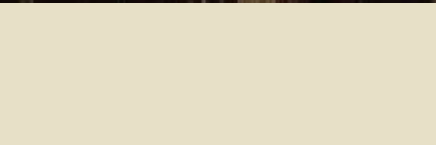


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Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killer of prophets, abuser of the messengers of God! How often I've longed to gather your children, gather your children like a hen, Her hood safe under her wings—but you refused and turned away!

040/09-23 ISAIAH

Climb a high mountain, Zion,
You're the preacher of good news.
Raise your voice! Make it loud and loud, Jerusalem!
You're the preacher of good news.
Speak loud and clear. Don't be timid!
Tell the cities of Judah,
"Look! Your God!"
Look at him! GOD, the Master, comes in power,
ready to go into action.
He is going to pay back his enemies
and reward those who have loved him.
Like a shepherd, he will care for his flock,
gathering the lambs in his arms,
Hugging them as he carries them,
leading the nursing ewes to good pasture.

How is Great

GOD!

OUR

1033

ISAIAH 039-03 040:08

with everything your ancestors accumulated before you, will be hauled off to Babylon.
GOD says that there will be nothing left. Nothing. And not only your things but you
saw. Some of your sons will be taken into exile, ending up as eunuchs in the palace
of the king of Babylon.

Hezekiah replied to Isaiah, "Good. If GOD says so, it's good." Within himself he was
thinking, "But surely nothing bad will happen in my lifetime. I'll enjoy peace and stability
as long as I live."

MESSAGES OF COMFORT

Prepare for God's Arrival

040 "Comfort, oh comfort my people,"
says your God.
"Speak softly and tenderly to Jerusalem,
but also make it very clear
That she has served her sentence,
that her sin is taken care of — forgiven!
She's been punished enough and more than enough,
and now it's over and done with."

Thunder in the desert:
Prepare for GOD's arrival!
Make the road straight and smooth,
a highway fit for our God.
Fill in the valleys,
level off the hills,
Smooth out the ruts,
clear out the rocks.
Then GOD's bright glory will shine
and everyone will see it.
Yes. Just as GOD has said.

A voice says, "Shout!"
I said, "What shall I shout?"

These people are nothing but grass,
their love fragile as wildflowers.
The grass withers, the wildflowers fade,
if GOD so much as puts on them.
Aren't these people just so much grass?
True, the grass withers and the wildflowers fade,
but our GOD's Word stands firm and forever.

the MOUNTAINS
be 'Shaken'
the hills
be REMOVED
the flowerys
FADE
the grass
withers

BUT

the word of the
LORD STANDS FIRM AND
forever

1032

and set off. The man whom he had seen
but he sent him back, saying, "Go home and tell everything God did in you." So he went
back and preached all over town everything Jesus had done in him.

His Touch

On his return, Jesus was welcomed by a crowd. They were all there expecting him. A man
came up, Jairus by name. He was president of the meeting place. He fell at Jesus' feet and
begged him to come to his home because his twelve-year-old daughter, his only child,
was dying. Jesus went with him, making his way through the pushing, jostling crowd.

In the crowd that day there was a woman who for twelve years had been afflicted with
hemorrhages. She had spent every penny she had on doctors but not one had been able
to help her. She slipped in from behind and touched the edge of Jesus' robe. At that very
moment her hemorrhaging stopped. Jesus said, "Who touched me?"

When no one stepped forward, Peter said, "But Master, we've got crowds of people on
our hands. Dozens have touched you."

Jesus insisted, "Someone touched me. I felt power discharging from me."

When the woman realized that she couldn't remain hidden, she knelt trembling before
him. In front of all the people, she blurted out her story—why she touched him and how
at that same moment she was healed.

Jesus said, "Daughter, you took a risk trusting me, and now you're healed and whole.
Live well, live blessed!"

While he was still talking, someone from the leader's house came up and told him,
"Your daughter died. No need now to bother the Teacher."

Jesus overheard and said, "Don't be upset. Just trust me and everything will be all right."
Going into the house, he wouldn't let anyone enter with him except Peter, John, James,
and the child's parents.

Everyone was crying and carrying on over her. Jesus said, "Don't cry. She didn't die;
she's sleeping." They laughed at him. They knew she was dead.

Then Jesus, gripping her hand, called, "My dear child, get up." She was up in an instant, up
and breathing again! He told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were ecstatic,
but Jesus warned them to keep quiet. "Don't tell a soul what happened in this room."

1524

CUPPLE PARTY!



ISAIAH

who collects trophies from the nations
And then like war trophies
while you violate the

110 But they won't
and dry up
There would be
their
Because
of God
Wish
The

112 The
The
a
But
his
He
which
And

None
Shirts
every
Their
bows

The
chariot
Roaring
the

They
dragging
They'll
like
Look
you'll
Every

will
HE IS
Good,
HE'S
NOT

Holy, Holy, Holy!
006

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Master sitting
exalted—and the train of his robes filled the Temple. An

976

THE full-throated
ROARS
YOUNG
LION



HE IS
Good,
HE'S
NOT

high
hovered



Then he went at it. One after another, he called in the people who owed him to his master. He said to the first, "How much do you owe my master?"
"A hundred jugs of olive oil."
"The manager said, 'Here, take your bill, sit down here—quick now—write it up.'"
"To the next he said, 'And you, what do you owe?'
"He answered, 'A hundred sacks of wheat.'
"He said, 'Take your bill, write it eighty.'
"Now here's a surprise: The master praised the crooked manager. Why? Because he knew how to look after himself. Streetwise people are smarter in this, and many law-abiding citizens. They are on constant alert, looking for angles, ways to get ahead. I want you to be smart in the same way—but for what is right. Concentrate your attention on what you'll live, really live, and not complacently just get by on social behavior.

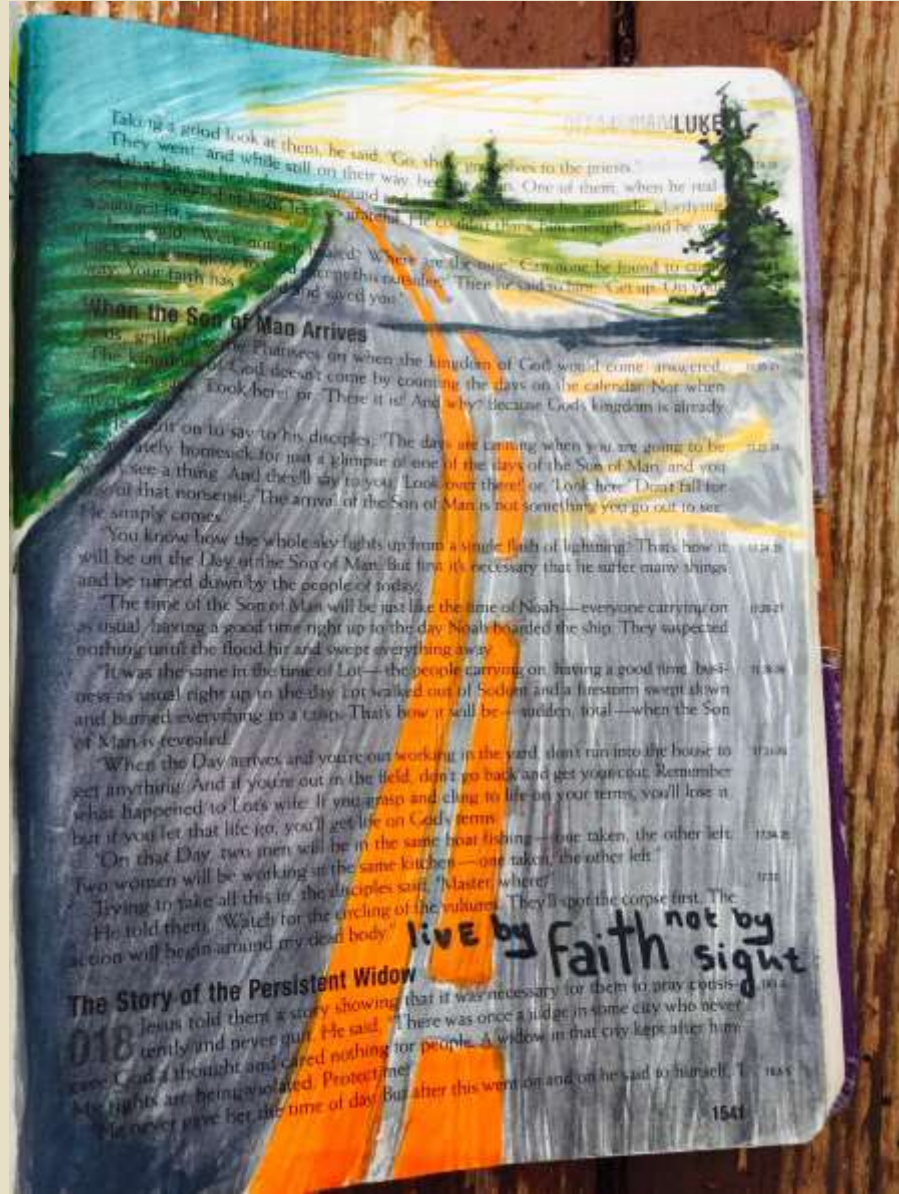
God Sees Behind Appearances

Jesus went on to make these comments:

- If you're honest in small things, you'll be honest in big things.
- If you're a crook in small things, you'll be a crook in big things.
- If you're not honest in small jobs, who will put you in charge of the store?
- No worker can serve two bosses.
- He'll either hate the first and love the second.
- Or adore the first and despise the second.
- You can't serve both God and the bank.

