

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 25th – Exodus 20:16 and 23:1-3

This week the focus is on the accusations made about Jesus. This is not a new problem. In fact, we had learned about it all the way back in Exodus. As you read 20:16, which commandment is this and what is the instruction? Now let's move to 23:1. What is the instruction to Israel and how does it tie into 20:16? There are two things going on. First, we are not to spread false rumors about someone (think gossip). Second, even if we are not the instigator of a lie, we are still called to not participate and perpetuate lies on a witness stand. The instructions go further. What else are we forbidden to do and why (vs. 2)? We all know what "mob" rule looks like and it is not pretty. So, don't fall to the temptation to say wrong things. There is one more instruction on this subject of accusations and it is found in verse 3. Notice who we might be guilty of sinning by helping the wrong way. Even if they are poor, we must speak truth. While much of this has a legal connotation to it, it could be as simple as saying what you know. Being a truthful witness. But you have to be an eye-witness to whatever is happening, or you could be making false accusations. Remember, when we fail to love others as ourselves, we fail to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. When we make or pass on false accusations, then we sin. Consider today where you may have participated or generated false accusations. Work today to make it right with the other person and then with God.

Tuesday, March 26th – Proverbs 6:16-19; 12:17; 14:5; 19:5

We return to Solomon's wisdom regarding accusations and especially, false one's at that. Let's start with Proverbs 6:16-19. What are the seven things God hates? Notice that lying or false accusations are listed in verses 17 and 19. How are these two things tied into the other five? Now read 12:17 and 14:5. They give us two descriptions of those who are witnesses. What are these descriptions? Which do you think we should be? Finally, read verse 19:5. What is the warning about false accusations? What do you think Solomon means by this warning? As we read these verses, consider that you are called to be a witness for Jesus. What would be good and accurate accusations to make about Jesus? Where might we be telling lies, even if well intentioned? How would verse 19:5 fit into our well-intentioned lies? How do even well-intentioned lies or embellished elaborations hurt the cause of Christ? Why is it important to stick to our stories and the scripture to explain and to witness to the work of Christ? Spend some time in prayer and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you to an accurate witness of Christ in your life, and then find someone to share it with!

Wednesday, March 27th – Psalm 109:1-5, 26-28

Today we will switch it up a bit and look at not whether we are giving false witness or accusations, but what happens when the false witness/accusations are made against us. This was the place David was in when he wrote this Psalm. What is happening to David (vss. 2-5)? To get a full list of the curses/lies and accusations, read all the way down to verse 20. When has someone made false accusations against you or lied about your circumstances in an effort to cause harm? Maybe it was a family member? Maybe it was an old employer? Maybe it was a friend? We have all experienced this harm at one time or another, just as Jesus did and David did as well. David gives us one way of responding. What does he hold firm to doing in spite of what has been said (vss. 26-28)? Sometimes it is difficult to rejoice in God and trust that you will be blessed, when everything seems to point in another direction. What benefit is there to praising God in these kinds of difficult times? What does this help us see, when it comes to how we talk about others? Whom might you need to forgive today, once and for all, because they made false statements about you? Pray asking the Holy Spirit to help you forgive completely and praise God the rest of the day!

Thursday, March 28th – John 8:39-53

Jesus and the Pharisees had a tumultuous relationship. We see back in verse 13, the Pharisees are among the unbelieving people Jesus is addressing. This whole scene is about whether Jesus is speaking truth or lies. Note that false accusations are made about Jesus before his trial. What do the unbelievers say about Jesus that is not true (vss. 48 and 52)? What truth do they refuse to believe (vss. 42-47)? What might have been a better way for the unbelievers to have responded, rather than making false accusations about Jesus? There is another truth that Jesus shares with them. What is it (vss. 49-51)? What does Jesus tell us about those who make false accusations and do not turn from their ways (vss. 43-44)? Consider when we make false accusations or summations about others (gossip)? Who is our father then? What strikes you about what Jesus says in this text? Where might we need to be more cautious about in how we use our words? How does reminding ourselves that God is our Father help us to say things differently? How does being reminded we might be the child of the Father of Lies scare us into saying things differently?

Friday, March 29th – 1 Peter 2:11-17

We end the week with Peter's instructions to the church. It is about how we should live. In verse 11, how does Peter refer to us as believers here on earth? Since we are temporary residents here, how should we live and why (vs. 12)? Verses 13-14 give us an idea of one way we can live this honorable life. What is Peter's recommendation? How else will living honorable lives affect others (vs. 15)? There is a caution in verse 16. What does Peter say we need to be careful of, regarding being free? To sum up an honorable life, what does Peter tell us to do? How do our words fit into these things? After studying false accusations, lying, and gossip, what will be different going forward for you? What one thing do you want to remember, so that you do not bear false witness against Jesus or others? Who might you need to apologize to for misrepresentations? Who might you need to forgive? How have you sinned against Jesus this way? Repent and receive the forgiveness Christ offers. Then start fresh in His grace and go and sin no more.

Saturday, March 30th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Matthew 27:24-26.