

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. These 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 20th – Exodus 20:14 and Deuteronomy 24:1-4

We start this week with commandment seven found in our Exodus passage. What is today's commandment? Adultery is having sexual relations when you and/or the other person is married to someone else. God's point is that we enter into a covenantal relationship with a person. How is adultery an example of how not to love others as yourself? Adultery takes on an even broader sense, as we see in Deuteronomy. Read Deuteronomy. What is the issue at hand? How is this related to the adultery law? The fact that this is part of the law that Jews related to adultery, what does that tell you about what was going on in Moses' day? How is this scenario similar to the world today? How does this behavior prove to be unloving? Consider your life or those you know who have experienced divorce, some that may have existed because of adultery. How did it rock the lives of those involved? Those families involved? The friends involved? As you ponder this, what does the Holy Spirit say to your heart about lack of love expressed? What is challenging? What creates a tension of loving those who are divorced while still knowing it is sin, as it misses God mark? Pray for those who have sinned and ask God to heal their broken hearts.

Tuesday, June 21st – Matthew 5:27-32 and Matthew 19:3-12; John 8:1-11

Now we jump to Jesus' time and his expansion and fulfillment of the commandment to not commit adultery. As we have seen in the past, Jesus does not just agree with or live out the commandment, but deepens it in a way that makes obedience from a heart of love. As you read the first Matthew text, how does Jesus expand the current understanding of adultery (vss. 27-28)? How does lusting after someone demonstrate a lack of love for them? What does Jesus prescribe as a cure for those who lust (vss. 29-30)? While this may seem extreme (and it is), Jesus' point is that this is serious and we need to pay attention, for our very souls are at stake. But Jesus' expansion does not end here. Now read verses 31-32. What else has Jesus added to the expansion? Now read Matthew 19:3-12. Jesus directly addresses our Deuteronomy passage from yesterday. What does Jesus say about why Moses allowed divorce (vss. 8-9)? How do the disciples respond (vs. 10)? What does Jesus say to them in response (vss. 11-12)? To close today, read John 8. This is a familiar story. Note how the story ends (vss. 10-11). Jesus does not condone her sin, but does not condemn her either. Have no doubt, she was sincerely repentant in that moment as she waited for stones to be flailed at her. But here Jesus forgives and sends her on her way with a caution to sin no more. Jesus fulfills this commandment by being faithful in his relationship with God and living out his mission to forgive, save and redeem God's people from their sins. We see clearly the balancing act in that Jesus declares adultery, lust and divorce as sins. But upon repentance we can also receive forgiveness and a new start to hit the mark this time.

Wednesday, June 22nd – Ephesians 5:21-33; 2 Corinthians 11:1-3

Today we look at how we are to fulfill, live into, the commandment to not commit adultery. We begin with Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Please read verses 31-32 first. This text is speaking about marriage. What does Jesus say about marriage in verse 31? What does he compare it to in verse 32? Paul says the church's relationship to Jesus is that of the wife or the bride. Our relationship with Christ is like a marriage. So how do we love each other in marriage? How is the wife to love and treat her husband (vs. 22-24)? How is the husband to love and treat the wife (vss. 25-31)? Both of these are tied to verse 21. What does verse 21 tell us? Now read 2 Corinthians 11. Of what kind of relationship does Paul speak of the church to Christ (vs. 2)? The church is often referred to as the bride to Christ.

Why is Paul afraid that they will be led away from (vs. 3)? We are called to a sincere and pure devotion to Christ just as a wife and husband would love each other sincerely and purely. How does this study help you to see more clearly how we are to live into or fulfill this command to not commit adultery? How does this help us understand how to love others better and thus love God more purely? Pray today, asking God's Holy Spirit to help you live a pure life to honor God.

Thursday June 23rd– Exodus 20:15 and Luke 12:32-34

We move now to the eighth commandment. What is that command (Ex. 20:15)? When you hear the word steal, of what do you think? Pause a moment to consider what causes people to steal. Jesus fulfills and deepens the understanding of what it means to not steal by explaining that it is a wrong focus of the heart. Read Luke 12:32-34. In Israel, God gave His people the land. What does Jesus say God delights in giving his children now (vs. 32)? So what does Jesus tell us to do (vs. 32)? What will be the reward for this? Now Jesus is not impractical, but his point is to not worry about making or getting lots of treasure here on earth. Rather where will our treasure be found if we do not pursue worldly possessions (vs. 32)? What is the lesson in verse 33? In Matthew's version of this teaching Jesus tells us to seek first the kingdom of God. Look over your past life. What has your heart been pursuing? If your heart is focused on pursuing God's Kingdom, the reward of God's presence in your life, how likely are you to steal from others? How much more willing will you be to share with others? Observe how you live this coming week. Where is your money used? Possessions or helping others? Which do you think God would prefer?

Friday, June 24th – Ephesians 4:28; John 12:1-8; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

We will finish the week looking at how we are called to fulfill the command to not steal. Paul deals directly with thieves in Ephesians. What two things does Paul tell the thief? Why should he do those two things? Who might he help? It isn't enough to just stop stealing, but according to Paul the thief must earn a living and give money to the poor. Yesterday Jesus pointed out that failure to obey was a heart focused on the wrong thing. Read John 12:1-8. What was Judas Iscariot's reaction to the use of such expensive perfume (vs. 4-5)? According to John, why did Judas feel this way (vs. 6)? Where do you think Judas' heart was focused? How does Jesus defend Mary's decision (vss. 7-8)? What does this tell us about helping the poor? What does this tell us about seeking and serving in God's kingdom? Mary did that and in a generous way. Sometimes we pour out gifts for the Kingdom and sometimes we feed the hungry, but we do it all to the glory of God. Finally read 1 Timothy as noted. Who is Timothy supposed to teach (vs. 17a)? What was he supposed to teach them (vs. 17b)? Rather, how should they use their money (vs. 18)? And what will be the reward for using the wealth so wisely? Consider the commandment to not steal. How can keeping your money rather than helping others be stealing? How can relying only on your finances rather than God be stealing? Where is your heart focused when it is looking at your money rather than at the generosity and blessings of God? What might you need to do differently when looking at your finances so you are not stealing, but offering great blessings to others and honoring God?

Saturday, June 25th – To prepare for Tomorrow's Worship please read Exodus 20:16-17