

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 21st – Matthew 5:1-12

This week we focus on maturing in our believer's life by evaluating how we integrate Jesus' teachings into our everyday lives. In the book of James (1:22), we are reminded that mature believers do not just "hear" the Word (or in our case "read" the Word), but we are to DO what it tells us. So, what does Jesus teach us? This week we will read through the Sermon on the Mount, which is nothing but Jesus' teachings. We start off with what are called "The Beatitudes". These twelve verses express the experience and blessings of living a believer's life. It starts with verse 12, speaking about being "poor in spirit." Do you understand its meaning? To be poor in spirit means you know how much you need Jesus in your life. When you know this and live it, you experience Kingdom of Heaven living. The rest fall in after this, because without being poor in spirit you probably won't experience these things, at least not fully. Read verses 2-12. Notice that these are experiences believers will have. There is no promise that you won't mourn, hunger for more of God, or won't need to strive for peace. We will all have these experiences. But we are not to fear for what happens in each of these situations. God meets us where we are at in the moment with blessings. Where do you need to apply these things in your life? Where might you need to be a peacemaker? Where might you need comfort? Where do you hunger for God or fight for justice? Who is mocking and discounting your faith? Take your situations to Jesus and receive the blessings that are promised. Then go back out and keep on keeping on.

Tuesday, March 22nd – Matthew 5:17-26

We are going to jump to verse 17 today and skip the light and salt teachings. Do read them and consider how you are God's light and salt in the world. Starting at verse 17, we have a series of teachings regarding parts of the Ten Commandments. Read verses 17-20. What does Jesus say about "the Law?" Are we to ignore it? Is it just Old Testament stuff or does it still apply to us today? Did you notice that Jesus' emphasis is not that the law will save you (vs.19), but that it is still a pattern by how we should live our lives as Kingdom dwellers? What is meant by the warning in verse 20? We need to be cautious to not be prideful in obedience to the law. It makes for terrible behaviors in the Kingdom of Heaven. Now that we have the explanation, Jesus begins to address various aspects of the Law. What is the first commandment he addresses (vs. 21)? Ok, so don't kill anyone. Done, right? Not quite. It is not enough to just not commit the act. Jesus teaches us a little more is involved. What does Jesus teach (vss. 22-23)? Have you cursed anyone in your entire life? Yep, we are all guilty of that one. But what follows gives us a pattern of what comes next when we miss the mark (sin). Read verses 24-26. Reconciliation is what comes next and the sooner the better. Also note that you settle with the other person BEFORE you settle with God. Somehow, we have this idea that we just confess our sins to God, and we are forgiven, without ever making it right with whomever you wronged. How often have you come to communion with wrongs between you and someone else? Maybe this is an area we need to mature in. Maybe we need to start righting some of those wrongs.

Wednesday, March 23rd – Matthew 5:27-42

Today we are going to look at the laws regarding and related to marriage. And Jesus has a lot to say about this. What is the first lesson about (vs. 27)? Like yesterday, Jesus is about to point out that it is not enough to just not commit the act, but we need to stop sooner than that. When does trouble (sin) really start (vs. 28)? How serious is Jesus about this teaching (vss. 29-30)? These verses are referred to as hyperbole (extreme measures). God really doesn't want you to do bodily harm to yourself. But it is that serious to lust and leads to destruction, so DO NOT GO THERE! What is the next sin that Jesus teaches on (vs. 31)? Divorce is a sin. It just is. It is not the unpardonable sin, but it is sin. What does divorce do when unfaithfulness is not the reason for it (vs. 32)? What did we learn about adultery? The last section is on vows. Now this can apply to any vows, but what are the most common vows we know? Marriage vows. So, this would apply to marriage vows and any other vows we would make. What does Jesus teach us to do and say? The vow in a wedding is simply, "I do." Starting in verse 33, we have our last teaching. What is the subject of this text? This is about revenge. We have the saying that "revenge is sweet." Jesus tells us that revenge is not sweet and has no place in a believer's life. Why do you think that is so? Did Jesus just die for you or for the one that mistreats you? Paul has something to say about this too. Read Romans 12:19-21. So where might you need to repent and ask God to help you in these areas?

Thursday, March 24th – Matthew 5:43 - 6:1-4

We will start with loving our enemies today. Read 5:43-48. What is Jesus teaching us? Now evaluate whom you love. Make a list writing down all the names that come to mind. Now look at the list. Who is missing? The mean neighbor? The unruly family member? You get the idea. Add them to your list and start praying. Giving is our next focus. Read 6:1-4. How are we to give to others? While all of these teachings address motive, this one does so in the most direct way. When you give, why do you do it and whom do you tell? While this congregation has the gift of generosity, we need to be cautious to not let pride take hold and become boasters in something other than Jesus Christ. Where do you find your pride sneaking up and getting out? Repent and ask God to help you to learn to live humbly.

Friday, March 25th – Matthew 6:19-34 (if you are up to it, read through Chapter 7)

We are going to finish this week by jumping to verse 19, since we covered prayer and fasting last week. What is the first subject Jesus is teaching on today (vss. 19-21)? What does Jesus mean by "treasure?" What is the comparison about? Which treasure should you pursue, spiritual or material, and why? The rest of today's text will deal with treasure/possessions and our views on them. Verses 22-23 seem confusing, unless you consider what just came before it. What is your eye focused on? Spiritual treasure will leave you filled with light. Worldly treasure will lead to darkness inside of us. Jesus explains it further and more directly in verse 24. Take a moment and seriously consider what or whom you serve, your money or God? Light or darkness? Spiritual treasures or worldly treasures? Verses 25-34 address the symptoms that point to whom we serve. Read through these verses. What is Jesus' point? When we say we can't give, because we fear we will not have enough, what does that point to as to whom we serve? This is a rough teaching, because our natural inclination is to explain away what Jesus is saying by making excuses. Spend some time today and tomorrow in prayer asking God where you are double-minded or more focused on worldly treasures, rather than spiritual treasure. Ask God what your gift should be for Compassion Sunday. Is that number from your excess or your need? What do you think God would ask you to do in light of this teaching?

Saturday, March 26th - For tomorrow, please read Matthew 4:17