

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. 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, Oct 2nd – Luke 10:25-37

We will focus this week on what it means to be a “loving global” church. Sometimes we get so focused on our group—Saint James—and our community—Sarasota—that we forget that the church is worldwide. We forget we are one small part of the larger church. Today we start with Jesus’ teaching about reaching across ethnic lines to be the church. Reading Scripture in context is always important so we start with verses 25-29. What is happening and what is the question asked in verse 29? Some preachers have reworded that question like this: “So who don’t I have to love?” It is the opposite of the question asked. Do you think that is a fair way to look at this question? What follows is Jesus’ answer to the scribe’s question. Jesus tells a story—a radical story for those listening. Read verses 30-35 as though you were a First-Century Jew. So, the plot of the story is laid out in verse 30. What happened? Most Jews would have scorned this man because it was considered foolish to travel that road by yourself. So right off the bat, some drew the conclusion, “Served him right for being stupid.” Who comes by and what do they do (vss. 31-32)? Notice first that it does not say if they were traveling from Jericho to Jerusalem or vice versa. However, we know their occupations (priest and Levite), so many scholars believe they passed the man on the way to Jerusalem. Also, this assumption is based on the fact of each one’s response to the wounded, dying man. Most Jews would have heard this and thought it was perfectly normal behavior. If they were going to serve in the temple in Jerusalem, they would have to be considered clean. If they had touched the body and discovered he was dead, that would have made them ceremonially unclean and thus unable to serve. After all, the priest and Levite were going to serve God! Clearly understandable behavior for a First-Century Jew. Who comes along next (vs. 33)? What did he have that the priest and Levite appeared not to have? This twist in the story would have captured everyone’s attention, because Samaritans were one of “those” people. He was a half-Jew and therefore considered worse than the Gentiles. Samaritans were hated by the Jews. And yet it was this hated man who showed compassion to one of them. How was this compassion demonstrated (vss. 34-35)? Then Jesus asks the pointed question and receives an answer. What are they (vss. 36-37a)? How does Jesus respond (vs. 37b)? How does that answer the original question in verse 29? Where do you make excuses for yourself and others to not serve, because of getting dirty or uncomfortable? What neighbors have you left without help? What would Jesus tell you to do differently? Pray today, asking God to help you to see things differently, to be more focused on others than on yourself or your life and your world in the days to come. Then put it into practice by looking for the opportunities God gives you.

Tuesday, Oct. 3rd – Proverbs 3:27-28

We are taught the golden rule in our childhood, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” This is a Biblical principal found throughout Scripture, just in different wording, as in today’s Proverbs passage. Read today’s text. It is short and to the point. What would you define as “good” in verse 27? Is it monetary? Is it a necessity like food and water? Is it spiritual? Can it be all three? Who are we to give to? Those whom it is due or who deserve it? And it is done when it is within our power, not when it is convenient. Verse 28 elaborates a

bit more on the subject. Don’t send someone away to come back, if you can do it now. This points to not only when it is convenient, but even when it is inconvenient. And it is not just about here and now, but about any neighbor around the world. Where are you holding back from helping others? What parameters do you lay down— location, resources, time? What hours do you insist they agree upon? Prayerfully consider these questions. Answer honestly, because you are not going to fool God and you might be missing out on a blessing God has for you.

Wednesday, Oct. 4th – Romans 13:8-10

Today we turn to what Paul says on the subject of loving our neighbors. As you read verse 8, what are the two points that Paul makes? The first is an instruction and the second is about what obedience to the instruction fulfills. In verse 9 we see Paul quoting some of the second half of the big 10 Commandments. How are these commandments summed up (vs. 9b)? What is Paul’s final point (vs. 10)? What does it mean that “love does no wrong?” Pause to think that through on a deeper level. Is it simply that if you don’t break the rules, you are good to go? Does it mean you become a doormat for everyone? Does it mean that there is no place for the word “no”? If you can say no, what are the parameters, so that you don’t do any wrong to others? This takes some prayerful consideration and Holy Spirit guidance to consider these things. Take time today to begin having that conversation with God, and know that it is a starting point that will take time and continue throughout your life.

Thursday, Oct. 5th – Proverbs 27:9-10

Today we return to Proverbs. This Proverb is a bit more challenging than the rest of these texts. This puts us on the receiving end of friends rather than the giving end. Verse 9 reads differently in various translations. The gist of verse 9 is that wise counsel from a friend is sweet to the soul, like perfume and oil are sweet to smell. Whom do you go to for wise godly counsel? When they speak of oil, it is like an ointment that soothes and helps heal brokenness. Keep in mind, sometimes the counsel is not what we want to hear, so it may seem wounding until we see the good or correction that comes from it as healing our false ideas or sinful habits. Read verse 10. What is the writer’s suggestion? Again, it teaches us to receive from our neighbors when we are in times of trouble or calamity, rather than waiting on family. Why do you think we are instructed to do this? Do you find this easy or difficult? Do you only go to family or do you let your neighbors in to help first? Why do you think it is important for us to not just learn to love our neighbor as ourselves, but let them love on us as well? What might be different, because you have encountered this Word of God?

Friday, Oct. 6th – James 2:1-9 (add verses 10-13 if you are ambitious)

We close this week by looking at what James points out regarding loving our neighbors and how sometimes the church gets it wrong. What has the early church done that James is pointing out (vss. 1-2)? What does this demonstrate (vss. 3-4)? Why is this wrong (vss. 5-7)? How does James wrap up this part of the argument (vss. 8-9)? How is the scenario in verses 1-4 considered sin according to James? Consider who you greet and sit with in worship and at Bible study. Would James’ words convict you of sin? Are you being honest with yourself? Would God agree with you? What might you do differently this coming Sunday, so that you are not sinning? Decide on what and how you will act and then put it into practice. Maybe that means not letting one visitor sit by themselves in worship. Maybe it means something else. But decide today what you might need to change, so that we love everyone equally and tangibly.

Saturday, Oct. 7th – *In preparation for tomorrow’s worship, please read Job 13:13-19.*