

## 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 27<sup>th</sup> – Proverbs 16:7; 24:17-18; 25:21**

This week we will turn our attention to Giving Up Enemies. Many believe this is just a new teaching from Jesus, but we see Solomon has some godly wisdom on the matter of enemies. We start with Proverbs 16:7. What is wise living according to this proverb? How will living this way convert your enemy? In Solomon's time, the thought was that if you were sinful, your enemies would be successful. What more practical application might this have for us today? Consider what being at peace with God would be like for your soul, attitude, even your perspective on life. A peaceful change in you would lead to peace with your enemies, because you might not see them as enemies if you are living in peace. Now let's turn to Chapter 24:17-18. What is the wisdom here? Why would it be in bad taste to rejoice when your enemy gets in trouble? It is important to remember that we are all created by God and we all need each other, even if some may not agree with us. And tying back to the first text we read today, if we displease God, we are not living in peace with him. We close today by looking at 25:21. What is Solomon's advice now? Paul quotes this in his letter to the Romans, Chapter 12. This seems quite counterintuitive. Why should we be nice to our enemy? What is the reason Solomon gives? If we please God, we then live in peace with God. How can you practice pleasing God and living in peace with him? What might be different in you, because you give up your enemies to have peace with God?

### **Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> – Luke 6:27-31**

Today we turn to what Jesus says about how we treat others including our enemies. What three things does Jesus give us to do as ways to love our enemies (vss. 27-28)? We are called to do good, bless and pray. What other things does Jesus say to do (vss. 29-30)? Is Jesus suggesting we just be doormats for everyone? No. Jesus is suggesting however, that we be less interested in our things and our rights and the desire for retaliation than we are about the person who appears to be our enemy. Consider today how we fail to follow this last set of instructions. When someone takes something from us, our instincts and sinful reaction is to demand justice and get it back. If we get struck, we want to hit back. We want them to hurt like us. But how does Jesus get us to understand that this is not helpful, loving or holy (vs. 31)? If you acted out by hitting someone, taking from someone, etc., how would you want them to respond to you? Maybe by offering you forgiveness, understanding, patience, love? So, Jesus says, this is how we are to respond to those who treat us as enemies. Who do you know today who is lashing out and trying your last nerve? How can you apply this lesson today and give up seeing them as your enemy? How might you respond to them in the way, if the roles were reversed, you would want them to respond to you? Pray today asking God to give you the courage to change your response today.

### **Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Luke 6:32-36**

We will continue from where we left off yesterday. Start by reading verses 27-31 again, to refresh our memories. Now read verses 32-34. What is Jesus' point? How does this compare and contrast line up with what we were told yesterday? How does this expand our concepts of love and doing good (benefit) towards others? Notice love is not an emotion, but a choice to love everyone, even the enemy. So, doing good and lending with no expectation of return are examples of love choices. Now read verse 35. This is the wrap-up verse. What matters to Jesus? What does this tell us about God? We finish with verse 36. This is the reason we need to love our enemies. What is the reason it? God loves us and shows mercy to us, even though we sin and act as God's enemy. Should we not reflect this grace to those who behave like our enemies? Who do you need to love and show compassion to today? Where do you need God's love and compassion for not living this way? Pray, asking for forgiveness and then go love your enemies by showing compassion and offering grace.

### **Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – Romans 12:9-21**

We now turn to Paul's teachings, which repeat to the church what Jesus taught. What are Paul's instructions in verses 9-12? What does Paul say demonstrates real love? Notice in verse 9, love does not condone sin. Yet at the same time, it clings to what is good. What are the ways we should love genuinely? Who are we to care for (vs. 13)? We need to take care of each other within Christ's church as a priority. It is what separates us from the outside world. But Paul doesn't stop here. What does Paul tell us to do in verse 14? How should we behave and with whom (vss. 15-16)? How do these instructions tie back to the Proverb teachings on Monday? Let's finish with verses 17-21. Consider whom we seek revenge on. It is usually not our friends, but those we consider enemies. What does Paul say not to do (vs. 19)? What should we do instead (vs. 21)? In the end, the way to give up having enemies is what (vs. 21)? Ponder today how doing good messes with the enemies' mind. Also consider how focusing on doing good towards you enemy fulfills verses 9-16. Plan to do something good for someone who acted in good conscience. Pray for blessings on them. Send a note of encouragement. Praise God for His loving that person like he loves you. Do this for a month or two and see if changes in you occur.

### **Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> – Ephesians 6:10-18**

This week we have learned the importance of giving up our enemies. But this is usually easier said than done. So today we will look at the tools and understandings God gives us in Paul's letter the Ephesians. When we think of enemies, we think people. Who does Paul say our true enemy is (vs. 12)? Knowing this, what do we, the church, need to do (vss. 10-11)? As we enter into battle with the true enemy, what do we need to do (vs. 13)? What are the first pieces we should put on (vs. 14)? Truth is that God loves all of creation and calls us to learn to do the same. So, don't buy the lies of the enemy. But that doesn't mean it will be easy. This is why we wear the breastplate of body armor to protect our hearts. What are the next items we must put on every day (vss. 14-17)? Shoes of peace, just like we have read about all week. Be at peace with others as much as is possible. The helmet protects our heads/minds. This is where we remind ourselves that our salvation and the battle has already been won and we are okay in Christ. The Word of God is the double-edged sword that directs our lives and allows us to cut through the lies of the culture. We end with verse 18. What is the final thing we should be doing daily? Tomorrow take notice of how much time you spend praying, and how much time you spend doing other things. See if you might need to boost your prayer time a bit and don't forget to include your enemies in your prayers. Ask for blessings and salvation be upon them. Prayerfully consider giving up your enemies to Jesus, asking Jesus for healing, blessings, and salvation for your enemy. You might discover changes in them and you. Now that would be a blessing all the way around!

### **Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read *Ezekiel 37:1-14***