

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, April 1st – Luke 23:13-25

This week we are looking at Jesus being condemned to death. We start this week with Luke's description of Jesus before Pilate and the crowds. What is Pilate's first decision and why did he make it (vss. 13-16)? What is the response to Pilate's decision (vss. 18-21)? Notice Pilate's response to the mob's reaction (vs. 20)? What does Pilate want to do? Pilate again restates his position in verse 22. And what is the mob's response (vs. 23)? How does this end (vss. 24-25)? Why do you think Pilate caves? Many scholars say it is because if he was unable to keep the peace, then Rome would send an army in and Pilate would most definitely lose his position and possibly his life. Shortly thereafter Pilate is removed from office for other reasons. But in this case, to save his own neck and position, Pilate gave up Jesus. But Pilate is not the only problem. This speaks much to "mob" mentality, something we see much of today. It makes us think about how we respond to "mob" mentality. Do we jump in and join in without thinking about what this could mean? If we were in the crowd when this was going down, not knowing what we know now, would you have shouted "Crucify Him!"? We all would like to think we wouldn't, and yet, each time we choose not to follow the Word of God or Jesus' examples and teachings, we are in essence crying out "Crucify Him!" Spend some time today in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you have cried out these words or acted in a way that these words cried out for you. Repent and receive the grace of God and his forgiveness for these sins.

Tuesday, April 2nd – Romans 5:6-11

Today we turn to what Paul has to say about the death of Jesus. Speaking from after the fact, Paul sees the hand of God working salvation into the world in the way that only God can do. As we begin to study Paul's explanation, note where humanity (us) begins (vs. 6). In Paul's understanding, Jesus came knowing he would die and it would be the avenue of salvation. What analogy does Paul give to help us understand how extraordinary the death of Jesus is (vs. 7)? So while some may give up their lives for a really good person, no one would be willing to die in the place of a murderer or rapist. And yet Jesus died for us, who are just as sinful. Paul explains why this happens in verse 8. What is God's motivation? What is the result of this decision of God to send Jesus? Who benefits (vss. 9-10)? Therefore, what should be our response (vs. 11)? We understand in this text that although Pilate authorized Jesus' death and the Roman soldiers carried out the death sentence and the priests, Sadducees, Pharisees, scribes and the mob instigated the whole matter, our sins, together with everyone else's sins, is why Jesus gave up his life. We may not have been present, but we are still guilty by way of our sinfulness. Yet God loves us so much that he dealt with our sinfulness. Spend the rest of today rejoicing in this new relationship you have been given with God because of Jesus. Spread the joy out loud to others. As our worship director Kate would say, "Make it Easter Loud!"

Wednesday, April 3rd – Romans 5:12-19

Today we continue Paul's teaching on why Jesus died. So why is there death and how did it start (vss. 12-14)? Paul refers to Adam as what (vs. 14)? What is the difference between Adam and Jesus (vs. 15)? Why does this matter? How does it point to our need for Jesus? Whom are we most like? Adam or Jesus? What is the difference between sin and grace (vss. 15-16)? As we read verse 17, notice what Adam's one sin leads to and then what God's grace gives us the power to overcome. Not just death but God's grace gives us power over sin as well. How does Paul sum up this teaching (vss. 18-19)? Adam disobeyed and Jesus obeyed. Adam's disobedience leads to death. Jesus being human is subject to death like Adam. But because Jesus is completely obedient, death cannot hold Jesus and God's grace abounds through Him in the resurrection. That is the grace offered to us. Though we are human like Adam, we are offered the grace of Christ. Do you live your life in victory over sin and death? If not, why not? How can the Holy Spirit work this into your very being so that this becomes a reality in your life? What might you need to change and die to within yourself to give the Holy Spirit the space to work in you?

Thursday, April 4th – Romans 8:1-4

Paul has more to say on this subject of condemnation as it applies to us and to Christ. What is the good news about our condemnation (vs. 1)? Yay, God! But it is more than just not being condemned. What else does Paul tell us about those who belong to Christ (vs. 2)? What does it mean to you to be "free" from the power of sin and death? Do you believe what Paul writes? What was wrong with the Law (vs. 3)? Back at the end of Chapter 5, Paul even says that the Law couldn't save us, but points out why we need to be saved. So how does God get the job done and take care of the consequences of breaking the law daily (vs. 3)? Because Jesus has taken our punishment and filled the requirements of the law, how should we be living (vs. 4)? Notice we are not to follow our sinful nature. Do you practice this daily or is everything still about you? What might you be nailing to the cross in a couple weeks so that you may be free to follow the Holy Spirit in how you live your life?

Friday, April 5th – Jude 1:3-4

We close this week with a seldom read book, the Book of Jude. Jude has a warning for us today. What did Jude want to write about (vs. 3a)? That's the stuff we like to read about, because it applies to us. But what must Jude write about instead (vs. 3b)? We are being called to defend the faith. What are we defending it from (vs. 4a)? What are these false teachers teaching the church (vs. 4b)? How do these false teachings line up with what you have read from Paul over the past 3 days? Did Jesus die so that we have more grace, so that we can keep on sinning? So that we can just add more sins, because after all, Jesus forgives, right? Paul and Jude call us, those in Christ Jesus, to live in the Holy Spirit and free from sin. Because we have the Holy Spirit, we are to be holy for God's glory. What does Jude say is going to happen to those who are spreading this false teaching (vs. 4c)? For them condemnation by God is the answer. What does this teach us about our current culture and situations? Are we falling prey to false teachings? Are we in danger of promoting false teachings? Where might you need to cling to the Word and to the Holy Spirit, so as to stay on the straight and narrow path?

Saturday, April 6th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Luke 23:8-12