

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, January 18th – 2 Samuel 24:1-9

Welcome back to Journey Through the Bible, Winter 2021. We will finish David's story between this week and the beginning of Lent. We start today with a text that gives us a little bit of heartburn. As you read verse 1, what is happening? Why is God mad at David and is God causing David to sin? As we mentioned yesterday, the text does not tell us why God is angry with David. And God does not force David to sin. There apparently is tension between them and with the mere suggestion, David jumps on it. But what is the motive? Read verses 2-3. "Why" is a good question. Who else besides us is asking why? Notice in verse 4, David doesn't answer that question, just sends Joab out to do the count. Verses 5-7 is the description of where Joab and his men went to count. What is wrong with this group they are counting (vs. 7)? Why are they counting the Hivites and Canaanites? They are not part of God's people. Now read verses 8-9. Now we see the motive for counting. Who were they counting? This is about how big David's army can be if needed. What have we learned in the past about how big an army has to be to win a battle, when God is on your side? So, this is a needless census. This is more about ego than need. While we are not certain if this is what was going on between God and David, the truth is pride against God is a dangerous thing. And this had been building to this point. What does this reveal to you about God? What does it reveal to you about us and how easily we can fall into pride? How does this point to Jesus and his lack of pride, but his abundant humble service? Where do you see pride creeping up in your life? Pray asking God to help you rid yourself of the pride.

Tuesday, January 19th – 2 Samuel 24:10-17

Today we continue the story of David's census. We start off with why we know it was wrong. How does verse 10 reveal that this census was wrong? We know when we have done wrong while we are walking with God because our conscience starts to work on us. And like David, who had the Holy Spirit on him, the Spirit convicts us of our sinfulness. David confesses and repents of his sin, but there are consequences for sin as we have learned through David already. What are the possible consequences (vss. 11-13)? Wow, none of these options sound good, do they? And did you notice that in each of these, others beside David would suffer? What does that tell you about the effects of sin? David's response demonstrates facing the reality of sin and making wise decisions. How does David respond to God's message (vs. 14)? Why do you think David responded this way? Consider that the famine would last for 3 years and David would be at the mercy of nature. In the option of fleeing from his enemies, David would be at the mercy of other humans, enemy humans. With the plague, God would send it and control it. So, in essence, David chose the plague. How did the consequence of sin go down (vs. 15)? Wow, 70,000 people suffered for David's sin! But God is merciful, and it does end after only 3 days. How does it come to an end (vs. 16)? What is David's response to the devastation (vs. 17)? Keeping in mind that God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, what does this reveal to you about God? What does it reveal to you about humanity and our sin? How does this point to our need for Jesus and the great suffering he experienced for us? What sin do you need to stop committing?

Wednesday, January 20th – 1 Chronicles 21:1-17

Today we will read about David's census from the Chronicler's point of view. Read today's text in full before we begin. For the most part, the story is the same. David calls a census, then realizes he was wrong. God offers three punishments for this sin. David chooses to fall into the hands of God who is merciful. 70,000 people die over the course of 3 days. But today, let's look at some of the differences. We start with verse 1. What is different? Notice it is not between God and David, but Satan rising up against Israel and tempting David. Now jump down to verse 7 and with whom is God disappointed? But notice in verse 8, David takes responsibility. Let's now go to verse 16. Notice who is repenting. What is the sign of repentance and who is doing the repenting? But as you move to verse 17, we see David taking responsibility for the sin committed. Is there any change in God's reaction to sin? What changes in humanity do we see? Consider the temptations involved. Why do you think these changes are written by the Chronicler? How important is David to the remnant from Babylon? What lessons does David's sin and repentance teach the Chronicler's readers? How does this prepare them and us for the need of a savior, Jesus?

Thursday, January 21st – 2 Samuel 24:18-25

Thus far this week, we have seen the sin and watched the conviction that led to repentance and the consequence to the sin. Today we look at the restoration. What does God tell David to do (vs. 18)? Why there? Refer back to verse 16 to see why. Imagine for a moment being Araunah the Jebusite and you see the King of Israel coming to you. How does Araunah greet the king (vss. 20-21a)? What does David tell Araunah he wants (vs. 21b)? What is Araunah's response (vss. 22-23)? Wise response, but David turns him down. Why does David do that (vs. 24)? How does this scenario end (vs. 25)? What does this say about God and his mercy and restoration? What does this reveal about humanity? Consider David's decision to not offer anything to God that doesn't cost him. Why is that important? Consider Jesus now. What cost does Jesus offer up to God for restoration of sin? You see, there is a cost. A very high cost for sin. Spend some time in prayer today thanking Jesus for making amends for your sins and for the high price that was paid for you.

Friday, January 22nd – 1 Chronicles 21:18-22:1

We close today with the Chronicler's version of restoration. Read the entire text before we begin. This is the same story, but there are a few differences. The first major difference is found in verse 20. What is the difference? The next change is found in verse 25. In 2 Samuel David pays 50 pieces of silver. What does he pay here? A little different, isn't it? Verses 21:26 through 22:1 have quite a few differences. What are they? David and God are much more interactive with each other and there is this angel with a drawn sword. But God receives the sacrifices and the plague stops. There is one more major change and that will set us up for the next few weeks of readings. It is found in 22:1. What is the final point of this resolution? What does this version of the story reveal to you about God? What does it reveal to you about humanity? Consider how the two interact with each other. How does this point to Jesus and the temple being in each one of us (believers in humanity)?

Saturday, January 23rd – Prepare for tomorrow by reading 1 Chronicles 22:1-10.