

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commitment 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. Our Lenten Mediations are based on Warren Wiersbe's Book "Jesus in the Present Tense."

Monday, March 7th – Exodus 16:4-7; Deuteronomy 8:2-3; Isaiah 55:1-2

This week we look at the second I AM of Jesus—I AM the Bread of Life. Bread and the need for it is a common theme throughout Scripture. Consider how the passage in Exodus looks like us. Do we not grumble on our journey for the bread of the world, especially when we believe we are being short-changed? But what does Deuteronomy 8 teach us? How would learning this lesson about bread actually help us to stop grumbling? When reading Isaiah's passage, what do you learn about God's desires for you? Do you think Isaiah is speaking strictly about physical food or the food that lasts forever? What is that bread that lasts forever? To what is God referring? Are you hungry for this bread? Are you aware you can have your fill every day of this bread and that this bread brings life? Spend time today fasting from physical bread and feeding on spiritual bread. See what changes take place and see if your discontent is relieved.

Tuesday, March 8th – John 6:1-15

Today we turn to John 6, where we will spend the rest of the week. In today's passage we have the feeding of the 5000. To grasp the depth of the story and why it is important to the "I AM" of Jesus, we need to pay attention to some of the details. Why were the people following Jesus? What was the season (vs. 4)? Why is that significant to the story? Why does Jesus ask the question, if he already knows the answer (vss. 5-7)? What does Andrew find and what is his opinion of what he has secured (vss. 8-9)? How are we like Andrew? As you finish the story, what do we learn about Jesus (vss. 14-15)? What kind of provisions does he bring? How do you think the little boy felt when there were 12 baskets of leftovers? How does God do that today in the United States? What does this teach us regarding world hunger? Spend time in prayer today and consider how what you have can be shared to feed others.

Wednesday, March 9th – John 6:16-27

We continue the story today with an interlude. After a long day of miracles and service, the disciples head out to cross the sea. Jesus is not with them. When the seas begin to get rough, they discover Jesus walking on water near them. And then they end up on the other side, "immediately!" As we read verses 22-27, we see that Jesus' being on the other side befuddles the crowds that find him there. Why do you think they were seeking Jesus? Why does Jesus say they were seeking him? How do we sometimes seek out Jesus for the wrong reasons? How does Jesus' response to the crowds reflect the Isaiah 55 passage from Monday? What are you pursuing this Lent? Is it what will bring you eternal life or temporary happiness? Spend some time figuring out where you spend your time and consider where you might reinvest yourself in eternal things.

Thursday, March 10th – John 6:28-41

As we journey farther into the story today, pay attention to the questions people ask and the answers Jesus gives them. The crowd wants to know what they should “do” to do the works of God (like Jesus was doing). Why does Jesus’ answer not match up to what the crowd wanted to hear? What was their response? Notice how their history/tradition is brought up as a defense and justification. How does Jesus respond? God gives the bread of life, not Moses. What seems to be the motive behind the request of the crowd? When Jesus tells them, “I AM the bread of life,” how does the crowd respond (vs. 42)? How does this remind you of our reading of Exodus on Monday? How do we resemble them? God provides what we ask for in a way that will satisfy us and yet, we still grumble. Think about what you grumble over. There is an old parable about one who is grumbling over not having new shoes and then he notices that someone else has no feet. Lent is about a time of penitence (shame, regret, and remorse) for our sins and repentance for those sins. Consider where you have grumbled over the bread that God has given you. Pray and ask God to give you a heart of contentment and peace, and to forgive your grumbling. Then pay attention to your words and actions throughout the remainder of the journey, to make sure that you remain content and thankful rather than ungrateful and grumbling.

Friday, March 11th – John 6:41-51 (read through verse 71 if you feel ambitious)

As we finish chapter 6 today, we begin with the crowds still grumbling. Why do they think that Jesus being the bread of heaven is absurd? What does Jesus mean in vs. 44, when he says no one can come to him unless God draws him to Jesus? What does this say about your coming to Jesus? Is it your action or the action of God? This is what United Methodism refers to as “prevenient grace”—the invitation of God to come to Jesus before you are even aware of God or Jesus. But it all starts with God. What is the difference between the bread (manna) eaten in the wilderness and Jesus as the bread of life? What do you think that Jesus means when he says this bread is his flesh? As this teaching finishes, we see in verse 66 that many people had a difficult time accepting Jesus’ teaching and they left him. This is still the practice today—we don’t like what we hear, so we change churches. How does learning to accept difficult teachings mature us as disciples? How does staying faithful to Jesus’ teachings lead us to life? Note that we are not saved through the Bible, but through belief that Jesus is the sinless Son of God, that he takes away our sins and brings us eternal life through his resurrection. It is the Bible that teaches us all the Great I AM commands, so that we can lovingly obey. Spend time today thanking God for his Word, both the written word and the Living Bread, Jesus.

Saturday, March 12th – *To prepare for tomorrow’s worship please read John 8:12-20.*