

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, February 14th – Proverbs 22 Happy Valentine's Day!

This week we will finish the last three Proverbs attributed to Solomon's time. Again, these three chapters are all couplets so we will be looking at the themes found in each one. Let's start by reading through chapter 22 with an eye out for the themes. Our largest theme this week is about how to handle our FINANCES. What wisdom is shared with us in this theme (vss. 7, 9, 16, 26-27)? The next largest theme addressed is the WICKED vs the GODLY. What are the nuggets of wisdom we receive in these verses (vss. 5, 8, 25, 28)? Are you living a godly or wicked life? Next, we address RICH vs POOR. What behaviors are unacceptable (vss. 2, 22-23)? Why would this be such a big deal in Solomon's time? How important was their land? There are four themes that each have two verses to them. They are: REPUTATION (vss. 1 and 29); WISE vs FOOLISH (vss. 3 & 12); FAMILY LIFE (vss. 6 and 15); and WORDS (vss. 10-11). We finish off this chapter with three themes that have only one verse each. They are HUMILITY in vs. 4, LAZINESS in vs. 13; and JUDGMENT in vs. 14. What do these words of wisdom regarding these themes reveal to you about God and His design? What do these reveal to you about humanity? Are we living these out faithfully? Do we even acknowledge them in our lives? How do these point to Jesus? Consider verses 17-21, which are not couplets. How do these resemble things that Jesus said? How do these point to Jesus' teachings as wisdom?

Tuesday, February 15th – Proverbs 23

Proverbs 23 has a combination of couplets and instructions (more than 2 lines or verses). We will see some themes have a combination of couplets and instructions. Take a moment and read through chapter 23 and see if you notice the themes and styles as you read. Our largest theme today has both couplets and instructions. The theme is FAMILY LIFE. The couplets are found in 13-14, 24-25. The instruction is found in verses 19-22. How do verses 13-14 fly in the face of what is being used today? Do you believe God's wisdom or the world's ideas? The next largest theme is on ALCOHOL. This theme is an instruction that is found in verses 29-35. What is the wisdom to be gained? Did you find yourself in this instruction? Most of us were foolish this way at one time or another. Our next theme, FOOLS vs. WISE, are couplets found in vss. 9, 12, 15-16 and 23. What do you learn about fools and having wisdom? Which category are you in? HUMILITY is our next theme in verses 1-3 and 17-18. How is humility taught in 1-3? Why are verses 17-18 included in the instructions on humility? Can you listen to the "words of the wise," if you are not humble enough to do so? STINGY PEOPLE is a new theme for us and is found in verses 6-8. What is the wisdom offered in this regard? RICH vs. POOR wisdom is found in verses 4-5. Another new theme is STEALING in verses 10-11. And finally, a return to the theme PROMISCUITY is found as instruction in verses 26-28. What do these words of wisdom reveal to you about God? About yourself? Do you actually believe these words of wisdom and live them? If not, why not? How do these point to Jesus? Consider verses 1-3 and Luke 14:7-14. More wisdom is there on humility.

Wednesday, February 16th – Proverbs 24

Today we will finish our study of Solomon's Proverbs. What comes later was discovered or written during Hezekiah's time. Take a minute and read through chapter 24, looking for couplets/instructions and themes. There are only six themes today. Our largest theme today is WISE vs. FOOLISH (vss. 3-7, 9, 13-14, 21-22, 27)? Most of these focus on foolish thoughts and actions. Which are you guilty of doing? The next largest theme is WICKED vs. GODLY (vss. 1-2, 8, 15-20)? Verses 15-20 are instructions, not couplets. Again, the focus is on wicked behavior. What wisdom did you need to hear here? JUSTICE is our next theme and is found in verses 11-12 and 23-25. Consider our world today. Is this wisdom being used? Next is the theme HARDWORKING vs. LAZY (vss. 30-34). This is instruction and is not in couplets. What did the observer learn? Once again, we have the theme WORDS (vss. 26, 28-29). Lying is still not acceptable. Our last theme is new and has only one verse. It is STRENGTH (Faith) in verse 10. What wisdom do you take from this verse? What does this reveal to you about who God is? What does this reveal to you about yourself? Are you more prone to the world or to wisdom? How do these point to Jesus? How did Jesus live these verses out, especially verse 10?

Thursday, February 17th – Song of Solomon 1:1 - 2:7

How appropriate that on the week of and following Valentine's Day, we should arrive at reading the Song of Solomon, also known as Song of Songs. This book is a series of seven poems describing the meeting/wedding/worries and marriage of Solomon to a peasant girl. It can get pretty spicy, as young love usually is filled with desire and lust. But there is also real love between the two. It starts off on the royal wedding day. What is the young woman experiencing and what do the women of Jerusalem have to say about it (vss. 1-4)? But there is some self-consciousness by the young woman. What is she concerned about (vss. 5-6)? But she turns to her husband, asking him a question to which he gives his answer. What does she want to know (vs. 7)? What does he tell her (vss. 8-11)? He addresses her with love and care about her being insecure by being alone in Jerusalem. As you read verses 12-14, we see passion beginning to spark and the visual pleasure the king gives the woman (vs. 14). The king again compliments her. What is the woman describing in verses 16-17? As we move to chapter 2, how does she describe herself (vs. 1)? Does the king agree (vs. 2)? Now read verses 3-6. What does the woman describe? Although tempted to be swept up in the emotion, what does she ask for (vs. 7)? Consider what is revealed to you about God in these texts. Marital love is God's idea. What do these verses reveal about us? Do you remember first love? Did you wait or act on it? How do these verses point to the love and care Jesus has for the church?

Friday, February 18th – Song of Solomon 2:8 – 3:5

We close this week with a walk down memory lane to when Solomon and the peasant girl met. Read verses 8-13. What does the woman remember about their days of courting? The king then describes their first meeting. What happened (vs. 14)? What interesting tidbit do the women of Jerusalem offer to the couple (vs. 15)? Remember, Sunday's message pointed out that the "foxes" were those little problems and irritations that occur and can ruin a relationship, if allowed. How does the woman respond (vss. 16-17)? She seems anxious to see him again. Now the scene shifts. The woman is sharing a dream with us. What happens in the dream (vss. 1-4)? When we love deeply, we will care about the other's needs and well-being. Now read verse 5. Again, the temptation to accelerate love to a physical action is real. But we mustn't awaken love until the time is right. According to scripture, that is upon the wedding bed the night of the wedding. Why do you think that is important? Again, what does that reveal to you about God and His ways? What does this say about humanity? About Jesus?

Saturday, February 19th - For tomorrow please read Song of Solomon 4.