When the Pharisees, a money-obsessed bunch, heard him say these things, they rolled their eyes, dismissing him as hopelessly out of touch. So Jesus spoke to them: "You are masters at making yourselves look good in front of others, but God knows what's behind the appearance."

What society sees and calls monumental,
God sees through and calls monstrous.
God's Law and the Prophets climaxed in John;
Now it's all kingdom of God—the glad news
and compelling invitation to every man and woman.
The sky will disintegrate and the earth dissolve
before a single letter of God's Law wears out.
Using the legalities of divorce
as a cover for lust is adultery.
Using the legalities of marriage
as a cover for lust is adultery.



Taking a good look at them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests."
They went and while still on their way, he said to them, "One of them, when he realized that he was unclean, turned around and said, 'Lord, if you will, please help me.'"
"And he said to him, 'You are unclean.' He counted them, ten men, and he was a doctor by trade."
"Lord, where are they now? Where are they now? Can none be found to give thanks and glorify you for having cured them?" Then he said to him, "Get up. On your way. Your faith has healed and saved you."

When the Son of Man Arrives

The Pharisees asked Jesus on when the kingdom of God would come. He answered, "The kingdom of God doesn't come by counting the days on the calendar. Nor when you say, 'Look here' or 'There it is!' And why? Because God's kingdom is already here."
"He went on to say to his disciples: 'The days are coming when you are going to be amazed by a glimpse of one of the days of the Son of Man, and you won't see a thing. And they'll say to you, 'Look over there!' or 'Look here.' Don't fall for that nonsense. The arrival of the Son of Man is not something you go out to see. He simply comes.'"

You know how the whole sky lights up from a single flash of lightning? That's how it will be on the Day of the Son of Man. But first it's necessary that he suffer many things and be turned down by the people of today.

The time of the Son of Man will be just like the time of Noah—everyone carrying on as usual, having a good time right up to the day Noah boarded the ship. They suspected nothing until the flood hit and swept everything away.

It was the same in the time of Lot—the people carrying on, having a good time, business as usual right up to the day Lot walked out of Sodom and a firestorm swept down and burned everything in a camp. That's how it will be—sudden, total—when the Son of Man is revealed.

When the Day arrives and you're out working in the yard, don't run into the house to get anything. And if you're out in the field, don't go back and get your coat. Remember what happened to Lot's wife. If you grasp and cling to life on your terms, you'll lose it, but if you let that life go, you'll get life on God's terms.

On that Day, two men will be in the same boat fishing—one taken, the other left. Two women will be working in the same kitchen—one taken, the other left.

Trying to take all this in, the disciples said, "Master, where?"
He told them, "Watch for the circling of the vultures. They'll spot the corpse first. The action will begin around my dead body."

The Story of the Persistent Widow

Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently and never quit. He said, "There was once a judge in some city who never cared a thought and cared nothing for people. A widow in that city kept after him until her rights are being violated. Protect them."
"He never gave her the time of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself, 'I

live by faith not by sight



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

14:1 One man when Jesus went for a Sabbath meal with one of the top leaders of the Pharisees, all the guests were sitting on mats, watching for every move. Jesus before him there were many Pharisees and teachers of the law. He asked the religious scholars and Pharisees, "Is it permitted to heal on the Sabbath? Yes or no?" They did not answer. So he took the man healed here, and set him on his way. Then he said, "Is there anyone here who is blind or lame or crippled, and doesn't need to be healed on the Sabbath? They were silent. Then he said, "I did what you commanded—and there's still want my house full!" Let me tell you, not one of those originally invited is going to get to much as a bite at my dinner party."

14:2 The servant reported back, "Master, I did what you commanded—and there's still want my house full!" Let me tell you, not one of those originally invited is going to get to much as a bite at my dinner party."

14:3 The master said, "Then go to the country roads. Whoever you find, drag them in. I need as many as a bite at my dinner party."

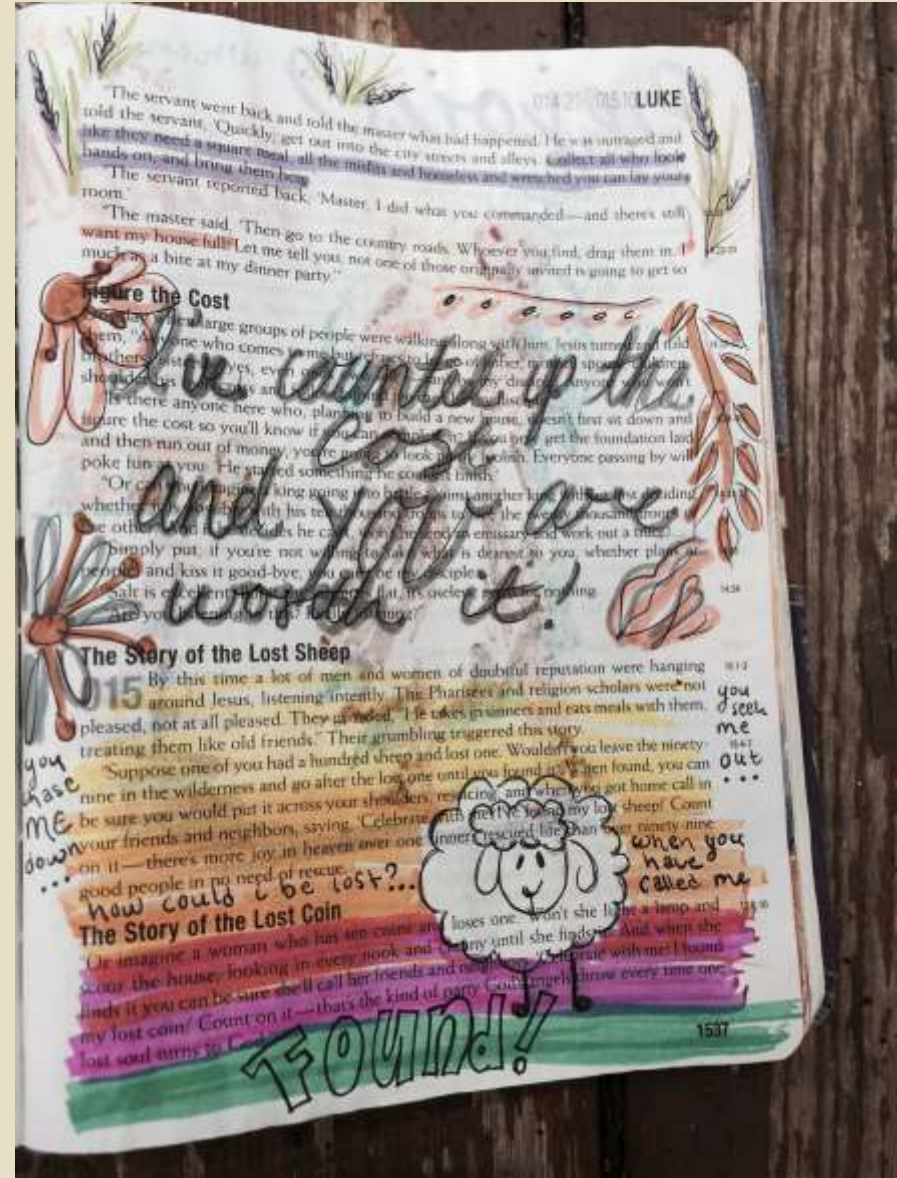
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14:16 The servant went back and told the master what had happened. He was surprised and said, "Quickly get out into the city streets and alleys. Collect all who look like they need a square meal, all the miffs and homeless and wretched—you can live your room."

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LUKE 019/12-38

19:12-13 "There was once a man descended from a royal house who needed to make a long trip back to headquarters to get authorization for his rule and then return. But first he called ten servants together, gave them each a sum of money, and instructed them, 'Operate with this until I return.'

19:14 "But the citizens there hated him. So they sent a commission with a signed petition to oppose his rule: 'We don't want this man to rule us.'

19:15 "When he came back bringing the authorization of his rule, he called those ten servants to whom he had given the money to find out how they had done.

19:16 "The first said, 'Master, I doubled your money.'

19:17 He said, 'Good servant! Great work! Because you've been trustworthy in this small job, I'm making you governor of ten towns.'

19:18 "The second said, 'Master, I made a fifty percent profit on your money.'

