

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, March 15th – Isaiah 6:1-7

This week of Lent we begin the shift to the cross and the empty tomb. We have faced our mortality, the cause of that mortality, and the fact that we cannot fix ourselves or situations alone. Today we look at what needs to happen and the importance of repentance. It is important to remember repentance is not just a Christian concept, but has always been a part of the human experience. It was developed further in the wilderness and in Tabernacle worship and then to the Temple, straight through Isaiah's time and then to the return of the exiled Israelites from Babylon. Our text today is a vision that Isaiah had experienced. How does he describe what he is seeing (vss. 1-4)? Take a moment and imagine this scene in your mind. Notice there is no description of God, except of His robe filling the Temple. See and hear the seraphim. Do you feel a breeze brush your face as they fly by? Now imagine the space you occupy trembling and smoky from incense. As you let this scene sink in, how do you feel? How did Isaiah feel (vs. 5)? When we come face to face with God, we see the truth about ourselves the way God does. It immediately strikes dread, grief, shame and sorrow in our hearts for how we live. Why do you think Isaiah speaks of "filthy lips"? Do you sense a heart of repentance in this moment? How does God react to Isaiah's response (vss. 6-7)? Would this have happened, if Isaiah had not confessed the truth of sinfulness from a heart filled with repentance? Ponder today that you are in the throne room with God. While forgiveness abounds in Christ, the need for repentance in order to receive it still exists.

Tuesday, March 16th – Mark 1:1-7

Building on what we started yesterday regarding repentance, we move from the Old Testament to the New Testament. By the time we arrive at today's text, the concept of repentance would have been well understood, but maybe not as well practiced – problem we have in today's church. This is why it is important to study this concept. How does this text begin (vss. 1-3)? Who does Mark say fulfills Isaiah's prophecy (vs. 4a)? What does he say and do to bring this prophecy into fruition? Baptism was the sign of what (vs. 4b)? Who heard John and responded (vs. 5)? But John isn't the end game, he is the prophet in the wilderness making the way straight for the one still to come. What does John say about this one to come (vs. 7)? To whom do you confess? To whom are you accountable? What does repentance look like? Why do you think John's baptism points to your repentance? Does your baptism reflect your repentance?

Wednesday, March 17th – Mark 1:14-15

Our theme this week is "Repentance Still Matters" and we know this because of today's text. Who is the one calling for repentance today? Note in verse 14 when Jesus' ministry took off. Jesus starts with preaching the Good News. In verse 15, we read the Good News. What is the Good News? It is simply that God has fulfilled His promise and the Kingdom of God is near. How is the Kingdom near? Wherever Jesus is, he brings the Kingdom. Therefore, what does he call people to do (vs. 15b)? Why is repentance important? Why do you think belief in the Good News depends on repentance? Since Jesus starts his ministry off this way and God has been establishing repentance, the turning away from your sinfulness, since the beginning, how important do you think repentance is? Does the church today take repentance seriously or has it been glossed over? What do you think Jesus would say to the church today, if he was bodily present? What would Jesus say to you regarding your repentance? Spend some quiet time with this today. Listen to what the Spirit impresses upon your heart. Earnestly repent if you find the need.

Thursday, March 18th – Acts 2:37-39

We have heard from John the Baptist and Jesus regarding the importance of repentance. Now let's see its place in the work and message of the church. Read today's text before we begin. This text is at the end of Peter's first sermon on the Day of Pentecost. What did the power of the Holy Spirit do through Peter's words and how did his listeners respond (vs. 37)? Pierced hearts is another way to say conviction. Conviction in the heart can be to stop doing something you should not be doing; do something you have not been doing; or a course direction in your belief, so that you turn your thinking around. So, Peter answers their question and what does he tell them (vs. 38a)? Is forgiveness offered before repentance? Why do you think it is this way? If they proceed, what will they receive (vs. 38b)? Let's pause with this for a moment. We have spoken often about the experiences of grace we have; prevenient grace, justifying grace and sanctifying grace. Looking at these two verses, we see all of these experiences of grace being offered to those who repented. Prevenient grace was the Holy Spirit-empowered words of Peter. Justifying grace is symbolized in baptism for the forgiveness of sins. Sanctifying grace is the gift of the Holy Spirit, who will now work in the believers' lives going forward. To whom is this experience of God's grace offered (vs. 39)? Where do you fit into this verse? The Holy Spirit convicts of sin. The Holy Spirit empowers you to repent (turn away from your sin). The Holy Spirit enters your life fully to walk with, encourage and continue to convict you, so that you grow and mature into the person you were actually created to be. Consider when you experienced God's grace in your life, transforming you. Where is the Holy Spirit working now so that you are convicted to repentance?

Friday, March 19th – 1 Timothy 1:12-17

When we talk about repentance, it does create anxiety in people. It is difficult at times to face the truth and extent of our sinfulness. But the end result is fully and deeply receiving God's mercy and grace through Christ. Paul writes to Timothy about this. It is a beautiful passage that reveals Paul's heart, because of God's mercy when he repented and turned to God. Why does he thank Jesus Christ (vss. 12-13)? When Paul repented, what was his God experience (vs. 14)? Pre-repentance, we are actually living like Paul, in ignorance and unbelief. But when the Holy Spirit opens our eyes after repentance what do we learn (vs. 15)? Are you in the same boat as Paul? What is God's response in Paul's life after repentance and forgiveness (vs. 16)? Did you notice Paul does not deny his sinfulness and even the depths of his sinfulness? Rather Paul still confesses and shares what God did with him after repentance. Just because we are sinners does not mean God rejects us. When we repent, turn from our sin and turn back to God with humble and contrite hearts, God can then use us as an example of one who sinned and is forgiven and restored by God. In using us, others might come to believe and be saved. None of us deserve to be saved. None of us. But when we are convicted and desire to stop living in our own personally made pigpen and turn to God, we are met with forgiveness, love, restoration and mission. It is so worth it. How do I know? Read verse 17. That's how I know. Now you know, too.

Saturday, March 20th – Prepare for tomorrow by reading Isaiah 6:1-8.