

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 8th – Matthew 2:1-8

Jesus is called a king well before Palm Sunday and the crucifixion. It starts with prophecy before his birth and at his birth as well. Who are those who verbally declare Jesus as a King (vss. 1-2)? Who is upset by the request to find the newborn King and how does he address the issue (vss. 3-4)? What is the response of the priests and religious leaders (vss. 5-6)? This prophecy actually comes from Micah, not Numbers. So, what is the sign that is prompting all of this commotion (vs. 2)? What does Herod ask the Wiseman about in verse 7? Now read Numbers 24:17. What is Balaam's prophecy? Do you see a consistency over a thousand years in God's establishment of His Kingdom here on earth? What does Herod instruct the wise men to do (vs. 8)? Do you believe that Herod is really interested in worshipping someone who will replace him? How are we sometimes like Herod, when it comes to worshipping Jesus? When do we think we are King and will handle things? When do we fail to submit to the Lordship of Jesus over our lives? Spend some time pondering where you like to be King and repent of that desire. Also, spend some time in worship of Jesus.

Tuesday, April 9th – Mark 15:1-2 and 16-20

Yesterday we read of the announcement of the newborn King. Today we look at the end of the story and how the declaration of being the King of the Jews plays out. It is a stark contrast of the beginning of Jesus' life. We open up with a discussion between Pilate and Jesus. What does Pilate ask Jesus (vss. 1-2)? How did Jesus answer? We read yesterday about wise men coming to worship the King of the Jews. What happens 33 years later (vss. 16-19)? While they have the title right, they have everything else wrong. What does this lead to (vs. 20)? Consider our culture today, even with some in the church. How is the King of the Jews mocked today? Do you see the connection of mocking to crucifying? We can discard too easily that which we mock and give it no value. This should make us pause and consider if we find ourselves mocking Jesus. What do we discount that He commands? What do we choose to ignore? Where might our choices and behavior be getting ready to crucify the one true and eternal King? How might things be, if we lived as Jesus is our King?

Wednesday, April 10th – Revelation 17:11-14

Before we journey to the cross and tomb, we need to read about the final victory Jesus will have and why. We are actually jumping into the middle of a prophecy about the great prostitute, who in John's time was Rome. This text is both metaphor and reality at the same time. Who will rise to worldly power (vs. 11)? The Scarlet Beast is a king, but has others under him. How many rulers will this king have (vs. 12)? What will they agree to regarding the Scarlet Beast (vs. 13)? As we read on, who are they going to go to battle against (vs. 14a)? Who is the Lamb? Who will win this battle and why (vss. 14b)? Now consider all the politics and politicians today. They are here today and gone tomorrow. They will make mistakes, and some will govern poorly. But notice that they will just govern. They do not rule. The only one who rules is the Lamb, Jesus. The only one worthy of our all is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, for He has won the battle and the rest of these disputes are nothing but skirmishes. So, sleep well tonight. Your King reigns now and forever. Amen. Now we can journey to the cross in hope and love.

Thursday, April 11th – Matthew 27:39-44

Today we look at Matthew's Gospel and the mocking of Jesus. Again, Jesus is hanging on the cross. Read today's text. What is the same as yesterday's text? What is different? Verse 40 is particular to Matthew, because as you remember from the week of false accusations, this was the accusation that got the ball rolling, bringing us to this point. Today let's notice that Jesus, the Son of God, is not the only part of the Trinity being mocked. Who is being mocked in verse 43? What do we know from our lesson on temptations about testing God? Note that these are the religious leaders falling to this level. What is the warning to us? What do we need to do differently, so we don't act as they did towards anyone?

Friday, April 12th – Galatians 6:7-10

We close this week with Paul's discussion of mocking God in his letter to the Galatians. This word offers a warning and an encouragement. What does Paul sternly caution us about (vss. 6-8a)? In this warning, what does mocking God look like? Paul is saying that if you sow sin into your life, thinking God doesn't care, you are mocking God's justice. But you will also suffer that justice, which is decay and death. But there is encouragement from Paul as well. What is the good encouragement Paul gives the readers (vss. 8b-9)? When will we reap (harvest) the benefits of pleasing the Holy Spirit? What would giving up look like? How do we sow good seeds in the Spirit (vs. 10)? We too easily give up, when things become a struggle. What if we committed these verses to memory and when the struggles come, we were encouraged to sow seeds of pleasing the Spirit and looking for that harvest, rather than returning to sowing seeds of sin? Note, we are expected to bring in the harvest as well as plant seeds, so be looking for both. Next week we enter Holy Week where everything we have studied will come to pass. Please plan on making the whole journey with us. You will be most blessed if you do.

Saturday, April 13th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Matthew 27:27-31.