19:19 He said, 'I'm putting you in charge of five towns.'

19:20-21 "The next servant said, 'Master, here's your money safe and sound. I kept it hidden in the cellar. To tell you the truth, I was a little afraid. I know you have high standards and hate sloppiness, and don't suffer fools gladly.'

19:22-23 He said, 'You're right that I don't suffer fools gladly—and you've acted the fool! Why didn't you at least invest the money in securities so I would have gotten a little interest on it?'

19:24 "Then he said to those standing there, 'Take the money from him and give it to the servant who doubled my stake.'

19:25 "They said, 'But Master, he already has double...'

19:26 He said, 'That's what I mean: Risk your life and get more than you ever dreamed of. Play it safe and end up holding the bag.

19:27 "As for these enemies of mine who petitioned against my rule, clear them out of here. I don't want to see their faces around here again."

God's Personal Visit

It's my desire now to be tender.
 Your Jerusalem gates will always be open
 —open house day and night—
 Receiving deliveries of wealth from all nations,
 and their kings, the delivery boys.
 Any nation or kingdom that doesn't deliver will perish,
 those nations will be totally wasted.
 The rich woods of Lebanon will be delivered
 —all that cypress and oak and pine—
 To give a splendid elegance to my Sanctuary,
 as I make my footstool glorious.
 The descendants of your oppressor
 will come bowing and scraping to you.
 All who looked down at you in contempt
 will lick your boots.
 They'll confer a title on you: City of God,
 Zion of The Holy of Israel.
 Not long ago you were despised, refuse—
 out-of-the-way, unvisited, ignored.
 But now I've put you on your feet,
 towering and grand forever, a joy to look at.
 When you suck the milk of nations
 and the breasts of royalty,
 You'll know that I, GOD, am your Savior,
 your Redeemer, Champion of Jacob.
 I'll give you only the best—no more hand-me-downs.
 Gold instead of bronze, silver instead of iron,
 bronze instead of wood, iron instead of stones.
 I'll install Peace to run your country,
 make Righteousness your boss.
 There'll be no more stories of crime in your land,
 no more robberies, no more vandalism.
 You'll name your main street Salvation Way,
 and install Praise Park at the center of town.
 You'll have no more need of the sun by day
 nor the brightness of the moon at night.
 GOD will be your eternal light,
 your God will bathe you in splendor.
Your sun will never go down,
your moon will never fade.
I will be your eternal light.
 Your days of grieving are over.
 All your people will live right and well,
 in permanent possession of the land.
 They're the green shoot that I planted.



planted with my own hands to display my glory.
 The runt will become a great tribe,
 the weakling become a strong nation.
 I am GOD.
 At the right time I'll make it happen.

Announce Freedom to All Captives

061 The Spirit of GOD, the Master, is in me
 because GOD anointed me.
 He sent me to preach good news to the poor,
 heal the heartbroken,
 announce freedom to all captives,
 pardon all prisoners.

GOD sent me to announce the year of his grace—
 a celebration of GOD's destruction of our sins
 and to comfort all who mourn.

To care for the needs of all who mourn in Zion,
 give them bouquets of roses instead of ashes,
 Messages of joy instead of news of doom,
 a praising heart instead of a languid spirit.

Rename them "Oaks of Righteousness"
 planted by GOD to display his glory.
 They'll rebuild the old ruins,
 raise a new city out of the wreckage.

They'll start over on the ruined cities,
 take the rubble left behind and make it new.
 You'll hire outsiders to herd your flocks
 and foreigners to work your fields.

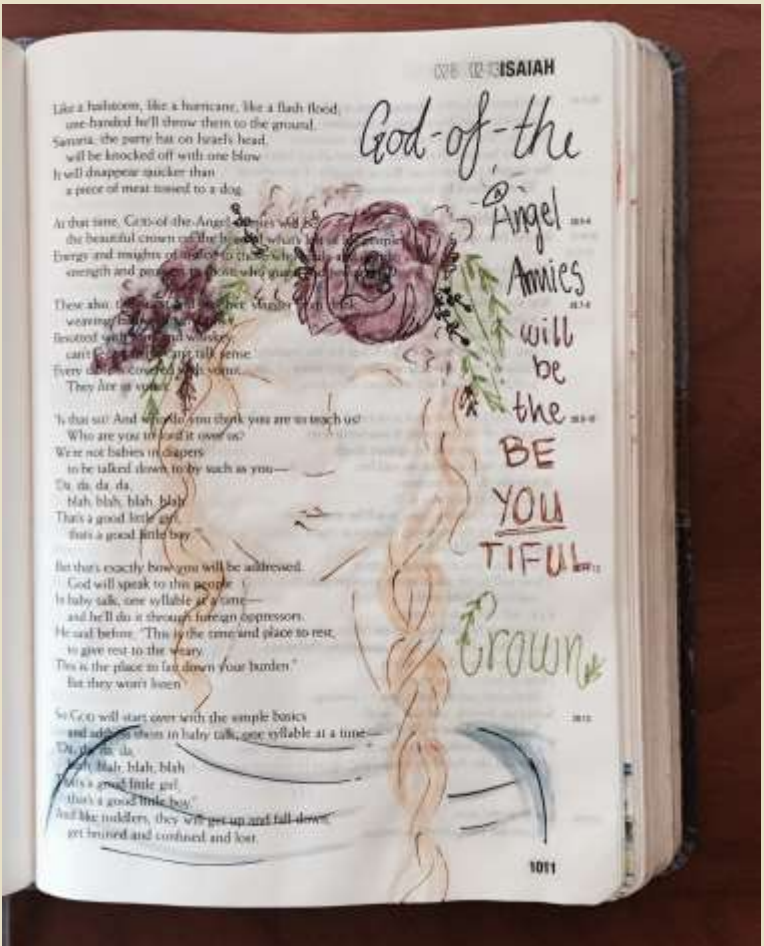
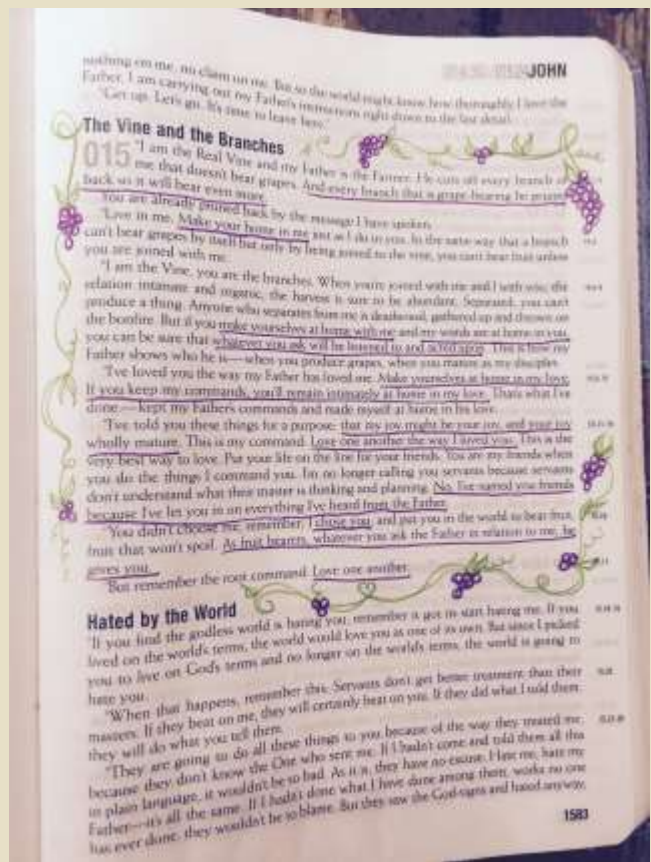
But you'll have the title "Priests of GOD,"
 honored as ministers of our God.
 You'll feast on the bounty of nations,
 you'll bask in their glory.

