

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 14th – John 11:17-37

This week as we continue our Lenten Journey going deeper and maturing in our faith, we are going to look at miracles. Before we begin, why do you think we do not see more miracles today in the church? Could it be believers do not really believe? Was it only for a certain era? If you are a believer, why are you not living into what Jesus says we should be doing? So, let's start by looking a miracle from John. This miracle sets the wheels in motion of the religious leaders intent to take Jesus down. What is the setting for this miracle (vss. 17-20)? What is Martha's opening statement to Jesus (vs. 21)? That is an honest statement and what we feel sometimes. But how does she follow-up after that statement (vs. 22)? Now read the conversation between Martha and Jesus in verses 23-27. Consider what Jesus says in verse 26. How is this in and of itself a miracle? How does this shape how we view death? What happens next in the story (vss. 28-32)? Do you see anything familiar about greeting Jesus? What is Jesus' response (vs 33)? Why do you think anger rose up in Jesus? Some say the anger was that evil and death had such a hold on his creation. Some say it was the lack of faith of God's people and in Jesus. What do you think? How does this part of the story end (vss. 34-37)? Have you ever considered the miracle that believers do not die because we live in Christ? What does that mean to you? How are you living that miracle out?

Tuesday, March 15th – John 11:38-44

We will finish what we started yesterday. This is the miracle most people focus on. As we start off, what do we learn about Jesus (vs. 38)? Spend some time pondering this and ask the Holy Spirit for insight. Notice that while anger exists, it does not dictate what Jesus will do. What happens next (vs. 39a)? What does Martha say (vs. 39b)? I think in her heart she is trying to help Jesus, so he doesn't look foolish. Do you ever do that? Think something in the Bible sounds foolish and feel the need to help Jesus by fixing it or reforming the teaching? How does Jesus respond to Martha (vs. 40)? Belief is important here. You will see the miracle if you believe. You will see God's glory if you believe. Can you imagine being Martha and hearing that? In verse 41, they roll the stone away and Jesus prays. What is the prayer centered on (vss. 41-42)? God hearing Jesus. God answering Jesus. Jesus is praying out loud so others can hear Jesus and know God is answering. How does this end (vss. 43-44)? Put yourself in the crowd? Read out loud Jesus' prayer and Jesus' command to Lazarus. See the dead man come out of the grave. It is a miracle of miracles. The dead are set free from death. Jesus has called you by name and set you free from death. Will you live as the walking miracle you are for the world to see? If you don't see yourself as a miracle of life from God, why not? What might need to change in you to go deeper. Spend some time in prayer asking God to help you become the walking miracle He has made you to be.

Wednesday, March 16th – Matthew 10:1-15

Today we will start our first "sending out to do miracles" passage. We will read Luke's telling on Friday. Up until this chapter, Jesus has done the teaching, healing, and proclaiming. Today we see where Jesus now sends his 12 out to start doing this as well. Read verses 1-4. How are they going to be able to do what Jesus asks (vs. 1)? What is it they are going to do with the authority that Jesus gave them (vs. 1)? Verses 2-4 are the list of the 12 who have been empowered. Starting at verse 5, we read the instructions Jesus gave them. Underline in your Bible's each instruction (vss. 5-15)? Why do you think they were to only go to Israelites? Would the Kingdom of Heaven is near make sense to Gentiles or Samaritans? Also consider, if the sheep were lost, you have just told them they are not as lost as they may think. Why the instructions in verses 9-10? If we can take care of ourselves, we do not rely on God do we? What should they seek out upon arriving in a town (vs. 11)? What blessing should the place there and what are the requirements for the blessing to stick (vss. 12-13)? Now read verses 14-15. What does this tell you about this evangelism experience? Is everyone going to accept? So, if you offer Jesus and get rejected should you be surprised? Some things never change. Instead of being offended, what should you do? Move on and let God handle it. What stops you from healing, teaching, proclaiming, and inviting? Are you ready to step out in faith and trust God is already there where you are being sent? How might God want to use you? How can learning to say "Yes Lord" and going help you go deeper in living a believer's life?

Thursday, March 17th – John 14:12-14 (Happy St. Patrick's Day)

Today's passage is part of Jesus' last supper with the disciples. Jesus is doing his best to prepare them for what is coming. I want us to focus on verses 12-14, but we need to at least read from verse 8. So take a moment and read 8-14. He is telling Philip to just believe but if not believe because of what Jesus has done. Stop for a moment and consider what Jesus has done. Now Jesus addresses what will happen. What does Jesus say will happen going forward and who will do it (vs 12)? Why is this going to be possible according to Jesus (vs. 12)? What is the first step to doing these works of Jesus (vs. 13)? Why will Jesus do it (vs 13b)? So, what we ask for needs to be something that will let Jesus glorify the Father. So, a Mercedes may not be the thing to ask for then. But what is the promise (vs 14)? Now here's the thing. Sometimes the answer is "No." That is because we only see in part while Jesus sees the whole. But living a believer's life means we should ask in the name of Jesus believing that Jesus can in accordance with the Father's will. When we hedge our bets all the time, ask with double minds, then maybe we are not living into the believer's life. So, let's check what we are asking so that it is not just for us but what Jesus can use to glorify the Father and ask believing the Word of God. This takes some practice but well worth it.

Friday, March 18th – Luke 9:1-6

We close this week looking at Luke's sending out story. It is very similar Matthew's but adds some emphasis and removes other details. This is in part due to who Luke's audience is. Let's start with verse 1. What does Jesus give the disciples to enable them to do the mission? Followers of Jesus who have the Holy Spirit in them have the power and authority. This ties into what John said yesterday. We can do what Jesus did because we have the authority and power. Do you believe this applies to you? What is the mission (vss. 2)? Moving on, what instructions does Jesus give the disciples (vss. 3-5)? Again, why do they need to go with nothing? Why do we today think we need a seminary degree, a million dollars in the bank, and a different personality to do the mission? These are excuses not living the believer's life. What does verse 6 tell us? They went and did. Where are you being sent? Are you ready to go and do? Are you ready to speak out loud boldly? Are you ready to deal with rejection if comes along? Let's do it. Let's plunge deeper into our believer's life and grow up in this area!

Saturday, March 19th - For tomorrow, please read Matthew 5:13-16 (The Haven joins us tomorrow)