

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, March 11th – Proverbs 3:29-30 and 25:9

As we journey to the cross, our first stop is betrayal. The Bible has much to say when we betray trust. Both the trust of others and trust in God. We begin with Solomon's proverbs regarding betrayal. As you read verses 29-30, what does the betrayal look like? How do we know it is betrayal (look at the second phrase of each statement)? Consider what Judas did to Jesus. How did Judas plot harm and pick a fight with Jesus? Now let's turn to 25:9. What is the betrayal here? Who is the one being betrayed? The person who was betrayed wasn't even present. In the heat of the moment and in order to win the argument, someone else's confidential words of sharing were revealed. That, too, is betrayal. Consider how the Pharisees and High Priests used Jesus' words to betray him, to the point of reaching condemnation to death. Betrayal brings death. Death to relationships. Death to trust. Even death to Jesus. Consider when you have betrayed a trust, a friend, or family member. How does betraying them betray Jesus all over again? What is your trigger to betray someone?

Tuesday, March 12th – Malachi 2:10-11

Betrayal is a human failure that has a long history. As we read our text today, what is the betrayal? Who has been betrayed? Who is the betrayer? Israel is both the betrayed and the betrayer, according to the text. Thinking a little deeper, who else has been betrayed in this text (2:11b)? It is important to remember that individualism was not a prominent concept. Community was everything. If one violated the covenant, then the community violated it. That is why Israel is betrayed by Israel. But the deeper betrayal is to God. Israel's lack of obedience to do as God had commanded. The breaking of the covenant with God. Consider today how you break your baptismal covenant with God, even though God remains faithful. Have you ever considered this to be a betrayal of God? Spend some time in prayer today, considering where you failed to live up to your covenant of prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Ask God to forgive you and provide you the conviction to be faithful to your covenant.

Wednesday, March 13th – Matthew 10:16-23

Today we look at what Jesus says about betrayal and it isn't pretty. As you read verses 16 – 20 are the set-up scenario for the betrayal. What does Jesus say is going to happen (vss. 16-18a)? While this sounds terrifying, what good does Jesus say will come (vss. 18b-20)? Jesus is foretelling the persecutions that are going to come to those who follow him. He was right and is still right today. But facing persecution also brings out betrayal. Who betrays whom when facing persecution (vss. 21-22a)? What is the driving force behind the betrayals based on what you read in verses 16-20? If you find yourself being betrayed and stay faithful not betraying anyone else, what is the reward (vs. 22b)? Jesus tells us what to do when we find ourselves in this position. What are his instructions and promise (vs. 23)? Does betrayal win? Ponder how you react when fear and danger arise. How quickly would you betray another? Would you betray someone to save your own skin? Would you betray someone to save a loved one? If it came to losing your life, would you betray Jesus?

Thursday, March 14th – Matthew 24:4-14

Today's text is Jesus speaking of the end times. There are several examples of betrayal in this text. Right off the bat, Jesus speaks of leading astray and deceiving. These are forms of betrayal. What are they leading folks away from (vss. 4-5)? What other things will be said (vss. 6-9)? Does Jesus deny that these things will happen (vs. 8)? Verse 8 ties back to the disciples' question in verse 3. What will be the result of the things, including the betrayals (vs. 10)? What betrayal will take place as well within the church (vs. 11)? What are the results of this betrayal (vs. 12)? But what happens next if we do not fall for the betrayal (vss. 13-14)? How do we protect ourselves from buying into the deceptions and wrong paths? How are we doing today, speaking the Good News of Jesus out loud in the midst of the lies and deceit? Where are you holding strong? Where are you speaking out? Where might you be leading astray or betraying Jesus by your silence?

Friday, March 15th – 2 Timothy 3:1-9

We close today by looking at Paul's warning to Timothy about what is coming. We begin by reading verses 1-5. What is the problem with what is coming? These are all signs of betrayal. How do these actions point to betrayal of God and betrayal of others? What is the way to avoid the trap of betrayal (vs. 5)? How does the betrayal play out (vss. 6-8)? What about these women makes their betrayal easy (vs. 7)? What does Paul promise Timothy in regards to these who betray others by leading them astray and/or deceiving them (vs. 9)? As we close this week, where might you be the target of betrayal? Where might you be the betrayer? How does all of this betray God and His will for us? What steps might we take to not fall into the trap of betrayal? If you are not sure how to answer that question, spend some time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you, so that you may have wisdom and conviction to stay with what is right and good and holy. Confess and repent of any betrayals you may have caused, and receive the forgiveness of God.

Saturday, March 16th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Matthew 26:69-75.