

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 Meditations are based on Warren Wiersbe's book, "Jesus in the Present Tense."

Monday, February 29th – Psalm 100; Psalm 23; Isaiah 53:4-6; John 10:11,14-15

As you read these four passages, how does each portray a scene from Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem? How does Psalm 100 resemble Palm Sunday? How does the imagery of Psalm 23 point to the care of the Good Shepherd during Holy Week? How do Isaiah and John reflect the events we are yet to experience on Holy Thursday and Good Friday? Consider how Isaiah and John are tied together. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, lays down his life for his sheep. What blessings does Isaiah say this brings us? Isaiah also tells us why Jesus needs to lay down his life (vs. 6). As we follow the Great I AM to the cross and on to the empty tomb, consider where you, the sheep, have gone astray. What rebellion, sins, and rejections of God's ways has Christ taken to the cross for you? Where do you need healing for your soul from sin? Spend time today fasting and praying asking the Good Shepherd to heal you and give your soul peace.

Tuesday, March 1st – Ezekiel 34:1-6, 11-16

As discussed on Sunday, the shepherd/sheep metaphor was a well-known and understood metaphor in Jesus' day. Ezekiel talks about bad shepherds and good shepherds. The shepherds over the flock of Israel had not always done as they should. As you read verses 1-6, write out a list of the things that they had done wrong or failed to do. Now read verses 11-16 and make a list of what the Good Shepherd is going to do. Consider as you read your lists, how does Jesus fulfill the Good Shepherd list? How did the Pharisees, Sadducees and Priests fulfill the bad shepherds' list? Jesus tells Peter in Chapter 21 of John to "Feed my sheep" and "Feed my lambs." That is a command to each of us as believers. Now go back to your lists. How are your shepherding skills measuring up? Are you living out the good shepherd list or the bad shepherd list? Where do we as a church need to seek forgiveness and make changes? Pray to God for forgiveness and for the courage to live as good shepherds reaching the lost and those who have gone astray.

Wednesday, March 2nd – Isaiah 40:9-11

Isaiah, though speaking to people in his time, demonstrates the universal truths of God's Word. These passages not only address specific issues in Isaiah's time, but point to a Messiah that even Isaiah was not aware of. As you read this passage, what is the mood in verse 9? Who do you think the messenger of this Good News was? As you read verse 10, contrast it to verse 11. Notice the differences – the strong arm, yet gentle enough to carry a lamb. What others do you see? As you read this passage, consider what you learn about God. About Jesus. About us. As we journey through Lent drawing closer to the cross, consider how you need a strong and gentle God. How does Jesus' crucifixion demonstrate both of these aspects?

Thursday, March 3rd – Micah 5:2-5; (Matthew 2:3-6)

This passage is usually heard during Advent or Christmas. It is the passage that the carol, “O Little Town Of Bethlehem,” is based on. In reading it today, we see that it is about more than Bethlehem. It is about the one who will be born in Bethlehem. What do we learn about the ruler that is to come? From where are his origins (Micah 5:2)? Now read verse 3. What are the signs this ruler has arrived on earth? In verses 4 and 5 we see the role that this ruler will play. What is the first description given (vs. 4)? The ruler will be a shepherd. Jesus declares himself to be “the Good Shepherd.” When Jesus says this, he is not only telling us who he is, but who he was declared to be from long ago. What will the ruler be/bring (verse 5)? So Jesus’ identity will be that of a good shepherd. What is our identity? What will the people receive from Jesus being their Shepherd? Consider today how you live into these promises of the ruling Shepherd. Are you at peace? Do you live undisturbed by world actions around you? Do you believe this possible? Spend time as you go about your day as to whether you are living under the Shepherd’s care.

Friday, March 4th – John 10:11-16

We will finish up this week looking at John’s text again. What makes Jesus the good shepherd (vs. 5)? What is the difference between the hired shepherd and the good shepherd (vss. 12-15)? When you are hired, you are on the payroll and while even a hired hand will do some work to protect the sheep, he/she will not risk their own lives, for it is just a job, not their livelihood. The good shepherd however, is the owner of the sheep and out of love for the sheep would do whatever it takes to save and protect the sheep, even to the point of dying. This is why Jesus is your Good Shepherd. But we learn some more about who are in Jesus’ flock. Who else will be included in the flock (vs. 16)? Most scholars say this points to the gentiles who upon believing in the Good News of Jesus will become part of the flock. What is the tell-tale sign that they are part of the flock (16b)? The sheep of Jesus know Jesus’ voice. We follow it and trust it alone. How many voices do you listen to? In today’s world, we have many voices trying to be our shepherd and lead us where they may. It is important to make sure you are listening only to the Good Shepherd’s voice. The Good Shepherd’s voice will not contradict Scripture or lead you to any unloving or dishonoring act. Practice listening for the voice of the Good Shepherd the rest of this Lent and pay attention to what voices are competing for your attention.

Saturday, March 5th – *To prepare for tomorrow’s worship, please read John 6:35-51.*