

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commit to reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

Monday, September 12th – Matthew 20:20-28

This week our “one another” focus is to serve one another. Serving is a key teaching of Jesus as we will see today. Read verses 20-21. What does James and John’s mother ask of Jesus? Sitting on the right and left of a king meant you were his counselor or his military leader. They were second only to the king himself. Notice whom Jesus speaks to in response to this request (vs. 22). He is talking directly to James and John. What is his response? How do they answer his question? Finally, Jesus does answer the question. What is the answer (vs. 23)? What does Jesus apparently know about their futures? Does that have any sway on his answer? Now when the other disciples hear about the request, how do they respond (vs. 24)? Why do you think this was their response? How does Jesus handle the tension? What compare/contrast example does he give (vss. 25-27)? What should his disciples’ lives look like? Whose life should they be emulating (vs. 28)? What examples do we have of Jesus being a servant? Jesus does not declare his rights as King of kings, rather he gives up everything in service to his creation. Examine your life this past week. Where have you been a Christ-like servant and where have you demanded your rights? Where is the balance between being a floor mat and being a servant? Pray today asking God to direct your ways into true Christ-like servanthood.

Tuesday, September 13th – 1 Timothy 6:1-2

Today we read Paul’s letter to Timothy. It is an instruction letter on pastoral matters. These were the things Timothy was to teach the church. Read these verses. Who is this teaching addressed to (vs. 1)? The slaves are those who were in indentured service to someone else. This could have been because they were sold into slavery or sold themselves into slavery to pay off debt. Yet they were still believers in Jesus Christ. What are these believers called to do (vs. 1)? If they are obedient to this teaching, what will be avoided? Now read verse 2. What seems to be the issue that Paul is dealing with? Why do you think that the slaves would be less respectful to believing masters? What does Paul instruct the slaves to do and for what reason (vs 2)? Now consider what we learned yesterday about how we as believers, even though we are not technically slaves, should live and act towards each other. We were to be servants to one another and those who desire to be first must be like a slave. But we need to be careful that our servanthood doesn’t breed pride and disrespect towards other believers. So while we are not “slaves” in the sense of being in bondage to other people, how would this text apply to us as slaves/servants to each other? How do you think living like this would build community? What would it communicate to the world? Consider where you might need to show more respect to others and how it would glorify God’s name.

Wednesday, September 14th – 1 Peter 4:10-11

We continue our study on serving one another as we turn to Peter’s letter to the church. As you read verse 10, what does the Holy Spirit give each of us? Why are we given them? Every believer in Jesus Christ who has been baptized and received the Holy Spirit has “spiritual gifts.” But our gifts are not for our own benefit,

but rather for the benefit and welfare of others. How should our gifts be used in community (vs. 11)? Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? Have you actually been tested? How are you using your gifts to serve others in our community? If you are not using your gifts, why not? How does holding back on sharing your gifts show a lack of serving? How does it hurt the community? We will be offering spiritual gifts testing over the next few months. Find a time you can take the assessment, so you may fulfill your purpose at Saint James as we continue in Doing Life Together through serving one another.

Thursday, September 15th – Romans 12:4-8

Now we will turn to Paul's teaching on serving through the use of our spiritual gifts. Paul writes often about our gifts and the way they are to be used. Paul starts with an illustration that everyone can understand. What is the illustration (vs. 4)? How does this describe the church? Being designed like this, what does God give the individuals in the church (vs. 5)? As we learned yesterday, these spiritual gifts are not for our personal benefit but for the benefit of others. Paul express that same position and gives us examples of what that looks like. Read verses 6-8. Notice how the gifts are for the benefit of others in the group. In verse 7, it describes the gift of serving. This is usually identified as the gift of helps. That is because all the gifts in essence serve the needs of others. The gift of serving is the gift of helping others in tasks. That would have been the understanding in Paul's time. But it is important to remember that all gifts are a form of serving one another. Also notice the motive for serving behind each gift. How does Paul tell us to serve with our gifts (vss. 6-8)? How are you serving the church? Which gifts are you using? Have you done a motive check? Pray asking God for the right motive to serve out of your giftedness in the church.

Friday, September 16th – Hebrews 6:1-12

We finish our study on serving one another by turning to the Book of Hebrews. As a reminder, the whole purpose of Doing Life Together is to help us become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. According to the writer in Hebrews, what does a mature believer look like (vss. 1-3)? How do you know if there is a problem in your faith walk (vss. 4-6)? If maturity does not take place what could happen (vss. 7-8)? But if we are moving forward and deeper in our walks, what does the writer say will be the result (vs. 9)? Why can he say this (vs. 10)? In verses 10 and 11, the Greek text has the meaning of not just loving others, but of loving *and serving* others. What benefit does loving and serving others provide when practiced regularly (vs. 12)? Do you find yourself growing dull? Do you find yourself indifferent? Why do you think loving and serving others is a remedy for dullness or indifference? Consider where dullness and indifference may be slowing your spiritual growth and transformation. How can joining a small group to practice serving others help you through these times? Pray and ask God to guide you to the right DLT to bless and preserve you.

Saturday, September 17th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Galatians 6:2-3.