

## 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, March 20<sup>th</sup> – John 4:4-18**

Continuing with our Lenten Theme of “Give It Up,” we turn our focus this week to superiority. We begin by looking more deeply at the story of the woman at the well. Read verses 4-8, as they set the scene for study. Who is there? Why are they there? What time is it? Why is Jesus alone at the well? What does he ask the Samaritan woman? What was her response (vs. 9)? Why was she surprised at Jesus’ request? What does Jesus say in response to her (vs. 10)? What does Jesus need? What does he offer? Notice how this removes superiority between Jesus, a Jewish man, and this woman, a Samaritan woman at that. They each need something from the other. Now read verses 11-14. What is the woman’s argument? She almost insinuates that Jesus thinks he is too good for the water from Jacob’s well. Notice how Jesus responds to her (vss. 13-14). He takes time to explain to her, with love and patience, what kind of water he offers. What does the woman say in response to Jesus’ offer (vs. 15)? How did she understand Jesus’ explanation? We finish by looking at the next conversation. What does Jesus ask the woman to do and what is her response (vss. 16-17)? Jesus’ response to her in 17b-18 must have been astonishing for the woman. What does he tell her about herself? If you had encountered Jesus, what would he say about you? Again, there is no condemnation here, only confirmation she told the truth and his sharing of the rest of the truth with her. Notice Jesus stays engaged with her the whole time. He doesn’t pull rank. He listens and engages. Jesus, who was superior, because he is the Son of God, doesn’t act superior. How do you see Jesus? Do you allow him to be engaged with you? Where might you need to let go of your superiority and engage with others? Where might you need to be in order to do that? Remember Jesus did not meet her in the Temple – he met her outside her town at the well. Pray asking God to show you where you can encounter others in meaningful ways and to go where he sends you

### **Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> – John 4:19-26**

We continue where we left off yesterday – Jesus at the well with the Samaritan woman, where he told the woman about himself. What declaration does the woman make about Jesus (vs. 19)? What is her question? What is Jesus’ response (vss. 21-24)? How does Jesus’ answer take away superiority from the Samaritans? The Jews? The church today? You? Now read verse 25. What does the woman say? How does Jesus respond (vs. 26)? This is the first-time Jesus declares himself to be the Messiah. Whom does he tell this to? Consider the actions of Jesus thus far. He does not wait at the Temple for folks to come to him. What does he do instead? He is humble by speaking to whom? He is gentle in how he responds to her questions and her life. We are called to be like Jesus. Take some time today and consider whether your life reflects Jesus. Will you go anywhere or do you wait for folks to come to you? Will you speak to anyone or are you afraid of or feel superior to others? Ask God to show you today and to send you where He wants you to go. Your obedience will be a form of worship in Spirit and in truth.

### **Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – John 4:27-42**

We finish the story today. We left off with Jesus declaring he is the Messiah. As you read verse 27, do the disciples’ questions reveal humility or superiority? Now jump to verses 31-34. Read the conversation there. What are the disciples talking about? What is Jesus saying? Now read Jesus’ analogy of what he says in verse 34. How does this response to “nourishment from doing the will of God” apply in this analogy? What nourishment will the disciples receive (vs. 36)? What point does Jesus make that no one is superior to the other (vs. 38)? Now go back and read verses 29-30 and then 39-42. What did the Samaritan woman do (vs. 29)? What was the response of the town (vs. 30)? What was the first step to the towns believing (vs. 39)? How long did Jesus stay there (vs. 40)? What was the result (vs. 41-42)? How does this result tie into what Jesus told his disciples? Where may Jesus need you to stay for a few days? What testimony do you have to share? Is the Samaritan woman the planter or the harvester? What role did Jesus play? Notice, God used both and one was not superior to the other – even though Jesus is the Messiah. He sets the example for us. Do you have eyes to see and ears to hear?

### **Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Mark 10:35-45**

Today we turn to a text familiar to many. What do James and John ask of Jesus (vss. 35-37)? What does Jesus point out about this request – what will be required (vs. 38)? How does his response tie into last week’s study on expectations? How do the disciples respond (vs. 39)? How does this tie into superiority over the rest of the other disciples? What does Jesus tell them (vs. 39)? Where do you see superiority in verse 40? What is the correction to the superiority issues in all the disciples (vss. 41-44)? Jesus points out that we are not to act or think of ourselves as superior to others, but as servants, even slaves, to each other. How would thinking like Jesus teaches keep us from superiority issues? Who does Jesus name as our example to follow (vs. 45)? Where do you wish to be superior, rather than the servant or slave? Does this mean we are reduced to doormats for others to wipe their feet on? This text messes with our need to give up control, expectations and superiority. As you wrestle with this concept, pray asking God to show you where you need to give it up for life.

### **Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – Matthew 20:1-16**

Today’s text once again covers all three of our Give It Up topics. But today we will look at superiority and the perceived “rights” that exist. Read the text. Where is the sense of superiority (vs. 10)? What is it based on? What do they base their protest on (vs. 12)? How does the owner/employer counter their argument (vss. 13-15)? How does Jesus sum up the lesson in this story (vs. 16)? When we think about life after death, the coming of Jesus and the rewards being handed out, how will you feel when someone who believes at the last minute receives the same reward as you, one who may have believed and served for years? Inside each of us, there is this twinge that we deserve something different or more, because of what we have done. We feel we have been superior in certain aspects. Yet, when we come before Christ at the foot of the cross, there is only one plane and it is level. The only hill is the one the cross stands on. What if we learned to be grateful for who we are and whose we are, without always needing to be better than others or superior? How much easier would your life become, if you didn’t need to compete with others, but just gave up control, expectations and superiority? And just think, that’s the life God is trying to offer you to live.

### **Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> – To prepare for tomorrow’s worship, please read *Matthew 5:43-48*.**