

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 28th– Mark 4:26-34

This week we are looking to mature in our understanding of living a Kingdom life here on earth as it is in heaven. Remember, once we are believers, we are kingdom people. The way we live should be tied to the Kingdom of God, not the world. This world will pass away. The Kingdom of God is forever! We all need to mature in this area of living a believer's life. We will start this maturing by reading what Jesus tells us about the Kingdom of God (or Heaven). Read verses 26-29. These are familiar stories but sometimes familiarity gets in the way. So, let's break it down and see what we may be missing. How are we like the farmer? What is the seed we are planting? How is Jesus the seed? Can you explain how some people grow and others don't? How some believe while others refuse? But what does happen (vs. 28)? Now back to the farmer. What does the farmer do (vs. 29)? This is a both/and verse. We are called to harvest the new believers in whom the seeds have been sown. But how does this point to Jesus being the farmer now and at the end of time? That will be the final harvest. Okay, let's move to the next story. Read verses 30-32. Who is the mustard seed? Jesus is the mustard seed and was buried in the ground before his resurrection. When he (the single seed) was resurrected, look at the tree of believers that was developed. You are one of the birds in this tree if you live a believer's life. You are to be a seed sower AND a harvester. Where do you miss living these stories out in your life? Where have you failed to see Jesus' teaching and encouragement in your own life? What might need to change?

Tuesday, March 29th – Mark 10:17-27

Everyone wants to be part of the kingdom of God so that when we die, we will not go to hell. But living a believer's life that is only focused on going to heaven and not hell misses the point. It may land you outside of heaven without realizing it. Today's teaching points this out. Read verse 17. What is the man interested in? Now read Jesus' answer in verses 18-19. What does Jesus instruct the man? Why do you think he lists these things? What benefit do they have before God? How does the man respond to Jesus' teaching (vs. 20)? Do you sense some excitement like he may have it made and secured? Now read verse 21. Why do you think Jesus felt genuine love for the man and why do you think he gave this next instruction? What did the man choose? Treasure in heaven or worldly treasure (vs. 22)? The man wanted to secure his place in the kingdom in the future while living a worldly life now. How does Jesus take what just happened and make it an opportunity for teaching? What is the lesson and who is he instructing (vss. 23-25)? Why does Jesus teach this? What happens when we rely on how much money we have and our ability to take care of things on our own? Where does this leave God? Is this worldly logic even true? And yet so many in the church cling to it. Our money is our all in all, not God. How do the disciples respond to this news, especially since they lived in a culture that believed if you were rich, you were being blessed by God? Ponder your attachment to your income, your home, your car, your independence, etc. What wouldn't you give up to be in the Kingdom of God now? In other words, what do you rely on more than God? What is first over God? This maturing requires brutal honesty. Spend some time in prayer and let the Holy Spirit show you where you might be walking away from God rather than running towards him.

Wednesday, March 30th – Luke 10:8-9

We return today to Jesus sending out the twelve disciples on their first mission trip. What are the instructions upon entering a town? Have you ever wondered why they are given eating instructions? Jesus wants them to be thankful for what they are provided and not be a burden on others. What is meant when they say the Kingdom of God is near? What does this tell us about the Kingdom of God? Is it far off in the future? Is it in the sky outside the galaxy? Who carries the Kingdom of God to make it near folks? Wherever the believer goes, the Kingdom of God is near to those that surround them. You are kingdom bearers. Your words, actions, lifestyle, all should present the Kingdom of God. Whom are you bringing the Kingdom of God near to and how is that good news for them? Do they know when you are near them that the Kingdom is near, too? If not, why not? What might need to change? How might you need to mature in this area?

Thursday, March 31st – Luke 17:20-21

We will continue today with locating the Kingdom of God. Read the verses for today. What is the question of the religious leaders? What appears to be their understanding of the Kingdom of God? If they are asking, they must think it is not there with them at that time. The kicker is that they are asking Emanuel, "God in the flesh." What does Jesus' answer tell us about the Kingdom of God and its location? It's not a location per se, but rather a movement. As the believers, those who embody the Kingdom of God, move, so the kingdom moves with them. When we go out to pray over neighborhoods, we are taking the Kingdom of God into places that may not be aware. When we go out to eat, or to visit friends, we take the Kingdom of God into those places. Wherever the church is on the move in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Kingdom of God is on the move. Reflect on your life over the past ten years. Is this how you have lived? How might you grow up into this reality? What might you need to start doing? What might you need to leave behind? Pray and ask God to help you see and understand how he needs you to live a believer's life in the Kingdom of God today!

Friday, April 1st – John 3:3-8

We have talked a lot this week about the Kingdom of God and how it exists right now within us and among us. Today's text teaches us how it is in us but not in everyone. Jesus answers Nicodemus in verse 3 about what being born again allows people to do. So, if they are non-believers, not born again, can they see the Kingdom of God as the Kingdom of God? No. How does Nicodemus respond to Jesus' statement (vs. 4)? Nicodemus just returns to science-of-the-day reality. Does Jesus take the bait and back down or does he press in, standing his ground (vss. 5-8)? According to Jesus, what requirements are necessary to enter the Kingdom of God (vs. 5)? Where does this birth come from? Is it human made (vs. 6)? In verses 7-8 Jesus describes how this birth takes place and spreads. Is it by works or by the works of the Spirit? Ask yourself today if you are "born in the Spirit." If you have been baptized, you are born of water, but do you have the Holy Spirit in you? What is the sign God gives you that you are born in the Spirit? How does this affirm that you bring the Kingdom of God with you wherever you go? If you are not sure, then speak with Pastor Shirley and let's get that taken care of today. What a great first step in living a believer's life in the Kingdom of God! Come Holy Spirit. Rain down on your people.

Saturday, April 2nd - For tomorrow, please read Matthew 14:25-33.