

Daily Walk With God

Week 11

Week 11 Day 1

Readings: Matthew 21:12-17; Acts 25:13-27; Psalm 65; Proverbs 15:24-28; Numbers 14-15.

Focus Verse: "And that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God." (Numbers 15:40)

Key Concept: Presumptuous Sins (Numbers 14:15). These chapters contain two clear illustrations of the danger of presuming to follow our own will, instead of carefully respecting God's will. The first is the failed Israelite attack on the Amalekites and Canaanites. The same people who had been convinced that they could not take Canaan with God's help, now foolishly thought they could conquer it without His aid. They failed! The second example is the seemingly minor offense of picking up sticks on the Sabbath. God ordered the death penalty to remind the people that His law is not to be trampled on with such careless disrespect. His specific laws and penalties are different today, but God still expects us to approach His instructions with reverence.

Action: Test your actions today. Make sure you are respecting God at every step.

Week 11 Day 2

Readings: Matthew 21:18-22; Acts 26:1-11; Psalm 66; Proverbs 15:29-33; Numbers 16.

Focus Verse: "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility." (Proverbs 15:33)

Key Concept: Moses and Aaron Intercede for the Erring (Numbers 16). This chapter tells of a rebellion against Moses and Aaron. God dealt firmly with the rebels, but then more of the Israelites murmured against the God-ordained leaders. God's wrath poured forth, and people died by the thousands. Moses and Aaron could easily have applauded God's justice. Instead, they risked their own lives to rescue the very people who had sinned against them.

Action: Imitate the attitude of Moses and Aaron. Rescue those who have hurt you.

Week 11 Day 3

Readings: Matthew 21:23-32; Acts 26:12-23; Psalm 67; Proverbs 16:1-9; Numbers 17-18.

Focus Verse: "Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth." (Psalm 67:4)

Key Concept: "They Reasoned Among Themselves" (Matthew 21:23-27). Jesus taught these Jewish leaders an important lesson by forcing them to admit their own motives. They were not truth-seekers, but evasive Bible students. They searched the Scriptures, not to know the Lord, but to justify and defend their personal opinions. Sadly, that practice continues today!

Action: Search the Scriptures with an honest heart. Accept God's word as true, even when it disagrees with you!

Week 11 Day 4

Readings: Matthew 21:33-46; Acts 26:24-32; Psalm 68:1-18; Proverbs 16:10-15; Numbers 19-20.

Focus Verse: "A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation." (Psalm 68:5)

Key Concept: "Almost" (Acts 26:28). Agrippa heard the gospel proclaimed by one of the most capable and courageous preachers who ever lived. He was almost persuaded. Paul said that was insufficient. He needed to be altogether persuaded. We don't know whether Agrippa ever became fully persuaded to turn to the Lord. How sad it would be to end one's life almost . . . but lost.

Action: If you're not yet altogether persuaded to become a Christian, begin now to diligently learn what you must do (cf. Acts 2:37).

Week 11 Day 5

Readings: Matthew 22:1-14; Acts 27:1-12; Psalm 68:19-35; Proverbs 16:16-21; Numbers 21.

Focus Verse: "Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits, The God of our salvation!" (Psalm 68:19)

Key Concept: Conditional Cure (Numbers 21). God responded to the complaining of the Israelites by sending a plague of deadly serpents. When the people repented, God instructed Moses to put a "fiery serpent" on a pole "that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live" (v. 8). There was no saving power in the serpent. Looking at it did not merit salvation. Then, as now, salvation was conditional upon obedience of God's commands.

Action: If you've been "bitten" by Satan, look to God by obeying His instructions (cf. Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21).

Week 11 Day 6

Readings: Matthew 22:15-22; Acts 27:13-32; Psalm 69:1-18; Proverbs 16:22-26; Numbers 22.

Focus Verse: "Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones." (Proverbs 16:24)

Key Concept: Looking for a Way to Justify Evil (Numbers 22). Balaam, hoping to get rich by cursing Israel, seemed determined to find a way to justify sin. God had told him not to go with the Moabites, but he kept looking for a way to circumvent that prohibition. He continued "studying the matter," not to seek truth, but to find a loophole (see vv. 18-19). Balaam was a man of iniquity madly in love with the short-term wages of sin. He was not the last of that breed (cf. 2 Peter 2:15-17).

Action: Obey God's instructions--even when He says no!

Week 11 Day 7

Readings: Matthew 22:22-33; Acts 27:33-44; Psalm 69:19-36; Proverbs 16:27-33; Numbers 23-25.

Focus Verse: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." (Proverbs 16:25)

Key Concept: Not Knowing the Scriptures (Matthew 22:22-33). In His response to a question of the Sadducees, Jesus teaches about careful Bible study. He makes His argument from the tense of a verb in a statement made about 1500 years earlier! That statement ("I am the God of Abraham . . .") implies life after death, which implies a resurrection. The Sadducees erred when they missed this implication. Clearly, Jesus considered the Scriptures to be precise and reliable, and He expects us to be careful Bible students!

Action: Spend time today in careful Bible study.