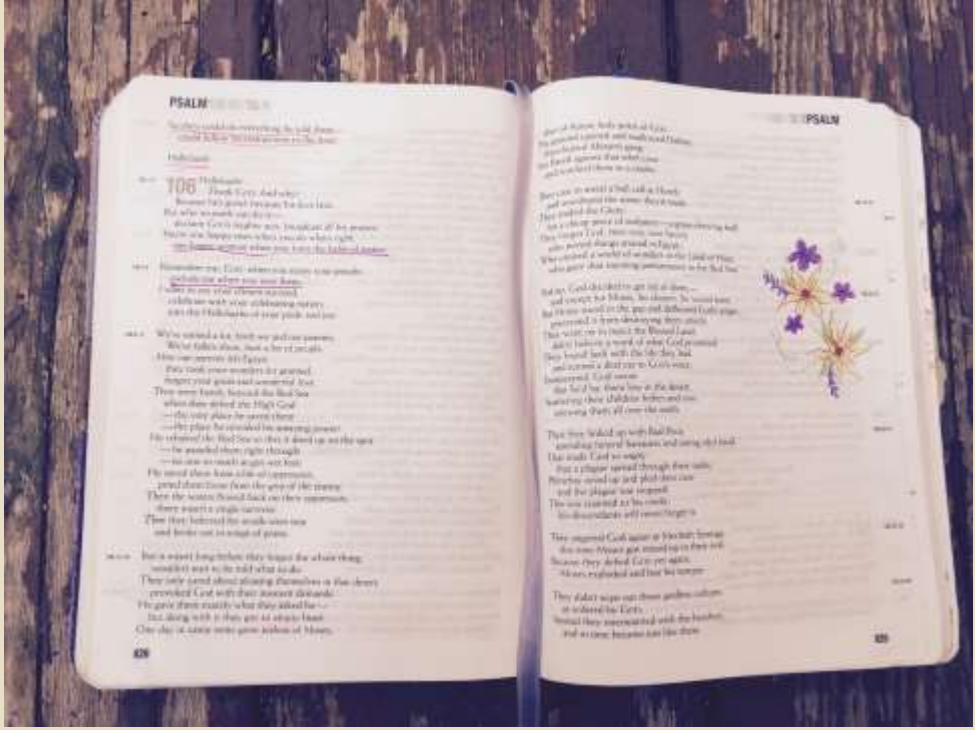
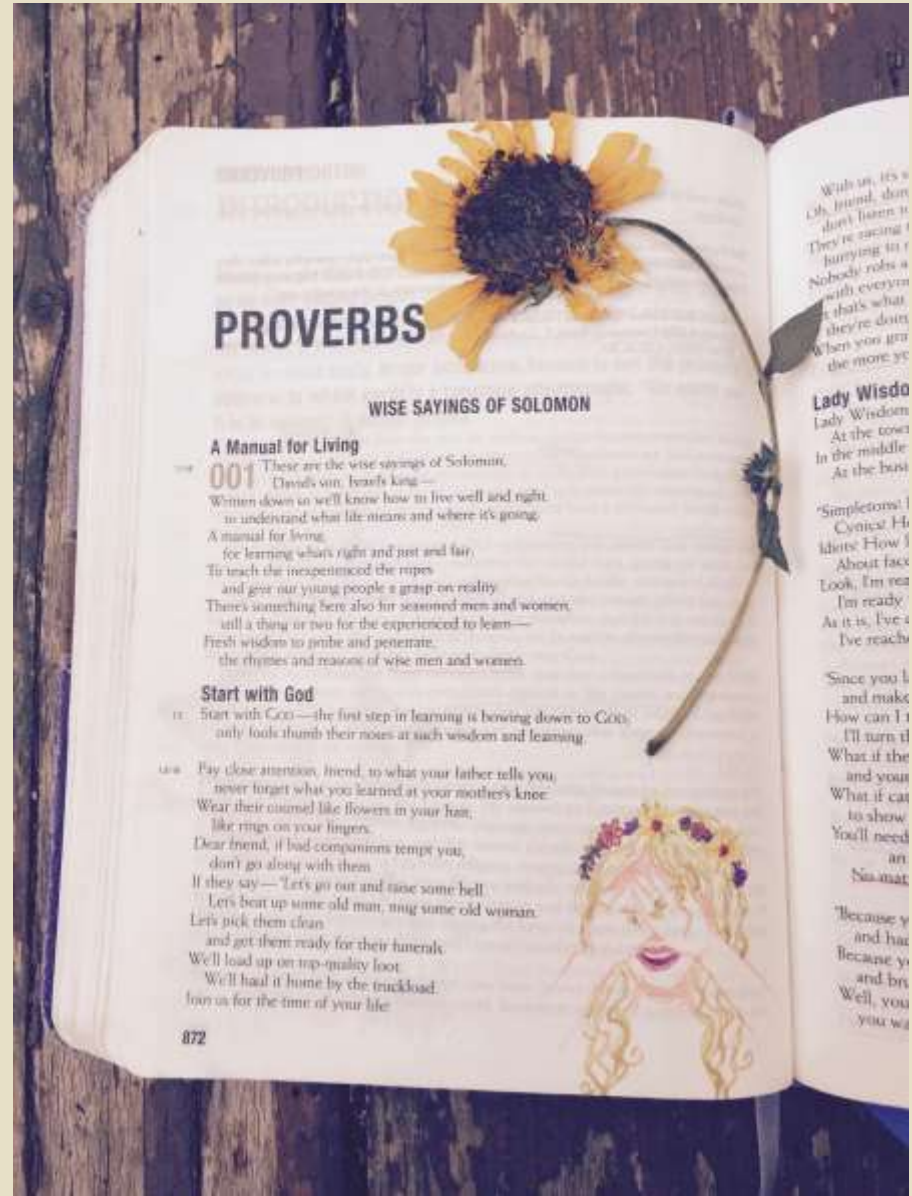
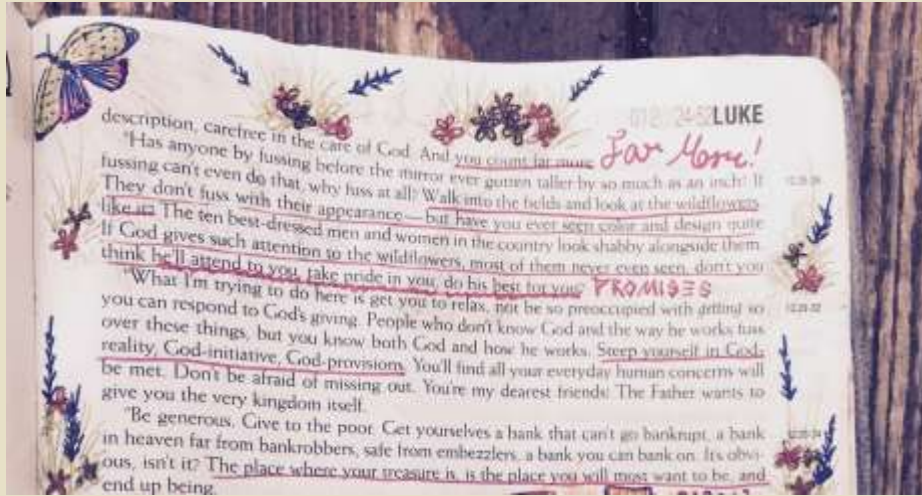
Because you got a double dose of trouble
 and more than your share of contempt,
 Your inheritance in the land will be doubled
 and your joy go on forever.

