

Daily Walk With God

Week 8

Week 8 Day 1

Readings: Matthew 14:22-36; Acts 17:16-34; Psalm 44; Proverbs 11:16-21; Leviticus 8-9.

Focus Verse: "For I will not trust in my bow, Nor shall my sword save me." (Psalm 44:6)

Key Concept: Jesus Faced Tough Situations with Prayer (Matthew 14:23). The setting of this night of prayer tells us a great deal about the value of communicating with the Heavenly Father. The previous day had brought news of the tragic death of John the Baptist (14:12-13), and had been a day of great miracles, including healings (14:14) and feeding more than 5000 people (14:15-21). The next day would include walking on water (14:25) and some tough teaching that caused most of His followers to abandon Him (cf. John 6). Jesus, who knew better than anyone else the value of communicating with the Father, faced such stressful times with prayer in the seclusion of a mountain. We don't know if He slept that night, but we do know that He prayed.

Action: Pray

Week 8 Day 2

Readings: Matthew 15:1-9; Acts 18:1-17; Psalm 45; Proverbs 11:22-26; Leviticus 10-12.

Focus Verse: "Then Moses said to Aaron, `This is what the Lord spoke, saying: "By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified.'" So Aaron held his peace." (Leviticus 10:3)

Key Concept: The Sin of Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1-7). God's word is provided for obedience. When these priests neglected that fact and offered fire "which He had not commanded them," they suffered the consequence of their sin. God's judgments are not always so sudden, but He does reward righteousness and punish disobedience. His word is revealed so we will know how to show our love toward Him by serving Him.

Action: Do all that God instructs--No more and no less!

Week 8 Day 3

Readings: Matthew 15:10-20; Acts 18:18-28; Psalm 46; Proverbs 11:27-31; Leviticus 13.

Focus Verse: "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" (Psalm 46:10)

Key Concept: Trusting in Riches (Proverbs 11:28). The Bible is replete with warnings about trusting in riches, even calling it a form of idolatry (cf. Colossians 3:5). Yet many people, including Christians, sacrifice things of real value to make money, to save money, and to advance in careers to make more money. On the altar of materialism we burn up our time, our energy, our brethren and our own families.

Action: Arrange today's priorities to seek the Lord first, and keep your eyes on the heavenly goal.

Week 8 Day 4

Readings: Matthew 15:21-28; Acts 19:1-10; Psalm 47; Proverbs 12:1-6; Leviticus 14.

Focus Verse: "Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid." (Proverbs 12:1)

Key Concept: Courage to Change (Acts 19:1-5). This passage tells of about a dozen men who learned that they needed to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Instead of arguing that their previous baptism was sufficient, they promptly obeyed God. Many today also need to be baptized in the manner and for the reason God has revealed (cf. Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21).

Action: Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). If you have already obeyed--share the news! Many people have never carefully considered this instruction.

Week 8 Day 5

Readings: Matthew 15:29-39; Acts 19:11-22; Psalm 48; Proverbs 12:7-11; Leviticus 15-16.

Focus Verse: "So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed." (Acts 19:20)

Key Concept: Fruits of Repentance (Acts 19:18-20). The people of Ephesus showed that their repentance was genuine by burning very valuable books that they had used in pursuit of evil. Sometimes the same dramatic changes are needed today. We cannot hold on to the ways of the world. Is it too much to give up the books, magazines, records and tapes that encourage evil thoughts and practices? Whatever draws us back to the old life of sin needs to be rejected. Heaven is worth the sacrifice.

Action: Honestly determine what stands between you and God--and get rid of it!

Week 8 Day 6

Readings: Matthew 16:1-12; Acts 19:23-41; Psalm 49; Proverbs 12:12-16; Leviticus 17-18.

Focus Verse: "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise." (Proverbs 12:15)

Key Concept: Beware of the Leaven of Error (Matthew 16:6-12). Jesus used the opportunity of physical hunger to teach a spiritual lesson. Spiritual hunger is not to be satisfied with doctrines of men, but with the word of God. There will always be attractive false doctrines. We must distinguish truth from error so that the leaven of false doctrine does not permeate and defile our lives.

Action: Spend time today in careful study of the will of God, so that you will be better equipped to discern false doctrines.

Week 8 Day 7

Readings: Matthew 16:13-20; Acts 20:1-16; Psalm 50; Proverbs 12:17-22; Leviticus 19-20.

Focus Verse: "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight." (Proverbs 12:22)

Key Concept: Peter's Great Confession (Matthew 16:13-20). Then, as now, there were many different attitudes toward Jesus. Peter confessed the truth--"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." When he carefully followed the things revealed by God (v. 17), Peter always manifested greatness. In fact, it is hard to imagine a more significant confession than the one he uttered here. However, when Peter listened to the things of men, he fought against Jesus (Matthew 16:23). If we will stick with God's word, we will not fail.

Action: Confess Christ before others--they need to know about Him!