

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.

Monday, June 13th – Mark 12:28-34; Matthew 10:34-39

Today we turn to the commandments regarding how to love one another. As you read Mark 12 what does Jesus say about the man with whom he is conversing (vs. 34)? Why do you think Jesus said that (vss. 32-33)? Now read the Matthew text. This appears to be a harsh point Jesus is making. Jesus is teaching in Matthew that having faith in Jesus will split families. Some will believe and others will not. It is the same today. So many have not heard the Good News of Jesus and so many more seem to have rejected it. Consider how faith in Jesus does not necessarily bring stability, prosperity or happiness to families. In fact, we all have suffered instability, lack of happiness, and lack of prosperity according to the world's standards. Yet, we are called to love our neighbors. How should this commandment be fulfilled in such situations as faith dividing families? How can we live into loving our family even when things do not go as hoped for or planned? Who in your family might you need to work on this commandment? Pray asking God to show you the way to please him in this.

Tuesday, June 14th – Exodus 20:12 and Matthew 15:1-9; Ephesians 3:14-19

We turn to Commandment number 4 found in Exodus 20:12. What is the command? What is the incentive to fulfill this command? Why do you think God chose this particular act to guide us? Perhaps it is because if we cannot learn to honor those who give us life we will not be able to learn to honor others. Also, if we cannot honor our parents whom we can see, how will we be able to honor God our Father whom we cannot see? But living this commandment became distorted. Read the Matthew 15 passage. How had it become distorted by the Pharisees? What loop hole did they see that allowed them to not honor or care for the parents (vss. 5-6)? How does Jesus express how this is sinful (vss. 8-9)? Since this is how distorted the Commandment had become, how did Jesus fulfill the command? For that answer we turn to Paul's writing in Ephesians. For this passage, you will need a more literal translation of the Bible. The NIV, ESV, NRSV will all do. Read verses 14-15. Paul sees the reality of Jesus' family in God the father and that all who believe and are baptized become the children of God. Jesus is the first born son of God. What is Paul's prayer for those who believe (vs. 16-19)? How does this define the love of our heavenly Father? Jesus loves the Father that he obediently followed and served the Father's plan. And the Father loved the son in return and raised him up. Consider the implications of this deep honor and love. Consider what kind of family you have been invited into. Pray and thank God for these blessings.

Wednesday, June 15th – Ephesians 5:1-2, & 21 and 6:1-4 (our fulfillment)

Now we turn to how we are called to fulfill or live into the commandment Honor your father and mother. Paul once again is the one to share with us what this looks like. What does Paul call us to do in Eph. 5? Who are we to imitate and why should we do this (vs. 1)? Who else should we imitate and why (vs. 2)? How does imitating Christ and loving as he did honor our Father in heaven (vs. 2)? Paul goes on further by speaking about how we should fulfill this in our earthly relationships too. Paul gives us a very clear description of what is to honor our spiritual family which consists of spiritual mothers and fathers. What is this directive (vs. 21)? Verses 22-23 tells us how that looks between a husband and a wife. But as we read 6:1-3, Paul addresses how this looks between children and parents. What is Paul's instruction to believing children (vs. 1-3)? In verse 4, Paul has some instructions for Fathers and Mothers as well. What is that advice? How does this behavior imitate that of our Heavenly Father? How does it demonstrate love? How do these demonstrate submission to one another? We must never forget that we belong to a

much larger family than those with whom we are biologically related. We have a family that consist of the adopted children of the one true King. As you consider that this day, how does that help you to see how we are called to fulfill this law in a much broader sense? What might be different in your life because you have explored these writings? Pray asking God to help you live and fulfill this command so you bring honor to his name.

Thursday June 16th – Exodus 20:13; Matthew 5:21-24; John 1:1-4; John 14:6; John 10:10

Today we turn to the 6th Commandment which is quite familiar and with which most if not all believers would agree is practical. So what is the 6th Commandment (Exod. 20:13)? But Jesus tells us that the meaning of this commandment is more than just not physically murdering someone. Read the Matthew 5 text. How does Jesus deepen and broaden the understanding of the Commandment (vs. 22)? Killing someone is not usually the first step on the path, but rather it stems from anger, arrogance and a self-righteous attitude. These are the stepping stones that lead murder. What prescription does Jesus give to deal with a murderous heart (vs. 23-24)? What does this teach us about confessing only to God? Why do you think God requires us to make it right with those whom we are angry or have hurt? Now read all 4 of the John passages. These explain to us how Jesus fulfills this commandment. What do each of these texts have in common? How does being and giving life fulfill the call to not murder? Consider how many of the leaders treated and challenged Jesus? Consider the fact Jesus, as the Son of God, had a right to be angry. How did he respond instead? How then does offering life instead of murder fulfill and deepen this commandment? How does it feel to know that Jesus isn't angry at you and through the Holy Spirit offers you new life every day? Take time today to thank Jesus for being the living example of this Commandment in your life.

Friday, June 17th – Matthew 5:43-48; Matthew 25:31-40

We finish this week off learning how to live into or fulfill the command to not murder. Today we will look at 2 of Jesus' examples of how to live this out. As you read Matthew 5, what does Jesus change about whom we love (vss. 43-44)? Why are we to do this (vs.45)? How does this set us apart from the world (vss. 46-48)? How does learning to live this out help us to bring life to people rather than murder? Now turn to Matthew 25. What are the list of things that the sheep had done (vss. 33-36)? How would these acts of mercy have brought life into each of the recipients' lives? Sometimes doing even the smallest act of kindness for someone can breathe new life into their lives. Continue reading verses 37-38. How does Jesus answer their question (vs. 40)? Have you ever considered that when we love our enemies or help others in need we are actually breathing new life into them, the life of Christ in the world, thus bringing new life and witness to the power of Jesus? We are invited to share in life-giving mercy to our enemies and those in need. God invites us to join him and work with him. This is Kingdom work ushering in the Kingdom of God in our own spheres of influence. Be intentional today as you go about making sure you are fulfilling the commandment to not murder by breathing Christ's love and life into someone in need or into an enemy through prayer.

Saturday, June 18th – *To prepare for Tomorrow's Worship please read Exodus*