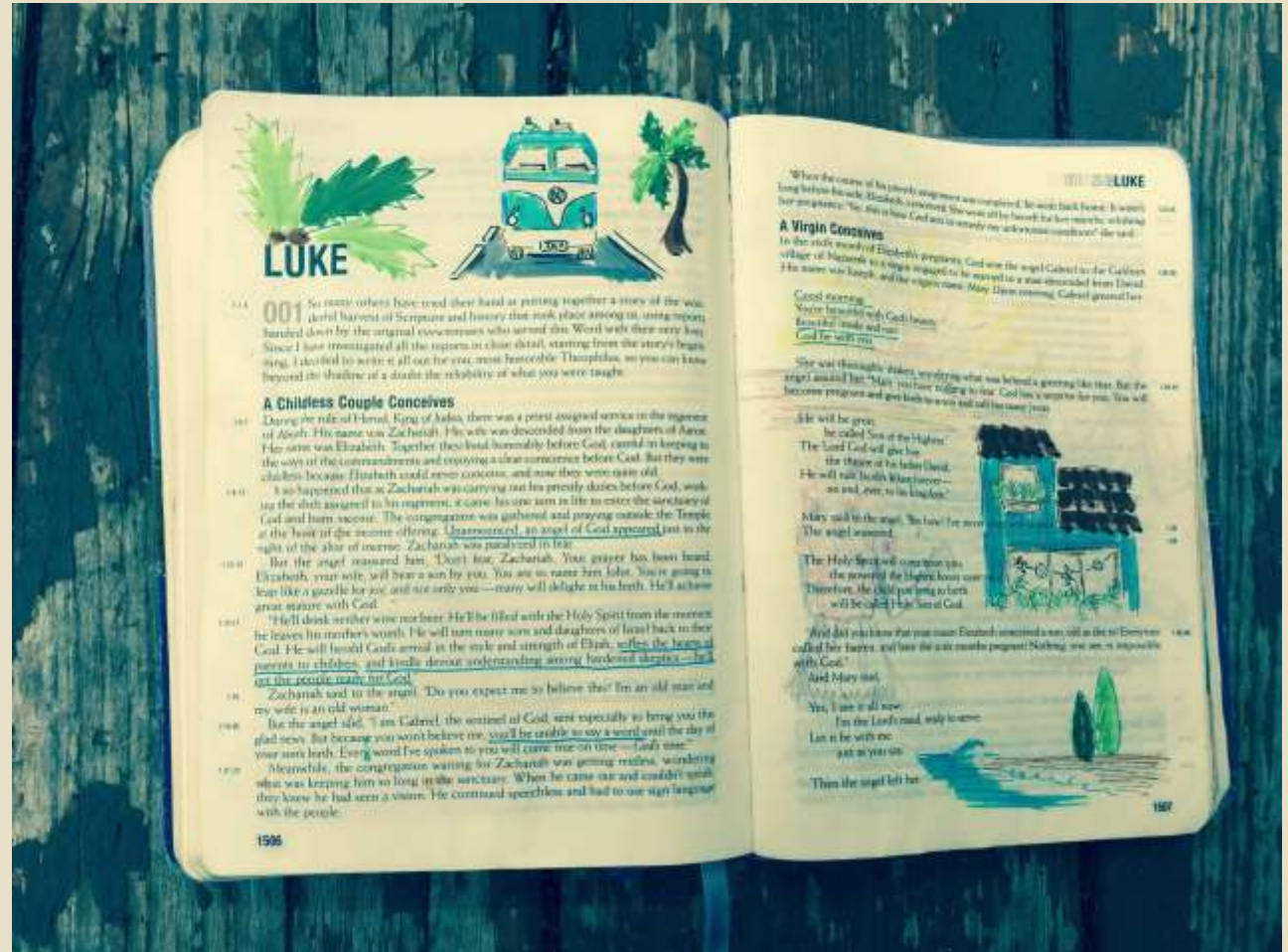
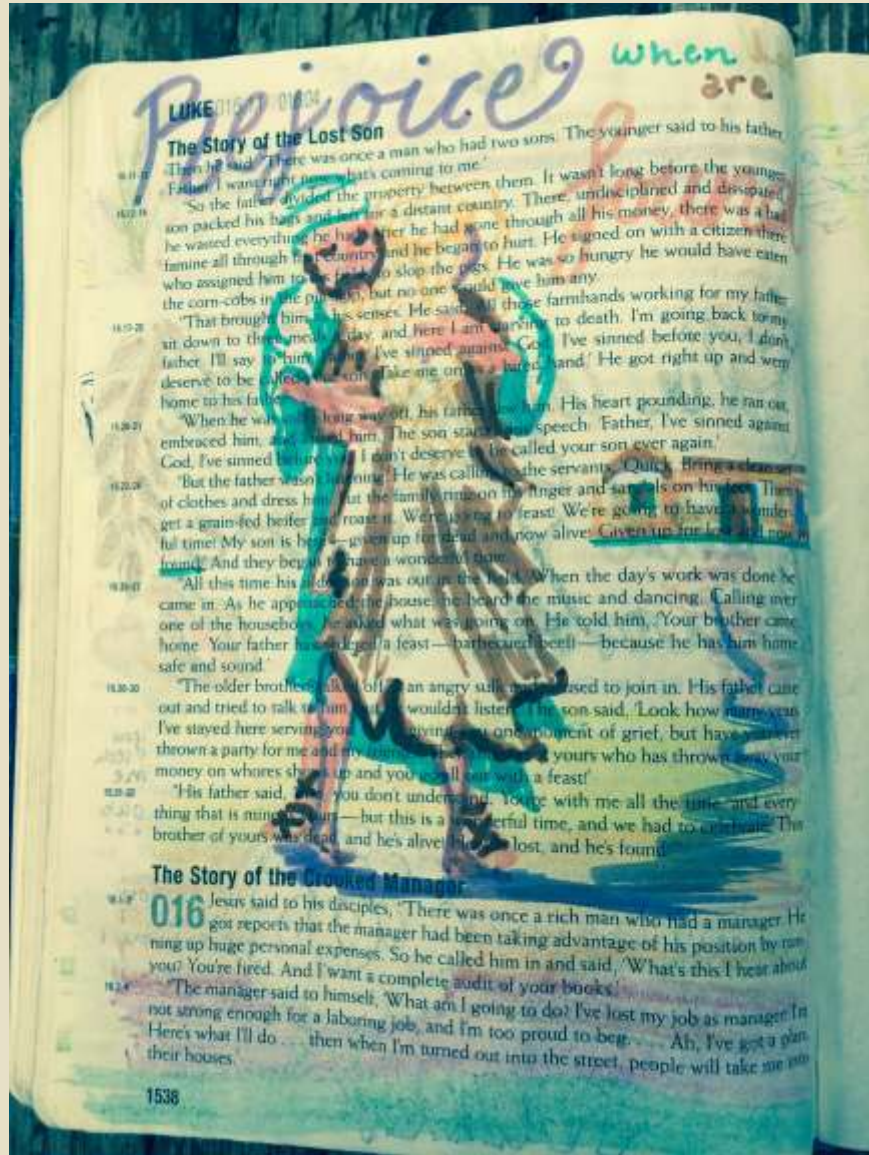
Because I, GOD, love fair dealing
 and hate thievery and crime,
 I'll pay your wages on time and in full,
 and establish my eternal covenant with you.

Your descendants will become well-known all over.
 Your children in foreign countries
 Will be recognized at once
 as the people I have blessed.









PSALM 147:14-148:12

He keeps the peace at your borders,
he puts the best bread on your tables.
He launches his promises earthward—
how swift and sure they come!
He spreads snow like a white fleece,
he scatters frost like ashes.
He broadcasts hail like birdseed—
who can survive his winter?
Then he gives the command and
he breathes on winter—suddenly

147:10 He speaks the same way to Jacob,
speaks words that speak to Israel.
He never did this to the other nations,
they never heard such commands.
Hallelujah!

148 Hallelujah!
Praise GOD from heaven,
praise him from the mountains,
Praise him, all you his angels,
praise him, all you his warriors,
Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, you morning stars,
Praise him, high heaven,
praise him, heavenly rain clouds,
Praise, oh, let them praise the name of GOD,
he spoke the word, and there they were!

148:1 He set them in place
from all time to eternity,
He gave his orders,
and that's it!

148:2 Praise GOD from earth,
you sea dragons, you fathomless ocean deeps,
Fire and hail, snow and ice,
hurricanes obeying his orders,
Mountains and all hills,
apple orchards and cedar forests,
Wild beasts and herds of cattle,
snakes, and birds in flight,
Earth's kings and all races,
leaders and important people,
Robust men and women in their prime,
and yes, graybeards and little children



148:13-150: PSALM

Let them praise the name of GOD—
the only Name worth praising.
His radiance exceeds anything in earth and sky,
he's built a monument—his very own people!

