

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

As the people of God we should be committed to reading Scripture every day. Here are daily readings and questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and we would be honored to provide one. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number of the book. 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, August 19th – Acts 13:44-49

We will finish our series this week by looking at why “Believing Out Loud” matters. This is true because lives are at stake. It matters because people’s eternity is at stake. The Book of Acts is full of stories showing us why it matters. Today we will look at one of these. Paul and Barnabas are on their first mission trip. By this point they have arrived in Antioch of Pisidia. They had been at the synagogue a week earlier and were invited back. What was the response to their previous teachings (vs. 44)? But not everyone was happy. How did some feel about this and why did they feel this way (vs. 45)? Since it was rejected by these folks, what is the next step for Paul and Barnabas (vss. 46-47)? In verse 47 Paul is quoting Isaiah 49:6. They were fulfilling the scriptures about being light and salvation to the gentiles. What was the response to this change of events (vss. 48-49)? To whom did the Good News of Jesus matter? Notice to whom it was first offered. What does this tell us about our witnessing? Who might we be sharing with who is rejecting the Good News? Who might be those who while overhearing might be among those who accept? When reading the New Testament, especially the Book of Acts, we see how many reject the Good News and how the least likely cling to and accept it. Spend time in prayer today and listen for the Holy Spirit to share with you to whom it is you may need to bring the Good News. Be prepared to have it be someone or some group that you did not expect. But when you are told, make sure you Believe Out Loud!

Tuesday, August 20th – Romans 10:1-11

As we continue today about why Believing Out Loud matters, we turn to Paul’s letter to the Romans. In Chapter 10, he gives us very clear reasons as to why these things matter, and why it is imperative that each of us Believe Out Loud. As you read verses 1-4, what is Paul’s desire and how is it working out? What are some Israelites doing wrong (vs. 3)? What is the only way to be right with God (vs. 4)? If we are only following the law, what is the only way to be right with God (vs. 5)? What are the chances of that happening, that you will perfectly live out every law? But faith in Jesus is how to be made right with God. What is the wrong way to have faith in Jesus (vss. 6-7)? What is the right way to practice and understand faith (vs. 8)? So, what exactly is our faith in regarding Jesus (vss. 9-11)? These verses give us two things. The first is declaring Jesus is Lord. This means we no longer live for ourselves and for our own selfish desires. We should be living only to serve Jesus. Secondly, we believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. We believe in a resurrected living Lord. Remember the Good News we had a couple of weeks ago? This is how we live into the Good News. Consider how these two things tie into and support the full Good News. It matters that we know and do this. It matters that we Believe Out Loud, because we must say with our mouths that Jesus is Lord! And then we must live it out in front of those to whom we have declared it. Too often we think we can just live it and somehow others will just figure it out. We must *SPEAK IT OUT LOUD!* To whom will you declare out loud today that Jesus is your Lord? Will your life and actions match your words?

Wednesday, August 21st – Romans 10:12-13

Building on what we read yesterday, to whom is given the opportunity to declare Jesus as Lord and risen from the grave (vs. 12)? Why are they given the same opportunity? It is important to remember here that Israel was the “chosen” children of God. If everyone can get “chosen,” they lose their “special” status. It is easy for us to see the error of Israel’s ways, but have you ever considered how you might be falling into the same trap? The good news is for everyone, even those we may not like or feel comfortable around. How do we know this for sure (vs. 13)? This full acceptance of the perceived outsiders is where most of the rebellion from the Jews comes from and where they felt a perceived threat. They were trying to keep the faith pure by not letting in outsiders or if they did, letting them in as “lesser-than” believers. To throw open the gates and allow everyone in makes them *equal* to everyone else as well. They lose their special status. Consider what holds you back from Believing Out Loud. Could there be a touch of this in you? We all have it. Being aware of it helps us to not give into it. Spend some time today thinking about whom you speak with at worship on Sundays. Whom do you sit with? Whom do you ignore? And why?

Pray asking God to forgive you and give you the boldness to Believe Out Loud to everyone.

Thursday, August 22nd – Romans 10:14-15

So far this week we have seen to whom Believing Out Loud matters, why it matters and how when we our failing to Believe Out Loud matters. Today we see how it matters and how it directly applies to us. Paul applies a series of questions which leads to an answer. These questions are based on everything we have studied thus far this week. What is the first question Paul asks (vs. 14a)? Consider that we have read that confessing our belief that Jesus is Lord and believing he is risen from the dead is what is needed to be saved. But how can anyone call on Jesus if they don’t believe? Good question. Then Paul goes on with the second question. What is it (vs. 14b)? Can’t believe in what you don’t know can you? So how do you see this tying into Believing Out Loud? If you don’t TELL them they will not know. They will not pick it up just because you are nice to them or do nice things. You have to TELL them Out Loud! But this leads to the third question, which is... (vs. 15)? To be sent is imperative. And what does Paul say about those who are sent (vs. 15)? On Sunday, Pastor Shirley gave you your marching orders. She, on behalf of the church of Jesus Christ, has officially sent you to Believe Out Loud in sharing the Good News, so that others might believe and be saved. If you don’t think Pastor Shirley has the authority to do that, then I refer you back to Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8, where Jesus gives the marching orders to those who believe. Listen to Jesus’ marching orders. So, who do your lovely feet need to go today to deliver some good news?

Friday, August 23rd – Romans 10:16-21

Today we conclude, at least for now, our series on Believing Out Loud. We will learn some of the realities of things that may happen, when we try to share our beliefs out loud. Read verse 16. What is the first problem mentioned when sharing the Good News Out Loud? Now we need to keep our context in place. Paul is writing to Romans, some of whom may have been Jewish. We know Paul experienced that not all Jews received the Good News. In fact, many of the Jews stoned him, hunted him down, arrested him, etc. How does Paul explain this? He starts again with questions and answers. What is the first question and answer (vss. 17-18)? They (the Jews) heard. The message has gone everywhere, just like the Psalms said it would. So what is the next logical question and response, regarding the rejection of the Good News (vs. 19)? So, they were warned in the wilderness by Moses that God was going to open it to everyone and he said they would be jealous. Remember Wednesday’s study. That is why it is important to examine ourselves to make sure we are not falling into this trap. Remember this text, as we will be covering it on Sunday. What reminder of Isaiah does Paul give us regarding those who don’t welcome the Good News of Jesus (vs. 20)? But this is not new for Israel. How does Paul prove that (vs. 21)? You see, some folks are going to rebel for different reasons and not accept the Good News. Once they are rejected, Paul and Barnabas worked with those who were interested, nurturing and maturing them in the faith before moving on. So, when we go out, we need to pay attention to two things. Those who reject the Good News, to leave them be. For those who are interested, share, nurture, and help mature them in the faith, so that they can Believe Out Loud too. Then move on and find the next person with whom to share the Good News Out Loud. This is our life in the Kingdom of God. It is sharing what we Believe Out Loud, inviting as many as we can and not being upset, discouraged or frustrated when we are rejected. Paul had been there. Barnabas had been there. Heck, even Jesus was rejected. Keep on sharing with anyone else who expresses interest. Pray asking God to help you be more intentional in applying what we have learned so that you may start to Believe Out Loud in joy and to honor God. That is a prayer God will answer.

Saturday, August 24th – To prepare for tomorrow’s worship, please read Deuteronomy 34:1-8.