

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 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, March 12th - Matthew 27:1-10

This week we are spending time considering the characters of Mary and Judas. In today's reading, we see Matthew's explanation of what happened after the betrayal of Jesus. Where none of the Gospels dispute that Judas was the betrayer, the postscript on Judas varies. Today in Matthew's Gospel, we see that Judas is quite remorseful and returns the silver to the chief priests and elders. When considering yesterday's insinuations by John, Judas did it for the money, because he was greedy. Does reading Matthew's story concur? Could there be another reason for Judas' betrayal? In Matthew 26, all the disciples agree that the anointing of Jesus was a waste of money, not just Judas. Also, Jesus had clearly declared that this Passover he would be turned over to be crucified. If this is the case and Judas knew, why would he turn Jesus over to the Pharisees? Put yourself in Judas' shoes. Could—not would—but *could* you have betrayed Jesus? Have you ever betrayed anyone else? Remember, not all betrayals end in death. Ask God to search your heart this week and show where you have been the betrayer – to others and to Christ.

Tuesday, March 13th – Luke 22:1-6

Today we will look at Luke's description of Judas' betrayal. Do you notice what is different than Matthew's (vs. 3)? How can this explanation change our understanding of what happened? Does this verse describe an excuse? Can Satan enter anyone he wants? Is this the 1st Century version of "The devil made me do it?" How can you explain that Satan entered Judas? Does not temptation come from Satan and isn't it in the yielding to temptation that one falls? Could Satan have whispered the temptation to Judas, who then chose wrongly, thus culminating in the death of Jesus and in the remorse and death of Judas? What temptations are you facing now? Where do you need the Holy Spirit to protect you and lead you away from temptation? Call upon the Lord who is able and willing to save.

Wednesday, March 14th – John 13:1-30

What strength we find in Jesus today. He knows that the time has come and the end is at hand (verses 1-2). And even though Jesus knew that it was going to be Judas that betrays him, he treats him no differently. He even sends him on his way. Consider the events of this evening. Foot washing – Passover meal – sharing – laughing even in the face of knowing what lies ahead. Consider how Jesus does not deny Judas from partaking in these things, even though Jesus knew Judas was the betrayer. Now consider where you discovered yourself a betrayer yesterday. Yet, even though we are all betrayers, we offered the grace of God through the sacrament of Communion. We receive the washing of our feet as Judas did. We accept the command to love others by washing their feet – even the feet of those who betray us. When you consider these things, how does this make you feel? Spend time in prayer today sharing with God your thoughts, feelings, and desires. Remember to thank Jesus for not excluding you.

Thursday, March 15th – Luke 10:38-42

We switch today from Judas to Mary. Luke paints a picture of Mary and her sister Martha that are not in the other Gospels. In reading this portrayal of Mary, what did she do that was right? Why was it right? What did she receive because she chose well? What could Judas have learned from Mary's choice? What can you learn from Mary's choice? How can following Mary's example help prevent Satan from leading us into temptation? Consider your Lenten Journey. How much time have you given to God these past 4 weeks? Has your time been rushed, or forgotten, or delayed because you were busy being Martha? How are these temptations to put other things before God interfering with your relationship with God? Consider today how you will finish your journey to the cross and the tomb. Will God come first in all things? What worldly things might have to take a momentary back seat? What worldly concerns do you just need to do away with? Spend time with God today evaluating your journey thus far and make the necessary adjustments to it.

Friday, March 16th – John 11:1-44

We close this week out by looking at John's story of Mary and Martha before the anointing. In this story, Jesus has delayed arriving to cure their brother Lazarus, who then dies. Notice who meets Jesus first. The main dialogue is with Martha – ever the hostess. Yet, Jesus has an encounter with Mary. What is Mary's response? What is Jesus' response? What do you think caused Jesus' anger? How does this story impact the anointing of Jesus by Mary? How could this event have deepened her love to offer such radical sacrifice? Could this perfume been part of what they used on Lazarus? Take time to consider how Mary's experience with Jesus has formed and deepened her love. What experiences have you had with Jesus that have led you into a deeper love and sacrificial commitment? If you don't have that deeper love and commitment, ask yourself and God what is holding you back.

Saturday, March 17th – Prepare for tomorrow by reading Luke 19:35-40. Scout Sunday is tomorrow.