

## Daily Walk With God

### Week 12

#### Week 12 Day 1

**Readings:** Matthew 22:34-46; Acts 28:1-16; Psalm 70; Proverbs 17:1-5; Numbers 26.

**Focus Verse:** "He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished." (Proverbs 17:5)

**Key Concept:** Two Great Commandments (Matthew 22:36-40). There have always been people eager to determine what one thing must be done so they can neglect other instructions of God. Jesus did not make it very easy on such people. He uses two directives to encompass all of the commands of God. Both are commands to love--to do what is in the best interests of the one(s) loved. First, we are to love God with all that we are. Elsewhere He tells us that this alone will entail obedience of all other commands (cf. John 14:15,21,23). Second, He says we must love our neighbors as ourselves. In one statement, He excludes selfishness and requires service. These two instructions truly contain all that God desires of us. They will challenge us to a lifetime of devotion.

**Action:** Love God. Love your neighbor.

#### Week 12 Day 2

**Readings:** Matthew 23:1-12; Acts 28:17-31; Psalm 71; Proverbs 17:6-11; Numbers 27-28.

**Focus Verse:** "And whoever exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Matthew 23:12)

**Key Concept:** Character Above Reputation (Matthew 23:1-12). Reputation is what people think you are. Character is what you are. Many people fall into the trap that snared the Pharisees. They were intensely concerned with their reputations, desiring the respect and admiration of others. But some were insincere, and Jesus rebuked their hypocrisy. We must focus our attention on a strong character, for God sees us as we really are.

**Action:** Humble yourself before God; let Him mold your character.

#### Week 12 Day 3

**Readings:** Matthew 23:13-22; Romans 1:1-17; Psalm 72; Proverbs 17:12-17; Numbers 29-30.

**Focus Verse:** "He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike {are} an abomination to the Lord." (Proverbs 17:15)

**Key Concept:** "A Way in the Will of God" (Romans 1:10). Paul wanted to go to Rome, and was making some plans toward that goal. He did eventually get there, but probably not by the route of first choice! He arrived in Rome as a prisoner awaiting trial, after a perilous voyage across the Mediterranean. God often allows our lives to take unexpected turns. We, like Paul, need to use our circumstances to glorify God.

**Action:** Regardless of your circumstances, look for your opportunities today to glorify God.

#### Week 12 Day 4

**Readings:** Matthew 23:23-28; Romans 1:18-32; Psalm 73:1-17; Proverbs 17:18-23; Numbers 31.

**Focus Verse:** "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse." (Romans 1:20)

**Key Concept:** "I Understood Their End" (Psalm 73:1-17). Asaph struggled with a perplexing question--Why do the wicked prosper while good men suffer? There are puzzling inequities in this life. We must find explanation, as Asaph did, in the larger context of eternity. When we consult God's will, we are able to comprehend the end of the wicked.

**Action:** Live righteously. In the end, it will be worth it!

## **Week 12 Day 5**

**Readings:** Matthew 23:29-39; Romans 2:1-16; Psalm 73:18-28; Proverbs 17:24-28; Numbers 32.

**Focus Verse:** "But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, That I may declare all Your works." (Psalm 73:28)

**Key Concept:** Sparing Our Words (Proverbs 17:27-28). There are times that we must speak (cf. 1 Peter 3:15; Acts 4:18-20; Jeremiah 20:9). There are other times that we can react too quickly, carelessly blurting out an opinion that would better have been kept to ourselves. We need to choose our words carefully and use them sparingly. Someone has bluntly advised: "Choose your words carefully. Someday you may have to eat them!"

**Action:** Today, think before your speak.

## **Week 12 Day 6**

**Readings:** Matthew 24:1-14; Romans 2:17-29; Psalm 74; Proverbs 18:1-5; Numbers 33.

**Focus Verse:** "A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart." (Proverbs 18:2)

**Key Concept:** Choosing Not to Grow (Proverbs 18:1-2). There are many ways to choose not to grow spiritually. These verses warn of two of them: (1) We can isolate ourselves, and thus avoid the rebukes and warnings offered by those who care. (2) We can talk without listening. Instead of learning from God or others, we can rationalize, justify and defend. We may convince ourselves and other people, but we can't smooth-talk our way into heaven!

**Action:** Spend time with faithful Christians. Listen and learn.

## **Week 12 Day 7**

**Readings:** Matthew 24:15-28; Romans 3:1-8; Psalm 75; Proverbs 18:6-12; Numbers 34-36.

**Focus Verse:** "Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before honor is humility." (Proverbs 18:12)

**Key Concept:** Pride Comes Before a Fall (Proverbs 18:12). We've all heard this paraphrase of the first part of this verse. Pride has always been a dangerous thing, and has led to the fall of many powerful people (e.g., Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar and a host of others). Notice that there is a converse statement in the latter half of this verse: Humility comes before honor. Genuine humility is essential to pleasing God.

**Action:** "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (James 4:10)