

Daily Walk With God

Week 10

Week 10 Day 1

Readings: Matthew 19:1-12; Acts 23:1-10; Psalm 58; Proverbs 14:15-21; Numbers 3.

Focus Verse: "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."
(Matthew 19:6)

Key Concept: The Permanency of Marriage (Matthew 19:4-6). As the Pharisees attempted to test Jesus, they succeeded in accenting their own failures. They tried to set Jesus at odds with some of the prevailing doctrines of the day, but instead they showed that their traditions contradicted the will of God. Since the creation of Adam and Eve, God has intended that marriage be a lifelong union of one man and one woman. "What God has joined together, let not man separate."

Action: Respect the permanence of marriage and help build solid families. If you are married, give every effort to making your marriage secure as you help your spouse reach heaven. If you have children, teach them that marriage is for life. If you plan to marry, make sure that you and the person you would marry understand this concept.

Week 10 Day 2

Readings: Matthew 19:13-22; Acts 23:11-22; Psalm 59; Proverbs 14:22-28; Numbers 4.

Focus Verse: "In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty." (Proverbs 14:23)

Key Concept: The Devil Will Pay Your Price (Matthew 19:16-22). A rich man was interested in following Jesus. He had demonstrated respect for God's law; what more must be done? Jesus told him he had to let go of accumulated possessions--something he was unwilling to do. Satan found something more important to him than heaven. Satan is always willing to pay as much as necessary to buy the souls of those who do not love the Lord above all.

Action: Be sure your treasures are in heaven.

Week 10 Day 3

Readings: Matthew 19:23-30; Acts 23:23-35; Psalm 60; Proverbs 14:29-35; Numbers 5-6.

Focus Verse: "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34)

Key Concept: The Reward of Those Who Sacrifice (Matthew 19:23-30). This section is a fitting follow-up to the sad story of the rich man (see yesterday's notes). Some will leave all for the Lord. Some cannot be bought at any price--even if they must give up close family ties to serve Jesus. These people will be rewarded in this life and, especially, in eternity.

Action: Keep your focus on the blessings of being in Christ. Don't let Satan distract you with an emphasis on what you have given up. Look at what you've gained!

Week 10 Day 4

Readings: Matthew 20:1-16; Acts 24:1-9; Psalm 61; Proverbs 15:1-6; Numbers 7.

Focus Verse: "So I will sing praise to Your name forever, That I may daily perform my vows." (Psalm 61:8)

Key Concept: Asserting Our "Rights" (Matthew 20:1-16). It is easy, especially in a society that encourages assertiveness and fighting for our rights, to miss the message of this parable. While the principle needs to be applied in various spheres, it is particularly critical that Christians resist the temptation to assert their "rights" to the detriment of their brethren.

Action: Focus today on opportunities and responsibilities. That will make it easier to avoid selfishly demanding "rights."

Week 10 Day 5

Readings: Matthew 20:17-28; Acts 24:10-21; Psalm 62; Proverbs 15:7-12; Numbers 8-9.

Focus Verse: "The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but the heart of the fool does not do so." (Proverbs 15:7)

Key Concept: Not to Be Served, But to Serve (Matthew 20:20-28). The example of Christ shows His expectation of Christians. We are not here to be served--to seek exaltation to places of honor and greatness. We are here to serve--to humbly give of ourselves to benefit others. The world has it backwards, with many people always looking for a way to gain the upper hand. Imitating Jesus requires retraining our attitudes to remove self from the center of our lives. We must follow Jesus instead of the world!

Action: Look for ways that you can unselfishly serve others.

Week 10 Day 6

Readings: Matthew 20:29-34; Acts 24:22-27; Psalm 63; Proverbs 15:13-18; Numbers 10-11.

Focus Verse: "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred." (Proverbs 15:17)

Key Concept: The People Complained (Numbers 11). The Israelites are renowned for their murmuring and complaining in the wilderness. In this case, their complaints reflected weak faith in God's power to provide for them. God did not view their complaining as merely a minor irritation, but as a major crime. There is a lesson here for an age of abundance in which many times we take our blessings for granted. The example of Israel points out the danger of ingratitude. We are to learn from their mistakes.

Action: Count your blessings and thank God for them.

Week 10 Day 7

Readings: Matthew 21:1-11; Acts 25:1-12; Psalm 64; Proverbs 15:19-23; Numbers 12-13.

Focus Verse: "The righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and trust in Him. And all the upright in heart shall glory." (Psalm 64:10)

Key Concept: "We Were Like Grasshoppers" (Numbers 13). Twelve spies were sent to spy out the land God was giving to Israel. They were sent to report on the land, not to determine whether they could take it. That issue should have been settled--God was giving it to them. Ten of the spies turned a nation to faithless cowardice as they forgot God and saw only their own weakness. We make the same mistake today when we fail to meet challenges with God's strength (cf. Philippians 4:13).

Action: Face your challenges with confidence in God's power.