

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 of the book. 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, February 26th – Isaiah 29:15-19

This week we look at fixing flaws, the things that separate us from each other and the things that separate us from God. In verses 15-16, we see a description of God as the Potter and of us as the clay or the pot. Consider today, when the clay doesn't hold the shape that the Potter wants, does not the potter have the ability to flatten it and start again? And there is a sort of pride and arrogance by we-the-clay, when we forget that God made us and that he made us in his image. There is no hiding from God. But God is a God of restoration. That is what is described in verses 17-19. First, we have the sign, fertile tree growth. But then we see the kind of fixing of the flaws that will take place. The blind will see. The deaf will hear. And the humble will have great joy. Consider today what flaws are in you? Where are you blind to God's great joy? What deafness to God's Word do you need healed? How is your joy factor today? Be in prayer as you journey this week, seeking God to truly fix your flaws and transform you. He wants to heal all of you.

Tuesday, February 27th – Mark 1:40-45

In today's reading there are several things to consider when it comes to Jesus fixing our flaws. First, we see by this leper there may be risk involved. It would have been unheard of for a leper to approach anyone. The punishment was death. They were to stay away from people and cry out "Unclean." But this man risked that to be in front of Jesus because, if Jesus wanted, he could heal him. Then see how Jesus responds. Jesus is filled with compassion and reaches out to touch him. We may never know how long it had been since he had been touched. It is only after Jesus touches this man does he then heal him. And Jesus not only heals him, but also tells him, "I am willing." Finally, the man is sent off to the temple to fulfill the law as a witness. Yet, the man tells everyone. Consider today where you need healing. Hear Jesus tell you as he told this man, "I am willing." Then hear "Be Healed." Are your flaws messing in your life enough for you to take this risk? Do you believe that Jesus is willing and can heal? If not, what flaw needs fixing, because it is stopping your belief?

Wednesday, February 28th – Matthew 8:5-13

This is one of the passages where flaw fixing-comes to the Gentiles. Here we have a Roman officer who understands the power of Jesus in a unique way. Not that the officer sees himself as equal to Jesus, but he understands Jesus' power as he understands his own. And the officer has faith that all Jesus has to do is to command it and it will be done. Jesus commends the man for this faith in Jesus' power to heal. In fact, Jesus commends this Gentile and rebukes and warns the Jews. Now, if you had a flaw that needed fixing, what would Jesus say about your faith to the crowds? Do you believe in your heart? How would you ask for help in a way that displays what you believe? And most importantly, if the answer is "Okay, healed but not quite the way you want," would that shake your faith?

Thursday, March 1st – Luke 5:17-25

Today's flaw-fixing story has so much to it to consider it could be a whole week's worth of devotions all by itself. So today, just read the passage and then consider these questions. As you consider them, go back to the Bible and look again to see what is said. First consider the friendship that must have been in place for this paralyzed man to have four men carry him to Jesus. Do you wonder if he was just recently paralyzed and these were his buddies before the paralysis? Now consider the persistence of these men. They are not daunted. They go to the effort of carrying this man up to the roof, cut a hole in the roof and then lower the man down! Who would you go to with this much effort and what flaw would stop you from going to such lengths? If you cannot think of any situation where you would go this far, ask yourself why. What does that say about you? Moving on, we see an interesting phrase (verse 20). Whose faith heals the man? What words are used to heal the man? Could these words of healing have a dual purpose – one for the man and one for those listening? Also note, after Jesus' words of forgiveness, the man does not move. Could it be the man does not associate forgiveness of sins to healing? Do you associate forgiveness of sins to healing? Is the healing of forgiveness only spiritual or is there a physical aspect to it? How do you think this healing affected this man's faith – considering that it is his friends' faith that prompts the healing? What does this story teach you about your faith? What does it teach you about your understanding of healing and forgiveness? What changes in your understanding do you need to make to bring yourself more in alignment to the faith shown in this story? What kind of healing would this be?

Friday, March 2nd – Mark 9:14-27

As we close the week looking at flaw-fixing, there are two main concepts we need to look at today. These two main points are found in verses 23 and 24. They deal with fixing flaws and beliefs. Many people teach that if you are not healed, it is because you don't believe. Yet clearly Jesus states that anything is "possible" for those who believe, but not that it is guaranteed. We need to remember that we will die, which means healing comes sometimes at death due to the illness. But the other point that is in response to this, is the father's confession, "I believe, help my unbelief." How many times do we meet people who lose their faith because their prayers weren't answered the way they anticipated? Are you one who needs help in their belief? When faith is challenged because the possibility did not come through, is your faith shaken? This is a flaw Jesus wants to fix in each of us. Spend time today in prayer asking for Jesus to fix this flaw in you. What joy there will be when you face the cross and realize that Jesus faced the same temptation to doubt and yet persevered. His possibility to avoid death was not a reality. Thank Jesus for not losing faith and taking care of your disbelief issues.

Saturday, March 3rd – Prepare for tomorrow by reading Luke 19:1-7.