

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, July 24th – Genesis 43:1-18

We begin this week with the famine God warned of in Pharaoh's dream still ravaging the land. This is a cause of friction between Jacob and his sons. What is the friction (vss. 1-10)? After listening to Judah's response, what is Jacob's final decision (vs. 11-14)? Notice Jacob is giving up control over the situation. Whom is he giving it to (vs. 14)? Do you trust God that much? Why do you think Jacob does? What happens next (vs. 15)? What happens when they arrive in front of Joseph (vss. 16-17)? Why do you think this is what Joseph chose to do? How did the brothers respond (vs. 18)? How would you have responded if you were in their shoes? Who demonstrates faith in this portion of the text? Who demonstrates fear? Who seems to be messing with other's emotions? Which of these best reflects your reactions to situations? What do you need in order to develop a faith like Jacob? And can letting go and trusting God be a major way that this happens? Spend time in prayer today asking God to strengthen your faith. Then expect to be tested for that is the way our faith is grown.

Tuesday, July 25th – Genesis 43:19-34

We left the brothers yesterday nervous about being in Joseph's home. How does this reunion begin (vss. 19-25)? What things occurred that should have brought some reassurance to the brothers? When Joseph arrives, what happens next (vss. 26-27)? Did you notice the bowing down before Joseph again? Beginning in verse 27 we see a conversation begin. Whom does Joseph inquire about and what is his reaction to seeing Benjamin (vss. 27-31)? Why do you think Joseph responds this way? Keep in mind how long Joseph has been gone. Now finish by reading verses 32-34. What did Joseph do that astonished the brothers? What did Benjamin receive? Take some time and imagine what this lunch must have been like. The questions about home from Joseph. The questions about Egypt and how Joseph got where he is. Imagine the joy that this feasting provided. What does this reveal about God and His plan? What does this reveal about us? Imagine the feasting we will experience at the table with our believing loved ones when Christ comes back. Do you think this could be foretaste of the feasts yet to come? Spend some time today feasting with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Let their joy wash over you.

Wednesday, July 26th – Genesis 44

Chapter 44 is like a reprise of the first visit. As you read verses 1-17, what are the similarities? What differences are there? Whom has been the influence for the differences? Why do you think Joseph has the cup put into Benjamin's bag? A few weeks back we discussed how there is both good and bad in us operating at the same time. As you may recall it is Judah who wants to get rid of Joseph. Now read verses 18-34. What difference do you see in Judah? Who is his primary concern? How has he matured? Reread this text now from the eyes and ears of Joseph. How do these words affect you knowing you are the brother that did not return? Do you sense remorse in Judah's speech? Do you sense compassion in Judah? This text is a pivot in the story. It sets everything up for change and reconciliation. How does this change the way you read this passage? What does it reveal to you about God? What does it reveal to you about yourself? Learning humility is a lesson taught during hardship and correction. Like Judah, we need to learn humility. Spend some time today pondering how Jesus demonstrates humility?

Thursday, July 27th – Genesis 45:1-15

Today is the big reveal, the moment we have been anticipating. Judah's plea must have cut straight through to Joseph's heart. How do we know that (vss. 1-4)? As we see in verses 5-8, Joseph has learned a little humility as well. What does he say that proves that? What was God's plan all along? Now that the big reveal is over, what does Joseph tell his brothers to do (vss. 9-11)? Why do they need to do this (vs. 11)? There still seems to be some doubt on the brother's end. How do we know this (vs. 12)? Imagine being one of Joseph's brothers. You would probably struggle with this new information as well. After all, Judah said he thought Joseph was dead in chapter 44. How does the remainder of the reunion go (vss. 13-15)? Notice that the free talking doesn't happen until Joseph had once again declared who he was in verse 12. There must have considerable healing taking place during this time. The brothers and Joseph are reconciled and God is the executor of the plan and they all know it. What does this reveal about God today? What does it reveal about us? How important is it to forgive and trust God? What relationships do you have that are very strained? How might God work transformation in you and in the other party to bring about reconciliation? What might you need to give up allowing that to happen? Spend some quiet time with God today discussing with and listening to His Spirit when it comes to a strained relationship you may be experiencing.

Friday, July 28th – Genesis 45:16-28

We bring this portion of Joseph and Jacob's story to a close. Who gets involved at this juncture (vss. 16)? What instructions does he give (vss. 17-20)? What blessings does Joseph bestow on his brothers (vss. 21-23)? What instruction does Joseph give his brothers before they leave (vs. 24)? What do you think Joseph meant? What would they quarrel about? What news did the brothers tell their father about Joseph (vs. 26)? Pause for a moment and consider how this must have sounded to Jacob. Consider how many years have passed thinking Joseph was dead. What was the proof that his sons were telling him the truth about Joseph (vs. 27)? Wouldn't you like to have been a fly on the wall when the brothers tell their father what they did? How else would they explain how Joseph was still alive after sending the blood-soaked robe back to their father? Besides being overjoyed with the news, what does Jacob declare he must do (vs. 28)? Any parent would feel this way so we understand Jacob's response. What has Joseph's story revealed to you about God? Maybe it has revealed attributes you do not normally associate with God. Maybe it revealed just how in control God is in that His will will be accomplished for our good and His glory. And what has this text revealed about us, and how we treat each other? What behaviors might we need to repent of and turn back to God from? How in doing so might the burdens of your life be lifted? And finally, how does Jesus illuminate these lessons in his life and how do they point to him?

Saturday, July 29th – In preparation for tomorrow's worship, please read Genesis 47:27-31