

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, May 10th – Psalm 22

We start this week with Psalm 22. This Psalm is used extensively in Matthew 27. But today, let us look at it through the eyes of David. Let us see what it reveals to us about God and humanity and then we can look at how this points to Jesus. Let's start by reading the Psalm straight through. This Psalm has both gut-wrenching pleas for help from a horrendous situation and highest praise and adoration for God. What is David's plea to God (vss. 1-2)? Why is this plea being made? What are David's circumstances (vss. 6-8 and 11-21)? Notice that interspersed between the pleas and descriptions are reminders about who God is and what God does. What do these reminders tell us about God (vss. 3-5 and 9-10)? It is almost as if David needs to remind himself of these things, so he doesn't go too far off the deep end. It allows him to face the reality he is in yet keeps him centered on God. As we reach verse 22, we see a major shift in this Psalm. What does David do in verses 21-22? Why the shift (vs. 24)? David finishes this Psalm with solid worship and praise. Make a list of all the things David praises God for and make note of who will continue this praise. What does this Psalm reveal to us about God? Notice David declares God is always listening, is always there for his people. Yet, there are times we may not sense the presence and we may feel abandoned. That is why these psalms are so important. They remind us as they did to David that God is here, he sees and hears us. What does this reveal about us as humanity? Now go back and read this Psalm again from the lens of Jesus' arrest, beating and crucifixion. You might want to look at Matthew 27 too, to see Matthew's use of this Psalm. How does Jesus bring a fuller meaning to this Psalm?

Tuesday, May 11th – Psalm 23

Today we shift gears and will read one of the most famous and well-known texts of the Bible, the 23rd Psalm. It is important to not read this Psalm as a song for the dead or dying but rather a song for how to live your life. Take a moment and read through this Psalm, looking at its instructions for life. As we read verse 1, if you are with God, what do you have? In other words, the LORD is all you need. You may want more but you do not need more. We need to learn to be content. Now since all we need is the LORD, then the LORD must be providing for our needs. Make a list of the things the Shepherd does for the sheep. It is verse 4 that makes this a funeral psalm. There actually is a "Valley of Death" in Israel. A treacherous and narrow path that shepherds had to lead their flocks through to get to a new meadow for feeding. It was a narrow path that was cliff-like in that one wrong step and the sheep could fall to their deaths. What does verse 4 tell us about the sheep with the Shepherd on this road and why do they not fear? Moving to verse 5, what other things does the shepherd do for the sheep? Again, the shepherd met the needs of the sheep. When we live and follow the Shepherd (the LORD), what will our lives be like (vs. 6)? What does this reveal to you about God? What does it tell you about yourself? Now read John 10:11-14. What does this Psalm tell you about Jesus?

Wednesday, May 12th – Psalm 24

Today's Psalm has been referred to as a "liturgical" Psalm in that some scholars believe that it may have been one of the songs sung as the Ark of the Covenant was returned to Jerusalem. Read through this Psalm before we begin. What does David declare in the beginning of this Psalm (vss. 1-2)? Now that we have established who God is, David turns to humanity, specifically Israel. What questions does David ask and what answers does he provide (vss. 3-6)? Now if this was a psalm written for the return of the Ark, imagine the scene of those acknowledging God before the Ark, which has the mercy seat of God on it, and the crowds singing and worshipping with David. Do you feel the joy and awe welling up inside you? Now keeping with that imagery, coming up the road to the entrance of Jerusalem, read verses 7-10. It would be the gates that one passed through to enter Jerusalem. As they carried the Ark with the seat of mercy – where God was seated – how do these verses relay that information, that the King of Glory is entering in? What does this tell you about God? What does this reveal about those who follow and served the King of glory? How does this point to Jesus (think Palm Sunday)? Do you sense the presence of God in this scene? A reminder that God is always here.

Thursday, May 13th – Psalm 25

Today we remember a specific style of Psalms. Psalm 25 is referred to as an acrostic psalm, meaning that each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Now this psalm is not a consistent acrostic, in that there are a couple letters missing and a couple duplicated. But this one is the most consistent thus far. We will also see the format is different than those we have so far seen. Let's start by reading the Psalm. What do verses 1-3 tell us about those who trust in God. Since there is this trust, what does David ask of God (vss. 4-7)? Why is David able to ask for these things? Why does David have trust (vss. 8-10)? Next David asks for forgiveness (vs. 11) and then shares what the relationship with a faithful God and faithful people looks like. How does David describe this relationship (vss. 12-15)? Now the Psalm shifts again. What is David seeking in verses 16-21? How does this Psalm end (vs. 22)? What is different about this Psalm than the others we have read, where there were penitence and pleas for help? What does this reveal to you about who God is? What does it reveal about humanity? How does this Psalm point to or reveal Jesus?

Friday, May 14th – Psalm 26

As we close this week out, let's start by reading through Psalm 26. The theme this week was to remember that when things go wrong, and they will, God is still with the godly. Psalm 26 is believed to have been written during the days of Absalom's rebellion. What does David declare about himself in verses 1-3? What evidence does he give for his declaration of innocence (vss. 4-8)? Consider the location of God from David's viewpoint in these verses. They point to God being pretty close at hand, even while all these problems are going on. What does David then ask of God and why (vss. 9-10)? On what basis does David ask God for this (vs. 11)? Now that David has made his prayer and desires known to God, how does David end this Psalm (vs. 12)? What does this Psalm reveal to you about God and God's presence? What does this reveal about humanity? Notice that according to David, God deals with sinners, but the rebellious are treated differently than the godly. Which category would you be in? What does this reveal about Jesus? Consider when Jesus was walking the earth, who were the ones with dirty hands and schemes? Who were those who lived into the best integrity that they could? Did Jesus live in integrity?

Saturday, May 15th – For tomorrow, please read Psalm 27.