

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, April 11th – Psalm 118:14-29

This week we will focus on the believer's life in praise and joy. We will start with Psalm 118, which is the Psalm being sung by the crowds on Palm Sunday. Let us start with verses 14-18. What is the Psalmist singing about? God gave victory to him. Reading verses 17 and 18, what victory was received? Consider how this is an appropriate Psalm for Holy Week. Will we not receive the same victory? Without Jesus we deserve the punishment, but Jesus took it for us. We live because Jesus lives. We are victorious because Jesus is victorious. As you move to verses 19-21, what is the scene that is set and what will happen on the other side of the gate? Kings when victorious in battle would return home through the gates as victors. They took the credit but who gets the credit from the Psalmist? Our lives of joy and praise are not for what we do in our power but what Jesus has done for us. This ties into verses 22-24. All three synoptic Gospels have Jesus quoting these verses. Acts, Ephesians and 1 Peter also quote these verses. Who is the cornerstone and who were the builders that rejected it? Now we have seen and that is why we have verse 24. How does verse 24 tie into Holy Week and Easter? Verses 25-26 are the words we see recorded in each Gospel, describing Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday). Hosanna means "save us." Consider that those shouting at the time of Jesus had no idea of how Jesus was going to save them. Consider how many people today have no idea that Jesus saved them as well. Verses 27-29 are a doxology of praise. Read these verses out loud and carry them with you as you go about your day. No matter what happens today – make them your song of joy and praise.

Tuesday, April 12th – Romans 5:1-5

Yesterday we talked about how praise and joy do not depend on our circumstances. This is because they are based on facts outside our circumstances. How does Paul explain this to be the case (vss. 1-2)? Undeserved privilege are mighty words that describe our reality, no matter what is happening around us or to us. What does learning to rejoice in trials and tribulations do and why should we rejoice in these trials and tribulations (vss. 3-4)? God uses everything we encounter to grow us up in faith. How do we know that God loves and understands us, even when trials and problems occur (vs. 5)? He even loves and understands us through them! Turn to the Holy Spirit the next time you face a trial or tribulation. Rejoice with Him that God has already made peace with you and that He is maturing your faith through these difficult times. Spend time in praise and adoration of your God, just like Paul teaches today!

Wednesday, April 13th – Romans 14:17-19

Today we will stay with Paul and three power-packed verses. What does Paul say a Kingdom life is and is not (vs. 17)? How does your believer's life line up with Paul's description? If you are not sure, then verse 18 gives you more clarification about the believer's lifestyle. How does your lifestyle line up with this? Are you serving Christ with goodness, peace, and joy? If you are living like this, who will you please? As you read verse 19, what does Paul instruct the members of the church to do? How does this build up the church? How does this honor God? Consider recent conversations you have had with people in the church. Did they build people up in the faith or tear them down? What would it look like to be a church that held each other accountable in love, but built each other up? How is that living in joy and praise?

Thursday, April 14th – Hebrews 12:1-4 Maundy Thursday service tonight 6:30 pm

Seldom do we think about joy and praise in times of suffering or struggles. And yet that is what we are going to do today – how to think about and actually do joy and praise in our difficult times. How can we do this? First off, who is cheering us on according to our text today (vs. 1a)? To stay "in the race," what are we encouraged to do (vss. 1b-2a)? We heard this last week when dealing with doubts – keep your eyes on Jesus. He is the author of our faith and our example of looking to the joy we have ahead. As you read the rest of verses 2 through 3, notice what Jesus endured. Despite the shame and hostility that the created world heaped upon their creator, he endured, looking to what was coming beyond the cross. And then the writer reminds us of why we, too, can endure and continue the race with joy and praise in verse 4. Why is this possible? We endure the suffering and struggles because there is joy and the ability to praise Jesus, the author of faith, who has set us the example. More personally, how do you handle struggles and suffering? Do you have joy from looking into Jesus' face or have you looked away in despair? See you tonight for Holy Thursday worship!

Friday, April 15th – James 1:2-4 Good Friday Service tonight at 7:00 pm in Sanctuary

As we remember the suffering of Jesus today for our sins, we turn to James who instructs us about how we are to view our suffering. How are we to see trials and troubles and suffering in our lives (vs. 2)? There is a reason for this. What does James say is the reason (vs. 3)? Endurance is part of maturing in the faith. We all need to develop endurance, so that we can move faithfully through difficult times in our lives. And there WILL BE difficult times! How will we know when we have established maturity in this area of endurance (vs. 4)? When endurance is fully developed, we become complete and perfect, needing nothing. Why do you think he says that? What will we have that will complete us and allow for joy and praise to exist, no matter what our circumstances? Pray over this today, asking God to mature you in this way in the power of His Holy Spirit. See you at the foot of the cross tonight.

Saturday, April 16th - For tomorrow, please read Luke 19:28-43.