

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, July 1st – Deuteronomy 24:1-15

We continue this week with a focus on human dignity and relationships. As we start today, what relationship does Moses address (vs. 1)? This is the text where Jesus addresses and answers questions about divorce. What are the instructions regarding divorce (vss. 2-4)? What surprises you about this text? Now read verses 5, 7-9. What do these verses address? How do they provide human dignity to others? How do we observe these today? Now let's read verses 6 and 10-15. What do these verses have in common? Consider how not following these directions would probably stem from a heart of greed and power, not love and compassion. Whose rights are being protected by God in these verses? What does this reveal about God and His views on human dignity? What do these verses reveal to us regarding these verses? Consider the fact we even have to be told to behave like this. What does this reveal about Jesus? How do Jesus' teachings show us it is more than just being obedient? It is about being obedient out of a heart of love and compassion for others. Where might you not be living out of love and compassion towards others? Does this mean we should allow others to take advantage of us? Spend some time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to show you the right path when decisions of helping and enabling are being made.

Tuesday, July 2nd – Deuteronomy 24:16-22

Believe it or not, God still has more to say about human relationships and human dignity. As we continue with verse 16, what does Moses teach about sinfulness? Each person is to be held accountable for their own sinful choices. Read verses 17-22. Who are the least of these, those who need help in these verses? Why do they need assistance? In what ways are those not in this position to provide assistance? Note, they are not to do "for" these groups but rather allow for them to do for themselves. How does this help those who are the least to maintain their dignity? What is the reason that Israel is to behave like this (vss. 18 and 22)? How much dignity does one have as a slave? Therefore, make sure you do not take any person's dignity away. Finally, consider how harvesting every olive, every bundle of wheat, etc., is actually a sign of greed and selfishness. How does that affect human relationships? How does it violate the "love your neighbor as yourself" law? What does this reveal to you about God and His ways and knowledge of us, His creation? What does this reveal to you about yourself and your need for Jesus? And how do these teachings become fulfilled through Jesus? Are we not the orphans, the foreigners of God until Jesus comes and makes it right? Spend some time in prayer today, with thanksgiving and praise for the fact God has not treated us like we treat others.

Wednesday, July 3rd – Deuteronomy 25

Today we continue our study on human dignity and relationships. But we are going to start with verse 4. What are Moses' instructions? Why is this important and what does it point to in the one who disobeys? It is pretty bad if you need every piece of grain and won't feed the animal who is helping you harvest. Now let's go back to verses 1-3. What is the issue being dealt with by Moses? What is the instruction that preserves human dignity (vs. 3)? Now read verses 5-10. What is the matter at hand? How is it to be resolved? What happens if the brother-in-law refuses? How was this teaching used in questioning Jesus (Matthew 22:23-33)? Do you see how even the Pharisees twisted scripture to try and trick Jesus? Now read verses 11-12. What is the issue at hand? What is the resolution? Whose human dignity is being protected here? Continue reading verses 13-16. What matter does Moses address here? Why would someone cheat? What are cheaters in God's eyes? We finish by reading verses 17-19. What is Israel to remember? What are they to do? Notice that this is about the dignity of Israel as God's people, not just individuals. Why did the Amalekites act this way towards Israel (vs. 18b)? God does not seem to care for such blatant disregard. What else do these verses reveal to us about God's ways, concerns, and order? What does this reveal about yourself? How do these teachings point to Jesus? How do these instructions strike you? Crude? Silly? Irrelevant today? Yet what do they say about us as humans?

Thursday, July 4th – Deuteronomy 26:1-15

Today we will add to our relationship study the dignity and relationship with God. How is Israel to honor God's dignity and stay in a healthy relationship with God (vss. 1-4)? When standing before the priest and at the altar, what is the Israelite to repeat (vss. 5-10)? Why do you think these words are important? How does it help the person maintain a good relationship with God? Once the ritual is complete, what are the Israelites to do (vs. 11)? This tells us this should be a "joy-filled" experience and one to be celebrated! On the third year, the routine changes and includes human dignity and relationship flowing from what we have just read. What is to happen on the third year (vs. 12)? What is the oath that is taken before the priest on this year (vss. 13-15)? It is an oath saying that they have done with the offering what God has commanded. Why do you think this is important? How does this point to our relationship with others flowing from a healthy, loving, obedient relationship with God? Consider also, why this takes integrity and builds faith in God's providence. What does this reveal to you about God and His ways? How does this make God different from false idols? How does this point to Jesus being the offering made for all of creation? What does this reveal to you about ourselves and how we are called to live for God and each other? Where might the Holy Spirit be convicting your heart today? What might you need to change to bring yourself in alignment with God's ways?

Friday, July 5th – Deuteronomy 26:16-19

We close this week and this section on human relationships and dignity with the call to obey. Israel is to obey all these commands "wholeheartedly" rather than "haphazardly." Why are they to do this? What have they declared (vs. 17)? They have made a choice and this was their choice. So they are to lovingly obey with all that they are and all that they have out of love for God and each other. What picture of life does this paint for you? How is this supposed to be God's best for us? There is another reason that this can come to pass and it is found in verses 18-19. What does God declare to Israel? Do you see the overarching picture from creation to what will be in these words? What does this reveal about God and His plans for all of us? What does this reveal to you about humanity? What does this reveal to you about Jesus' role in bringing this vision to pass? Spend some time today praising God and choosing to love and obey Him. Give thanks to God for Jesus who died, rose, and ascended to make that possible and to the Holy Spirit who empowers you to make this choice and live it out. Praise the Lord!

Saturday, July 6th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Deuteronomy 28:1-15.