

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

As the people of God we should be committed to reading Scripture every day. Here are daily readings and questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and we would be honored to provide one. 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, June 24th – Deuteronomy 19

This is going to be a week on relationships. How are we to treat each other? As we begin today, we see God's grace being extended by instituting "Cities of Refuge." What are these cities for and where are they to be located and why (vss. 1-3 and 6-10)? What are the two scenarios given regarding the use of Cities of Refuge (vss. 4-5 and 11-13)? Is there any room for intentional murder in Israel? So we should not murder each other, but know that accidents happen and the innocent should not be put to death for an accident. Justice and mercy combined. Justice is important going forward. Beginning in verse 14, we are given rules regarding relationships with others being just. What are two examples given in verses 14 and 15? What is a third scenario presented (vss. 16-17)? What instructions are given on how to deal with this situation that could serve as preventive (vss. 18-19)? What would be the overall effect on Israel (vs. 20-21)? How do these verses tie into the teaching of Jesus, "love your neighbor as yourself?" What does this reveal about God and His understanding of humanity? What does this reveal about ourselves? How does this point to Jesus (Matthew 5:38-48)? Pray for God to help you to live into being just towards everyone.

Tuesday, June 25th – Deuteronomy 20

As we continue to study how our relationships should be lived out, we will see how God has a plan, even when we go to war. Remember Israel is going to do a lot of that in the future. As Israel prepares for battle, what is the very first thing that is to happen and who is to do it (vss. 1-4)? Why do you think this comes first? What will it do for God's army? Now read verses 5-9. What does this tell you about God's concern for His children, Israel? What about His concern for us? Why are those who have fear sent home (vs. 8)? As they move to the town, what are they to do first (vs. 10)? Based on the town's response, what recourse should Israel take (vss. 11-14)? Now you might be thinking, "Hey wait, I thought they were commanded to kill all the natives in the Promised Land?" Well, you are right. How is that addressed in the text (vss. 15-18)? Wars can drag on, as we will see in later books, and can be very destructive to the surrounding area, but God has instructions for that, too. What does God tell Israel (vss. 19-20)? In other words, don't punish creation for a long war. It is not the trees' fault. What does this reveal to you about God's character? What does it reveal about us? How does this point to Jesus and His teachings?

Wednesday, June 26th – Deuteronomy 21:1-21

As I read this next passage on relationships, I thought of the TV show, "Cold Case," which was about unsolved murder cases. That is where we start today (vs. 1). Since murder is unclean/sinful/impure, how does Israel resolve unsolved murders? What instructions are given to Israel (vss. 2-9)? While the murderer cannot be found, the ceremony makes Israel at peace with God. We at any given time may not know who did the wrong, but we as community may need to make peace with God and assure God that it was not us. Next comes how we treat women captives. What is the scenario laid out for us (vss. 10-11)? What is required of the man and the woman in this case and why (vss. 12-13)? What if when all is said and done, the man is not so pleased with the woman, considering all what he must do (vss. 14)? What story does the next scenario remind you of (Gen. 29)? What is the problem described (vss. 15-16)? What is the instruction (vs. 17)? In other words, do what is right, whether you like it or not. The final matter regarding relationships is that between parents and a rebellious son. What is the solution and why that solution (vss. 18-21)? As we read these teachings, we need to remember that God's call upon Israel is to be Holy. Do what is right before the Lord and the Lord will bless them. What does this chapter reveal to you about God's view on relationships with each other? Is God tolerant? Loving? Too strict? What does this reveal about us, as we are the Israelites today? How does this point to Jesus? If you struggle with any of these instructions, spend time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to come and show you what you need to know. Ask for the conviction of heart, so that you may live faithfully.

Thursday, June 27th – Deuteronomy 21:22 – 22:30

We start today with various regulations (all tied to relationships) regarding everyday living. Read verse 21:22 – 22:12. Verses 21:22-23 tie in directly to Jesus' crucifixion and why Joseph of Arimathea asked for Jesus' body. Notice verse 8. It reads like the warning label like we have on so many products today. Do you remember why they are to wear tassels on their garments (vs. 12)? You can find the answer in Numbers 15:37-40. If you don't remember, maybe you need to wear tassels! 😊 Beginning at verse 13 and continuing through verse 30, we once again hear God's instructions regarding sexual relationships. What types of sexual relationships are unacceptable before God as His Holy children? Why is death the common prescription for immoral sexual relationships (vss. 21, 22, 24)? What other forms of discipline are offered (vss. 18-19 and 28-29)? What does this reveal to you about God and His understanding of how we, His creation, should be having sex? What does it reveal to you about humanity and the fact we need to be instructed on what is right or wrong? How does any of this point to Jesus? How did Jesus fulfill these instructions? How does the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus point to the fact that none of these, while sin, are not unpardonable sins? What would repentance look like in any of these scenarios? Again, how would wearing tassels help us in these matters?

Friday, June 28th – Deuteronomy 23

We end this week with our final teaching on relationships. We start off with who's in, who's out, and for how long they are out. Our first case of who is out is found in verse 1. Who is it and how long does it last? Verse 2 gives us our second group and who they are and how long does the separation last (vs. 2)? Who is next in line? Why are they separated and for how long (vss. 3-6)? We come to the last groups. Who are they? How long will it last and why (vss. 7-8)? Notice that even those who are out for now, that their descendants will eventually be welcomed. Next we move to what happens when the men go to war. What instructions does God give? What seem to be the concerns (vss. 9-13)? Why does he give these instructions (vs. 14)? Next comes a series of scenarios and instructions on how Israel is to handle them. Let's start with verses 15-20. What are the three scenarios? How is each to be handled? Verses 21-23 deal with a relational matter with God. What is the matter? What is expected of you, should you make the vow? Is it a sin to refrain from making a vow? How would this tie into things we hear today like, "If you heal me, Lord, I will never miss worship again?" We close this week, returning to instructions dealing with our neighbors. What is the matter discussed? Why do you think God gives them these instructions? What is the difference between a handful and a basketful? Which would be stealing? Which would be snacking? What do these texts reveal to you about God and His perception of how relationships work? How do these point to fulfilling the law to love God first and foremost and to love your neighbor as yourself? What does this reveal about us that this much detail must be given as instructions? What kind of hearts do we really have? How does this point to Jesus and His grace to us relationally? What have you learned this week about relationships and human dignity? Where might you need to realign your life, so as to live into these kinds of relationships?

Saturday, June 29th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Deuteronomy 24:19-22.