

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, March 26th – Matthew 26:6-16

We have arrived at Holy Week and will journey to the cross and tomb with Jesus. Today we read in Matthew about the anointing of Jesus and Judas' response. Recalling the message a couple of weeks ago, what are the differences between the stories? Notice there is no mention of the woman's name and yet the act would be remembered. Why is the act of anointing Jesus important? Why is the woman's decision to act this way important to remember? When we answer these questions, what does that say to us about how we should act towards Jesus? Consider again Judas' response. The woman offers an extravagant gift of great price. Judas sells Jesus out for a great price. Consider times in your life where you have been the woman—offering all you have and all you are. Then consider when the things of this world became more important and you sold Jesus out. Remember, it is for these transgressions that we are forgiven and made clean. Today, repent for the wrong choices and ask the Holy Spirit to help you become more like the woman—so that your offerings to Jesus may be your anointing of the King.

Tuesday, March 27th – Luke 22:39-46

We move forward today to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed and was then arrested. In what ways do you see the complete humanity in Jesus—how is he exactly like us in the Garden? How does the description of sweating blood help us to grasp the heaviness of Spirit? If you were in the garden and knew you were about to enter the worst experience humans can have, how would you have prayed? Would you have had the courage to ask, but also allow for the answer to be “no?” On what basis does Jesus make this prayer—his will or God's will? Do you think Jesus was afraid? If Jesus, God incarnate, can be afraid, then that means Jesus understands it when we face fear at our time of death. How does that make you feel? Jesus understands what you feel, because he has felt and experienced it himself.

Wednesday, March 28th – Mark 14:53-72 (No Worship or DLT's tonight)

Today we read about the first part of Jesus' trial and the denial of Peter. We begin with the trial at the Chief Priest's house. We can see how ill prepared they are for bringing Jesus to trial, as no one's stories match. After a bunch of botched-up lies cannot get the job done, they ask Jesus the question and he responds with the truth. Is it not ironic that it is the truth that sends Jesus to the cross, not the lies? What is the truth of Jesus (vss. 62-63)? Why was this truth such a threat to the chief priests and the religious elite? How is this truth still the main threat to people today? What lies about Jesus do we encounter today? In reading this passage, we discover that the same lies are still being told and it is the truth that offends people. But then we come to Peter, who knew the truth. And even though he knows the truth, when boxed in, he chooses the lie instead. When in your life have you denied Jesus, so that you did not have to face the truth? What were the results of that lie? When have you been Peter? (We all have been like Peter, so if you can't think of any specific time, pray and ask God to show you so you can repent!)

Thursday, March 29th – John 13:1-17 Holy Thursday Worship at 7:00 pm

In John, the last supper included the foot washing. Though the custom would have been to have the lowest slave or servant in the house do this chore, Jesus humbled himself to do this and not only do it, but to do it for those who by custom should have washed Jesus' feet. There was no prestige, no honor, no pecking order, there was just humility and love. We are told to wash each other's feet. This means we are to serve each other by taking on any job given to us out of love for Jesus and for each other. Consider where in the past you decided you were better than that job. Would Jesus have agreed? Jesus also mentions that if he does not do the washing, one cannot be clean. How is that understood in life today? How does one get “cleaned” by Jesus? Consider why you need to be cleaned by Jesus. Tonight we put this text into action. Are you above this practice? Will you participate? If not, why not? What would Jesus say?

Friday, March 30th – Luke 23:1-49 Good Friday Service of Shadows at 7:00 pm

Today we arrive at the cross. The reading today leads us before Pilate, before the crowds, before soldiers, before ridicule, before abuse of power, before the beating Jesus to a bloody pulp, before piercing his body with large 7” iron nails into a cross. Yes, today's journey can either be read as another sad story or heart-wrenching. The different viewpoint is based on your understanding of how you fit into the story. If you merely see this as some political vengeance by some very deranged people a long time ago and feel sorry for the guy, then you this will be just another sad story. But if you can see how you are: the judge like Pilate; the crowds who get caught up in the cry for blood; the soldiers who join the crowds and bully Jesus; how you are like the whip master taking your anger out on his body, or the guard, whose sin drives each nail deeper and deeper -- then the story is heart wrenching—especially when you hear the words, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.” How do you read this? Is it just another story about some poor guy or is it about what you have done to Jesus? No matter what your viewpoint, we meet at the cross tonight, where it is level for all sinners. But it is the truly repentant who are forgiven.

Saturday, March 31st – Prepare for tomorrow by reading Luke 23:50-56