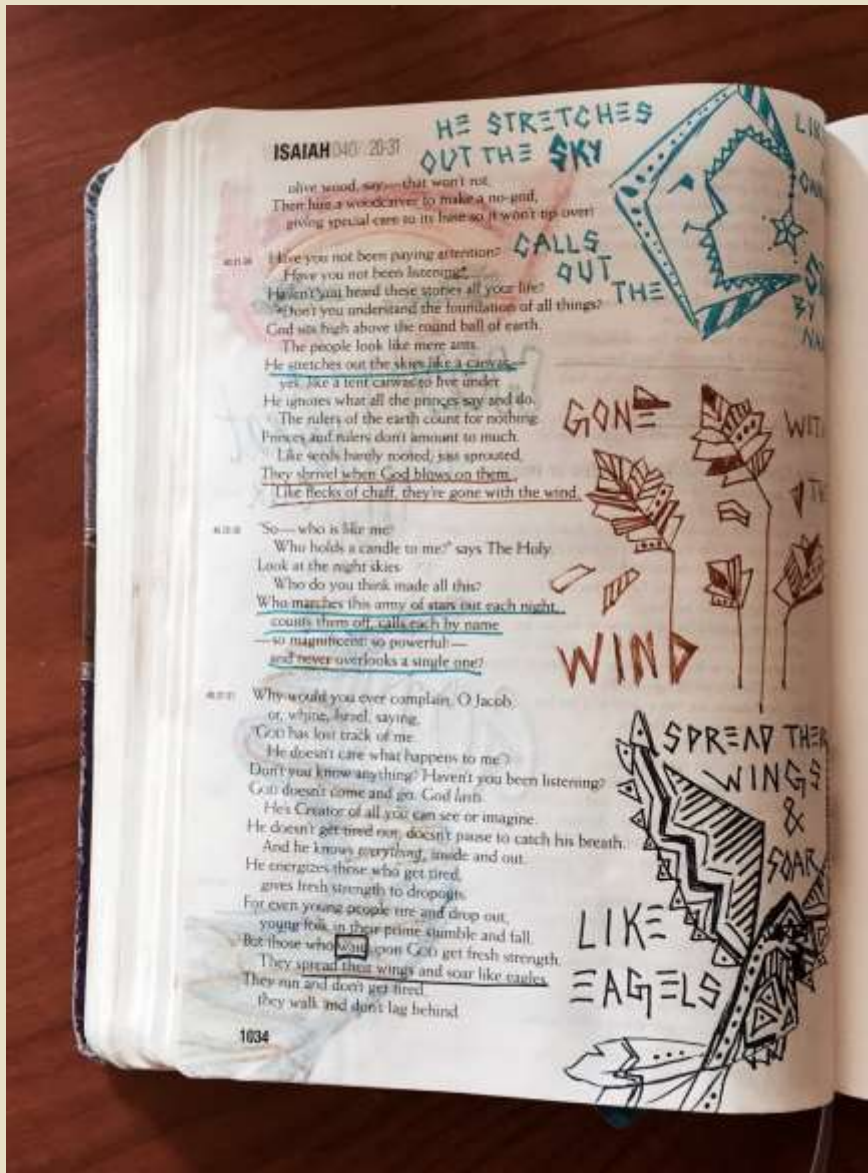
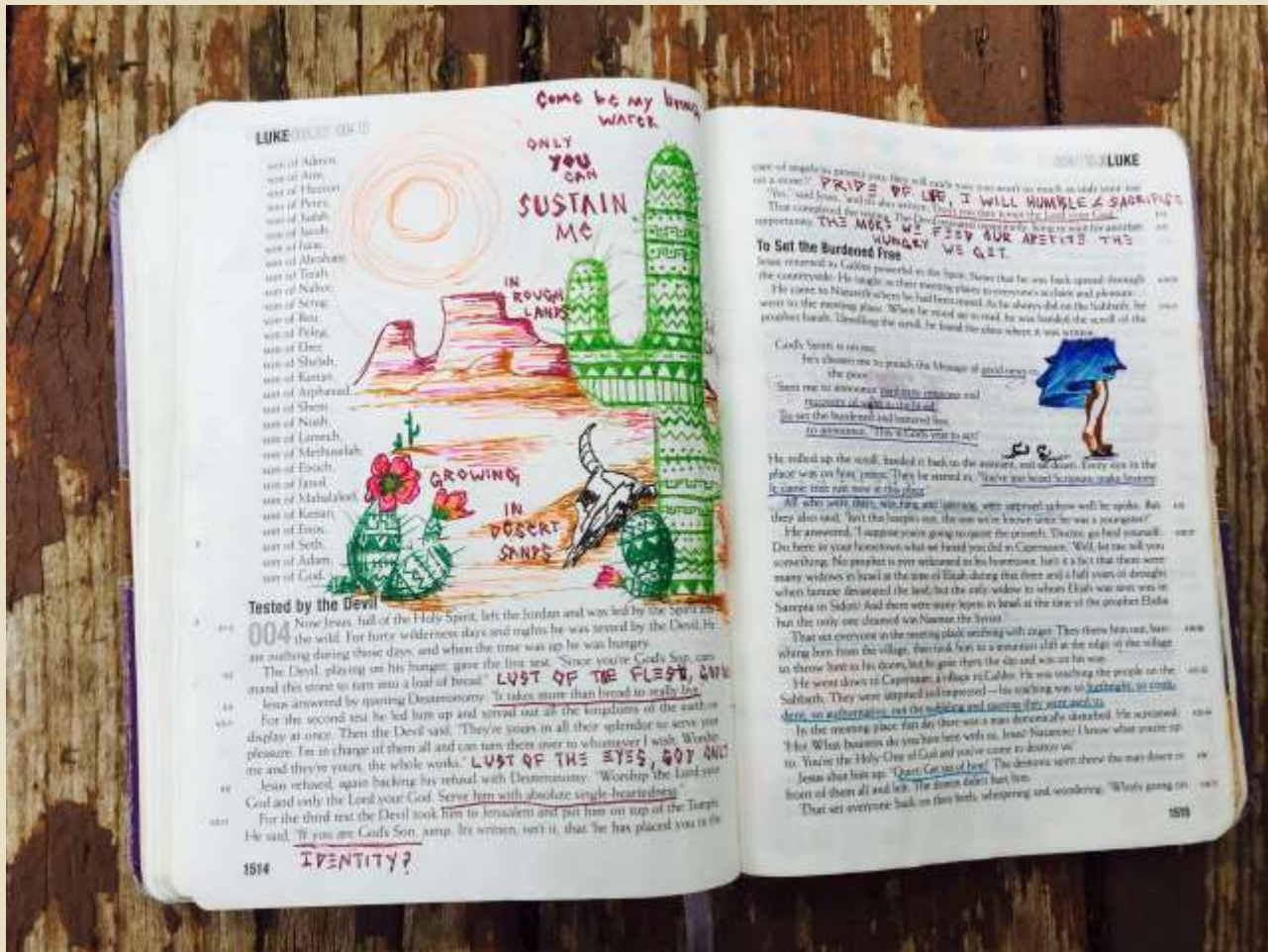
Praise from all who love GOD,
Israel's children, intimate friends of GOD,
Hallelujah!

149 Hallelujah!
Sing to GOD a brand-new song,
praise him in the company of all who love him.
Let all Israel celebrate their Sovereign Creator,
Zion's children exult in their King.
Let them praise his name in dance,
strike up the band and make great music!
And why? Because GOD delights in his people,
festoons plain folk with salvation garlands.

Let true lovers break out in praise,
sing out from wherever they're sitting.
Shout the high praises of GOD,
brandish their swords in the wild sword-dance—
A portent of vengeance on the God-defying nations,
a signal that punishment's coming.
Their kings chained and hauled off to jail,
their leaders behind bars for good.
The judgment on them carried out to the letter
—and all who love GOD in the seat of honor!
Hallelujah!

150 Hallelujah!
Praise God in his holy house of worship,
praise him under the open skies,
Praise him for his acts of power,
praise him for his magnificent greatness.
Praise with a blast on the trumpet,
praise by strumming soft strings.
Praise him with castanets and dance,
praise him with bongo and flute.
Praise him with cymbals and a big bass drum,
praise him with hiddles and mandolin.
Let every living, breathing creature praise GOD!
Hallelujah!





Anointing His Feet

11:14 One of the Pharisees asked him over for a meal. He went to the Pharisee's house and sat down at the dinner table. Just then a woman of the village, the town of Bethsaida, learned that Jesus was a guest in the home of the Pharisee, came with a bottle of very expensive perfume and stood at his feet, weeping, raining tears on his feet. Letting down her hair, she dried his feet, kissed them, and anointed them with the perfume. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man was the prophet I thought he was, he would have known what kind of woman this is who is falling all over him."

11:15 Jesus said to him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Oh? Tell me."

11:16 "Two men were in debt to a banker. One owed five hundred silver pieces, the other fifty. Neither of them could pay up, and so the banker canceled both debts. Which of the two would be more grateful?"

11:17 "Simon answered, 'I suppose the one who was forgiven the most.'"

11:18 "That's right," said Jesus. Then turning to the woman, but speaking to Simon, he said, "Do you see this woman? I came to your home, you provided no water for my feet, but she rubbed my feet and dried them with her hair. You gave me no greeting, but from the time I arrived she hasn't quit kissing my feet. You provided nothing for freshening up, but she has anointed my feet with perfume. Impressive, isn't it? She was forgiven many, many sins, and so she is very, very grateful. If the forgiveness is minimal, the gratitude is minimal."

11:19 Then he spoke to her: "I forgive your sins."

11:20 But set the dinner guests talking behind his back: "Who does he think he is, forgiving sins?"

11:21 He ignored them and said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

11:22 He continued according to plan, traveled to town after town, village after village, preaching God's kingdom, spreading the Message. The Twelve were with him. There were also some women in their company who had been healed of various evil afflictions and illnesses. Mary, the one called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out; Joanna, wife of Chuza, Herod's manager; and Susanna—along with many others who used their considerable means to provide for the company.

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE ... WOMEN OF GOD

The Story of the Seeds

11:23 As they went from town to town, a lot of people joined in and traveled along. He addressed them, using this story: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. Some of it fell on the road, it was tramped down and the birds ate it. Other seed fell in the gravel, it sprouted, but withered because it didn't have good roots. Other seed fell in the weeds, the weeds grew with it and strangled it. Other seed fell in rich earth and produced a bumper crop."

11:24 "Are you listening to this? Really listening?" "WAKE UP! TAKE THIS Z HEART!"

11:25 His disciples asked, "Why did you tell this story?"

11:26 He said, "You've been given insight into God's kingdom—you know how it works. There are others who need stories. But even with stories some of them aren't going to get it."



There ever are open but don't see a thing. There ever are open but don't hear a thing. **INVADE MY LIFE!** The story is about some of these people. The seed is the Word of God. The soil watches it from those who hear the Word, but the women do they hear it than the Devil. The seeds in the gravel are those who hear with enthusiasm, but the enthusiasm doesn't go very deep. It looks spiritual, but the moisture there is unable to grow. And the seed that fell in the weeds—well, these are the ones who hear, but then the seed is crowded out and nothing comes of it as they go about their lives worrying about tomorrow, making money, and trying to hold on to no matter what, sticking with a seed there's a harvest.



