

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 4th – Matthew 6:31-34

Every time I read this text I think of the song, “Don’t worry, be happy!” Sounds sort of “pie-in-the-sky” and it is from a worldly perspective. It is also from a Biblical perspective. Yes, Jesus tells us not to worry, but he is going to give us instructions of what to do instead of worry. Read our text for today. What are the worries we are to let go of according to Jesus and why (vss. 31-32a)? Basically, Jesus is saying to not be like everyone else in the world. What should we do instead (vs. 32b)? Seeking the Kingdom of God means it is here and now, not somewhere else, someday. And living in righteousness in the Kingdom means we live in the righteousness of God. Not what we think is right and good, but what God says is right and good. When we practice doing this what happens (vs. 32b)? Our needs are met. What is your deepest need? It is the need for God. How often we forget that! Now read verses 33-34. What is Jesus teaching? Can you do anything about tomorrow? Do you even know if you have a tomorrow? So why worry about something that may not happen? Read that last line again. What will today have? TROUBLES! Yep, even the believer’s life will suffer troubles. Nevertheless, seek for the Kingdom of God and live righteously. Taking your eyes off your troubles and setting them on God brings you into the transforming loving presence of God. Have you ever considered what brings on worry? Worry is an indicator of doubt. Don’t doubt. Go and seek the Kingdom of God every moment of today and stop worrying. The Kingdom is here and now.

Tuesday, April 5th – Matthew 21:18-22

Today we shift from worry to contrasting doubt to faith. As we begin, what happens that sets the stage for the lesson (vss. 18-19)? When you read these two verses (no more) what are your initial thoughts of Jesus cursing the tree and the tree’s response? What was the disciple’s response (vs. 20)? Now consider your response. Are you amazed or is this a “you had to be there” moment? It is pretty amazing that Jesus’ words caused the tree to wither before their very eyes. So, what truth does Jesus share with his disciples about this event (vs. 21)? Now consider the last time you asked a mountain to move. Did it? Why not? James says to ask for wisdom, but don’t be double-minded. Double-minded is hedging your bets. Hedging your bets is an indicator that there is doubt. Don’t be double-minded. We are not to have faith and doubt. Doubt creeps up, but it doesn’t have to take hold. What is the promise when we begin to overcome our doubts (vs. 22)? Is Jesus speaking of material things more than our necessary food, clothing, and shelter? What would it be to have faith with no doubt? If you are not sure, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal this to you. I think this would honor God.

Wednesday, April 6th – Mark 9:14-26

Too many times I see that people who are not healed are blamed for not having enough faith. That is sad. Let’s see what Jesus says and does in this regard. How does our lesson today begin? What is the problem (vss. 14-18)? There is arguing. There is a need for healing. There is a concerned father and possessed son. What is Jesus’ answer to this mess (vs. 19)? Why do you think Jesus said that? Instead of healing they were arguing. What happens next in the story (vss. 20-22)? How did the evil spirit react? What does the boy’s father ask of Jesus? From everything his father said, what did Jesus pick up on (vs. 23)? Notice that the boy’s symptoms were not a concern for Jesus, but the father revealed his doubts. The father then responds to Jesus’ observation. What does the father say (vs. 24)? Notice the father doesn’t deny doubt but asks for help in dealing with it. Let’s face it, he came with faith and belief in his heart and the disciples came up short. Doubt existed for a reason in this man. How does Jesus deal with the man’s response (vss. 25-27)? How many people were healed in these verses? Not just the son, but more than likely the doubt of the father was healed, too. Then there were the on-lookers and the religious leaders who were arguing. How often we just see one piece of the healing and not the broader picture? We close this story out with Jesus with his disciples. What do they ask Jesus (vs. 28)? And what is Jesus’ response (vs. 29)? And we are back at prayer. How is your prayer life? What is your level of doubt? Where do you need to be like the father and declare honestly before God, “I believe, help my unbelief?” Let that be your prayer the rest of the week.

Thursday, April 7th – John 12:37-43

What is the cause of unbelief? Why would someone not believe something? In the vast majority of cases, it is doubt that creates unbelief. How does our text today begin (vs. 37)? Some things never change, do they? How does John confirm that some things never change (vss. 38-41)? Does God harden hearts or does this mean that God allows for those who have hard hearts to remain that way? He sends Jesus filled with the Spirit who works wonders before their very eyes, and yet, no one buys it. How does doubt play into this unbelief? We learn that not everyone refused to believe. What does John say about them (vss. 42-43)? Why would you want human praise over God’s praise? How does doubt tie into fear? If they fear being kicked out of the synagogue what doubts about God do they have? Now look at your life. What fears do you have? What doubts do these fears stem from and what is available to you to release fear and doubt? Pray about it. (Oops !– that reads like an answer.)

Friday, April 8th – Mark 11:22-25

We close this week out with a direct teaching on faith and doubt by Jesus. Read these verses. We are back to throwing mountains into the sea. What are the three things Jesus says must be part of this (vss. 22-23 and 25)? You must have faith that it will happen. You must not have doubt in your heart for it to happen. You must forgive those against whom you are holding a grudge, so God can forgive you. Forgiveness (right relationships) is a must in this mix. When this is all pulled together with an eye to glorify God, what will happen (vs. 24)? Again, are we speaking of material things or spiritual things? Things to improve the world and its inhabitants? Or are we speaking of things that make your personal lives easier, more fun, with more things? Which of these options do you think brings glory to God? Spend time today asking God to show you where your faith is strong, where your doubt exists, and where unforgiveness may reside deep within you. Pray for healing and help in these areas and seek out God and His Kingdom every moment.

Saturday, April 9th - For tomorrow, please read Luke 19:28-43.