

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, Jan 21st – Numbers 25

We resume our Winter Journey Thru the Bible this week. We start by remembering the Israelites are making their final journey to the Promised Land. We paused at the point where Israel had been blessed by God through Balaam, who was hired by King Balak to curse the Israelites. As we begin, where is the first stop of their journey and what is the problem (vs.1)? Pause for a moment and consider why this is a problem. Now read verses 2-3. Besides the sex, what is the problem with being with the Moabite women? Why do you think this makes God so angry (think about all God has done for them)? What does this tell us about ourselves when illicit sex is involved? What is the plan to fix it (vs. 5)? As the plan to fix it is being laid out, what happens (vss. 6-9)? What pleased God about Phineas' actions (vs. 10)? What reward for his zealotness does God bestow upon Phineas (vss. 11-12)? Do you have zeal for the Lord or are you a bystander, just watching the action around you, afraid to get involved? Read 14-15. Why do you think it is important to know the names of the man and the woman killed? What are God's final instructions regarding the Moabites (vss. 16-17)? What are the two reasons God gives for his decision (vs. 18)? Why is the second reason a reason to destroy the Moabites? What do you think Israel learned from this experience? What life lessons did you learn? What does this reveal to you about God? How does this point to your need for Jesus?

Tuesday, Jan 22nd – Numbers 26:1-37

When we began our study of Numbers, we spoke about why it is named Numbers. This book contains two very long censuses. We read about the first one in chapter 1. Today we begin the second census. Before we start, consider why there are two censuses and why they are so far apart. The first census was prior to their first approach to the Promised Land. With the rebellion of the Israelites and their refusal to enter, God sends them back into the wilderness for 40 years, while the rebellious generation died off. We are now at the end of the 40 years and this is the new generation who is being counted. While reading long censuses or genealogies seems boring, we do want to pay attention to a few things in this reading. First, where is this census taking place (vss. 1-4)? We start with Reuben's descendants. Read verses 5-10. Do you remember reading about this incident earlier in Numbers? Now read verse 11. Were you aware of that fact? What does this tell you about God and His mercy? Read verses 12-27. Jump back to Numbers 1 and compare the totals. Are there more or less or the same amount of men in the census? Now read verse 28. Do you remember why Joseph's sons both carry tribal names? One son takes the spot of Levi's descendants, who have been set apart (made holy) to serve God and all of Israel in worship. Joseph doesn't have a tribe named after himself, but rather has another son to take his place. Read verses 29-37. Do you remember the Hymn, "There is a Balm in Gilead?" Whose descendant is Gilead? What did God reveal to you about Himself today? What did you learn about us as humans? How do these names point to Jesus?

Wednesday, Jan 23rd – Numbers 26:38-65

We will finish the census today, picking up where we left off yesterday. We start with Benjamin, who was Joseph's younger brother and the youngest of the twelve. Read through the rest of the census found in verses 38-50. As we move to verse 51 and beyond, what is the purpose of this particular census, besides knowing how many warriors there were (vss. 51-53)? How is the dividing of the land to be accomplished (vss. 54-56)? As we move forward, we now address the tribe of Levi, the priestly sect. Read verses 57-61. What do these verses tell you? Why are the Levites not included in the census, besides being set apart by God to serve (vs. 62)? Conclude by reading verses 63-65. What is different from this census, compared to the one in Numbers 1? Why is it different? What has God revealed to you about Himself in this text? What have you learned about humanity? Why is this important when we consider Jesus' role in the world?

Thursday, Jan 24th – Numbers 27:1-11

So, we are ready to move into the Promised Land, but wait! There is another matter that needs to be addressed. What situation has arisen (vss. 1-4)? Whom do they bring their petition to (vs. 2)? How does Moses respond (vs. 5)? What is God's decision (vss. 6-7)? What new guideline from God is given to deal with this in the future (vss. 8-11)? While we know women had been treated with little respect throughout the Scripture, the question is, is this how God feels about women? What does this reveal to you about God? What does this reveal to you about humans? Consider stories of Jesus and women. The woman at the well; the woman with the issue of blood; the woman who anointed him with oil; and so on. How does Jesus reflect God's view on women?

Friday, Jan 25th – Numbers 27:12-23

As we finish chapter 27 today, we begin to realize how close to entering the Promised Land we truly are. As you read verses 12-14, what is the sign that we are at the end of this part of the journey and at the threshold of the next part of the journey? Read verses 15-17. Notice Moses doesn't beg to live longer. Rather Moses is concerned for the people. What does he ask God to do (vs. 17)? How does God respond to Moses' request (vss. 18-21)? So, from this, who will be the new leader? Now read verses 22-23. This is how transfer of leadership should take place. There should be sharing of leadership and gradual transition in front of everyone. Why was this way of changing the leadership necessary in this situation? What can we, as the church, learn from this? What does this reveal to you about God's love and organizational understanding? What does Moses reveal about humanity's capacity to love others as God does? Again, how does this point to Jesus? Spend some time in prayer today for the leaders of our church and for your role in support and ministry. Thank God for those who lead us and ask for God's wisdom and peace to be upon them.

Saturday, Jan 19th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Numbers 30:50-56.