11:27 **Misers of What You Hear** IT'S HARD & LONG BUT IT'S GOING TO BE BEAUTIFUL... No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a washbasin or shoves it under the bed. No, you set it up on a lamp stand so those who enter the room can see their way. We're not keeping secrets, we're telling them. We're not hiding things, we're bringing everything out into the open. So be careful that you don't be like the miser of what you hear. Generosity begets generosity, largeness begets largeness. **OH LORD!** His mother and brothers showed up but couldn't get through to him because of the crowd. He was given the message, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside wanting to see you."

11:28 He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who obey the Word of God. Obedience is the key that opens the door." **FAMILY, FAMILY IN CHRIST.**

11:29 One day he and his disciples got in a boat. Let's cross the lake, he said. And off they went. It was smooth sailing, and he fell asleep. A terrific storm came up suddenly on the lake. Water poured in, and they were about to capsize. They woke Jesus. "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"

11:30 Getting to his feet, he said the word, "Silence!" and the waves, "Quiet down!" They did it. The lake became smooth as glass.

11:31 Then he said to his disciples, "The calm sea is the sign of a man who is in control. He calls out to the winds and sea, and they do what he tells them."

11:32 **The Madman and the Pigs** They sailed on to the country of the Gerasenes, directly opposite Galilee. As he stopped out onto land, a madman ran toward him, he was a victim of demons. He hadn't worn clothes for a long time, nor lived at home, he lived in the cemetery. When he saw Jesus he screamed, fell before him, and begged, "What business do you have remaining with me? You're Jesus, Son of the High God, but don't give me a hard time!" (The man said this because Jesus had started to order the unclean spirit out of him.) Very early one said this because Jesus had started to order the unclean spirit out of him. I knew after some the demon threw the man into convulsions. He had been placed under constant guard and tied with chains and shackles, but crazed and driven wild by the demon, he would shatter the bonds.



Blessed Among Women

124-28 Mary didn't waste a minute. She got up and traveled to a town in Judah in the hill country, straight to Zachariah's house, and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leaped. She was filled with the Holy Spirit, and sang out exuberantly.

You're so blessed among women,
and the babe in your womb, also blessed!
And why am I so blessed that
the mother of my Lord visits me?
The moment the sound of your
greeting entered my ears,
The babe in my womb
skipped like a lamb for sheer joy.
Blessed woman, who believed what God said,
believed every word would come true.

124-29 And Mary said,

I'm bursting with God's news.
I'm dancing the song of my Savior, God.
God took one good look at me, and look what happened—
I'm the most fortunate woman on earth!
What God has done for me will never be forgotten.
The God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others,
His mercy flows in wave after wave
on those who are in awe before him.
He bared his arm and showed his strength,
scattered the bluffing braggarts.
He knocked tyrants off their high horses,
pulled victims out of the mud.
The starving poor sat down to a banquet,
the callous rich were left out in the cold.
He embraced his chosen child, Israel,
he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high.
It's exactly what he promised,
beginning with Abraham and right up to now.

124-30 Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months and then went back to her own home.

The Birth of John

124-31 When Elizabeth was full-term in her pregnancy, she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives, seeing that God had overwhelmed her with mercy, celebrated with her.
124-32 On the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child and were calling him Zachariah after his father. But his mother intervened. "No. He is to be called John."



"But," they said, "no one in your family is named John." They used sign language to ask Zachariah what he wanted him named.
Asking for a table, Zachariah wrote, "His name is to be John." That took everyone by surprise. Surprise followed surprise—Zachariah's mouth was now open, his tongue loose, and he was talking, praising God.
A deep, reverential fear washed over the neighborhood, and in all that Judean hill country, people talked about nothing else. Everyone who heard about it took it to heart, wondering, "What will become of this child? Clearly, God has his hand in this."
Then Zachariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
he came and set his people free.
He set the power of salvation in the corner of our lives,
and in the very house of David his servant,
just as he promised long ago,
through the preaching of his holy prophets:
Deliverance from our enemies
and every hateful hand,
Mercy to our fathers,
as he remembers to do what he said he'd do.
What he swore to our father Abraham—
a clean rescue from the enemy camp,
So we can worship him without a care in the world,
made holy before him as long as we live.



And you, my child, "Prophet of the Highest,"
will go ahead of the Master to prepare his way,
Present the offer of salvation to his people,
the forgiveness of their sins.
Through the heartfelt mercies of our God,
God's Sun will break in upon us,
Shining on those in the darkness,
those sitting in the shadow of death.
Then showing us the way, one foot at a time,
down the path of peace.

The child grew up, healthy and spirited. He lived out in the desert until the day he made his prophetic debut in Israel.

The Birth of Jesus

002 About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinus was governor of Syria. Everyone had to appear to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

altar bread that no one but priests were allowed to eat. He also handed it out to his companions. **DO WHAT'S RIGHT.** Then he said, "The Son of Man is no slave to the Sabbath, he's in charge."

On another Sabbath he went to the meeting place and taught. There was a man there with a crippled right hand. The religion scholars and Pharisees had their eye on him to see if he would heal the man, hoping to catch him in a Sabbath infraction. He knew what they were up to and spoke to the man with the crippled hand: "Get up and stand here before us." He did. **NOT WHAT'S SELF RIGHTEOUS.**

Then Jesus addressed them. "Let me ask you something: What kind of action works the Sabbath best? Doing good or doing evil? Helping people or leaving them helpless?" He looked around, looked each one in the eye. He said to the man, "Hold out your hand." He held it out—it was as good as new! They were beside themselves with anger and started plotting how they might get even with him.

The Twelve Apostles

At about that same time he climbed a mountain to pray. He was there all night in prayer before God. The next day he summoned his disciples, from them he selected twelve he designated as apostles.

- Simon, whom he named Peter,
- Andrew, his brother,
- James,
- John,
- Philip,
- Bartholomew,
- Matthew,
- Thomas,
- James, son of Alphaeus,
- Simon, called the Zealot,
- Judas, son of James,
- Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.



**CHOSEN SET APART
LOVED UNIQUE**

You're Blessed

Coming down off the mountain with them, he stood on a plain surrounded by disciples and was soon joined by a huge congregation from all over Judea and Jerusalem, even into the seaside towns of Tyre and Sidon. They had come both to hear him and to be cured of their ailments. Those disturbed by evil spirits were healed. Everyone was trying to touch him—so much energy surging from him, so many people healed! Then he spoke:

