

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 15th – Matthew 2:1-8

Jesus is called a king well before Palm Sunday and the crucifixion. It starts with prophecy before his birth and at his birth as well. Who are those who verbally declare Jesus as a King (vss. 1-2)? Who is upset by the request to find the newborn King and how does he address the issue (vss. 3-4)? What is the response of the priests and religious leaders (vss. 5-6)? This prophecy actually comes from Micah, not Numbers. So, what is the sign that is prompting all of this commotion (vs. 2)? What does Herod ask the wise men about in verse 7? Now read Numbers 24:17. What is Balaam's prophecy? Do you see consistency here over a thousand years in God's establishing his Kingdom on earth? What does Herod instruct the wise men to do (vs. 8)? Do you believe that Herod is really interested in worshipping someone who will replace him? How are we sometimes like Herod, when it comes to worshipping Jesus? When do we think we are the King and will handle things? When do we fail to submit to the Lordship of Jesus over our lives? Spend some time pondering where you like to be King and repent of that desire. Also, spend some time in worshipping Jesus.

Tuesday, April 16th – Mark 15:1-2 and 16-20

Yesterday we read of the announcement of the newborn King. Today we look at the end of the story and how the declaration of being the King of the Jews plays out. It is a stark contrast of the beginning of Jesus' life. We open up with a discussion between Pilate and Jesus. What does Pilate ask Jesus (vss. 1-2)? How did Jesus answer? We read yesterday about wise men coming to worship the King of the Jews. What happens 33 years later (vss. 16-19)? While they have the title right, they have everything else wrong. What does this lead to (vs. 20)? Consider our culture today, even with some in the church. How is the King of the Jews mocked today? Do you see the connection of mocking to crucifying? We can discard too easily that which we mock and give it no value. This should make us pause and consider if we find ourselves mocking Jesus. What do we discount that He commands? What do we choose to ignore? Where might our choices and behavior be getting ready to crucify the one true and eternal King? How might things be, if we lived as if Jesus truly is our King?

Wednesday, April 17th – Revelation 17:11-14

As we closed the last day of Daily Bible Study for the 2018 church calendar year, we read about the final victory Jesus will have and why. We are actually jumping into the middle of a prophecy about the Great Prostitute, who in John's time was Rome. This text is both metaphor and reality at the same time. Who will rise to worldly power (vs. 11)? The Scarlet Beast is a king, but has others under him. How many rulers will this king have (vs. 12)? What will they agree to regarding the Scarlet Beast (vs. 13)? As we read on, who are they going to go to battle against (vs. 14a)? Who is the Lamb? Who will win this battle and why (vss. 14b)? Now consider all the politics and politicians today. They are here today and gone tomorrow. They will make mistakes, and some will govern poorly. But notice that they will just govern. They do not rule. The only who rules is the Lamb, Jesus. The only one worthy of our all is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, for He has won the battle and the rest of these disputes are nothing but skirmishes. So, sleep well tonight. Your King reigns now and forever. Amen!

Thursday, April 18th – Mark 14:12-2 Maundy Service Seder Dinner (5:30 p.m.)

Today is Maundy or Holy Thursday. It is the last Passover celebration Jesus shares with his disciples. Read verses 12-16. What are Jesus' instructions to the disciples? When did Passover begin and who was present (vs. 17)? What shocking news does Jesus share with the men (vs. 18)? How do each of the men respond (vs. 19)? What does Jesus say to them in response to their question as to who it can be (vss. 20-21)? In verses 22-24, Jesus takes the bread of Passover and the cup of Wine and gives them new meaning—a new Exodus from slavery, the slavery to sin. How does this revision to the original Passover apply to us today? After the meal, where do the men go (vs. 26)? Tonight, we will gather at this Passover table and experience what Jesus and his disciples experienced. Consider today how your thoughts or actions betray Jesus like Judas will do tonight, or like the other disciples will do as well. Where does fear make you flee? Where do you want to make the choices of how things should go or what is right for your life? Where does your sin betray the one who will save you?

Friday, April 19th – John 19:1-37 (Good Friday Worship – 7:00 pm Service of Shadows)

Today is Good Friday and the cross looms before us. Read the text completely a couple of times, letting the words and descriptions wash over you. Who are you in the story? Are you the priests who reject Jesus as the Son of God and ruler of your life? Are you Pilate who knows Jesus is innocent, but power and control is more important? Are you one of the soldiers who beat Jesus, because it's your job? Are you in the crowd crying, "Crucify him! Crucify him?" Are you John, standing at the foot of the cross taking care of things? Are you Mary, Jesus' mother, weeping at the feet of her son? Who are you in the story? And why does what Jesus go through matter to you today? What sins of yours has Jesus taken away and freed you from suffering? As you come to the cross tonight, consider what things you have heard these past seven weeks and where God has pierced your heart. What sins do you know you need to nail to the cross? Where do you need forgiveness? Where do you need Christ's blood to flow so you may be cleansed? What darkness do you need to be led out of into the light?

Saturday, April 20th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Matthew 27:27-31.