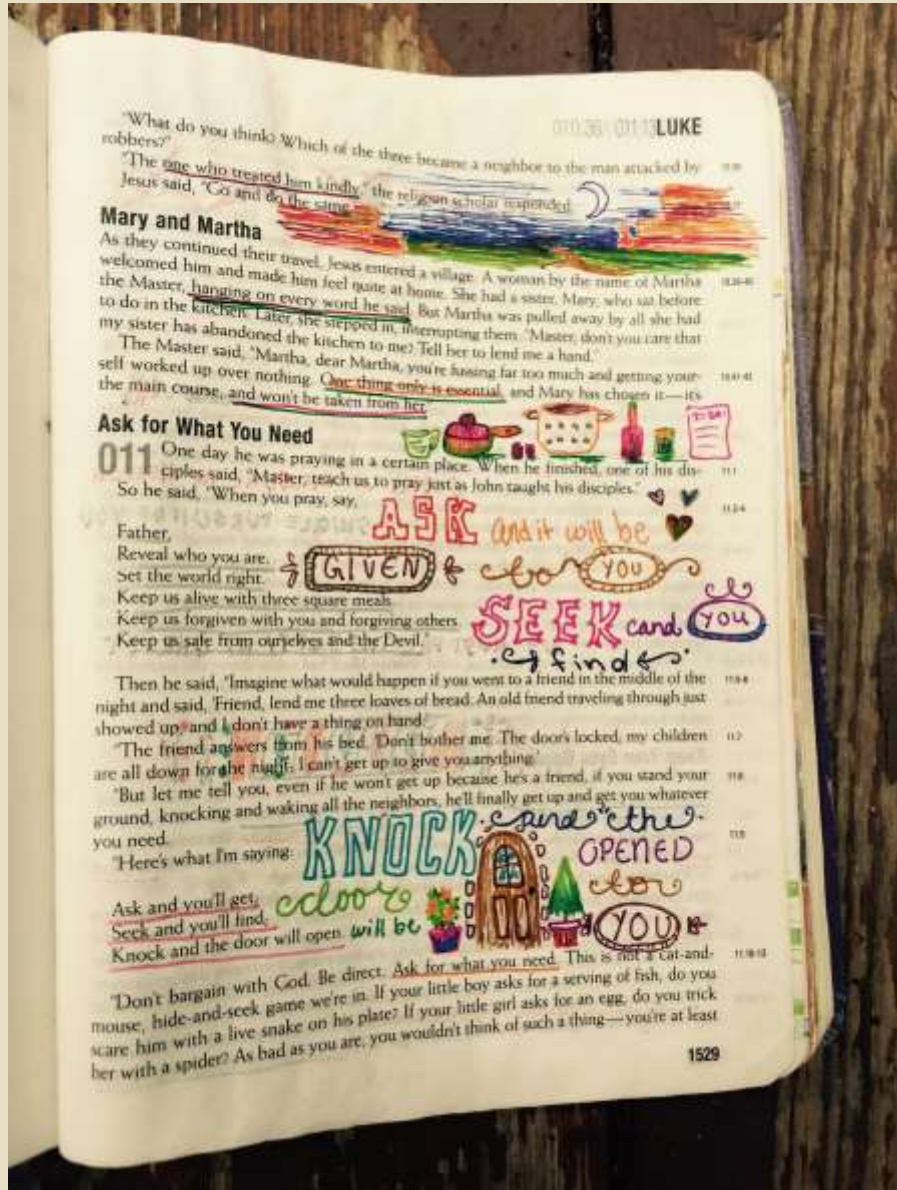
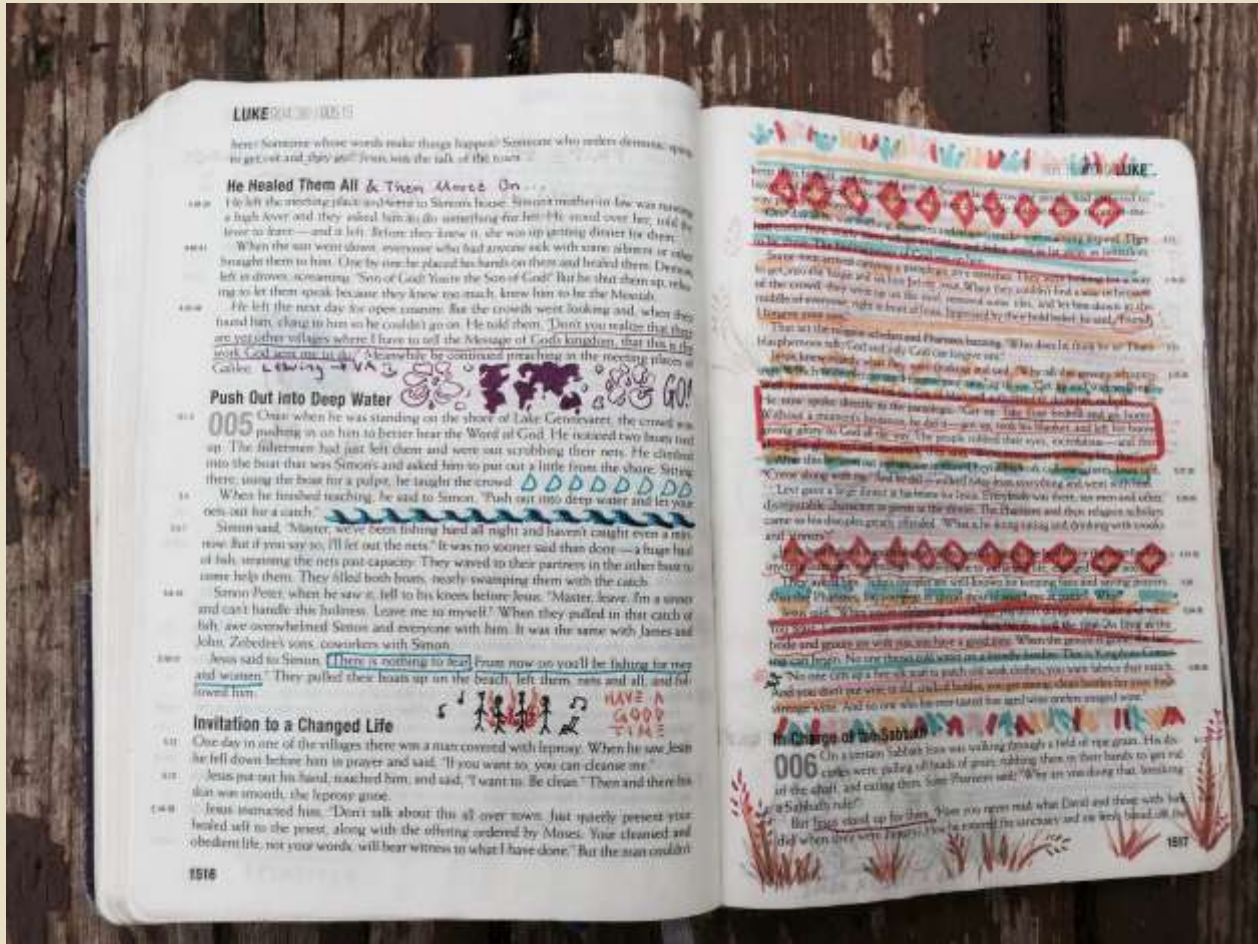
You're blessed when you've lost it all
God's kingdom is there for the finding
THEY'RE JUST THINGS.

You're blessed when you're ravenously hungry
Then you're ready for the Messianic meal
IT'S JUST FOOD.

SHE HAD NOTHING BUT LOVE



AND A TRAILER HOME



Here's someone whose words make things happen! Someone who makes dramatic things happen and who is the talk of the town.

He Healed Them All & Then Moved On

1:00 He left the meeting place and went to Simon's house. Simon's mother-in-law was suffering a high fever and they asked him to do something for her. He stood over her, told her to leave—and it left. Before they knew it, she was up getting dinner for them.

1:05 When the sun went down, everyone who had anyone sick with some ailment or disease brought them to him. One by one he placed his hands on them and healed them. Then he left in droves, saying, "Son of God! You're the Son of God!" But he shut them up, refusing to let them speak because they knew too much, knew him to be the Messiah.

1:10 He left the next day for open country, but the crowds went looking and, when they found him, clung to him so he couldn't go on. He told them, "Don't you realize that there are yet other villages where I have to tell the Message of God's kingdom, that this is the work God sent me to do?" Meanwhile he continued preaching in the meeting places of Galilee.

Push Out into Deep Water

1:15 One day when he was standing on the shore of Lake Genesareth, the crowd was pushing in on him to better hear the Word of God. He noticed two boats tied up. The fishermen had just left them and were sun scrubbing their nets. He climbed into the boat that was Simon's and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Sitting there, using the boat for a pulpit, he taught the crowd.

1:20 When he finished teaching, he said to Simon, "Push out into deep water and let your nets out for a catch."

1:25 Simon said, "Master, we've been fishing hard all night and haven't caught even a tiny one. But if you say so, I'll let out the nets." It was no sooner said than done—a huge haul of fish, meaning the nets past capacity. They waved to their partners in the other boat to come help them. They filled both boats, nearly swamping them with the catch.

1:30 Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell to his knees before Jesus. "Master, leave. I'm a sinner and can't handle this holiness. Leave me to myself!" When they pulled in that catch of fish, awe overwhelmed Simon and everyone with him. It was the same with James and John, Zebedee's sons, coworkers with Simon.

1:35 Jesus said to Simon, "There is nothing to fear. From now on you'll be fishing for men and women." They pulled their boats up on the beach, left their nets and all, and followed him.

Invitation to a Changed Life

1:40 One day in one of the villages there was a man covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus he fell down before him in prayer and said, "If you want to, you can cleanse me."

1:45 Jesus put out his hand, touched him, and said, "I want to. Be clean." Then and there his skin was smooth, the leprosy gone.

1:50 Jesus instructed him, "Don't talk about this all over town, but quietly present your healed self to the priest, along with the offering ordered by Moses. Your obedient and obedient life, not your words, will bear witness to what I have done." But the man couldn't

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"What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?"

1:05 The one who treated him kindly, the religious scholar responded. Jesus said, "Go and do the same."

Mary and Martha

1:20 As they continued their travel, Jesus entered a village. A woman by the name of Martha welcomed him and made him feel quite at home. She had a sister, Mary, who sat before the Master, listening on every word he said. But Martha was pulled away by all she had to do in the kitchen. Later, she stepped in, interrupting them, "Master, don't you care that my sister has abandoned the kitchen to me? Tell her to lend me a hand."

1:25 The Master said, "Martha, dear Martha, you're fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—it's the main course, and won't be taken from her."

Ask for What You Need

1:01 One day he was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said, "Master, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." So he said, "When you pray, say,

Father, reveal who you are. Set the world right. Keep us alive with three square meals. Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.

1:05 Then he said, "Imagine what would happen if you went to a friend in the middle of the night and said, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread. An old friend traveling through just showed up, and I don't have a thing on hand.'"

1:10 "The friend answers from his bed, 'Don't bother me. The door's locked, my children are all down for the night. I can't get up to give you anything.'"

1:15 "But let me tell you, even if he won't get up because he's a friend, if you stand your ground, knocking and waking all the neighbors, he'll finally get up and get you whatever you need."

1:20 Here's what I'm saying: Ask and you'll get. Seek and you'll find. Knock and the door will open. Will be.

1:25 "Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This is not a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your little boy asks for a serving of fish, do you trick scare him with a live snake on his plate? If your little girl asks for an egg, do you trick her with a spider? As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing—you're at least

