

Daily Walk With God

Week 18

Week 18 Day 1

Readings: Mark 4:35-41; 1 Corinthians 2; Psalm 105:1-22; Proverbs 25:8-14; Judges 12-14.

Focus Verse: "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." (Proverbs 25:11)

Key Concept: Jesus Rebuked the Storm (Mark 4:35-41). The disciples became very anxious as they faced a storm while crossing the Sea of Galilee. The waves threatened to sink the boat. They saw no sign that the sleeping Jesus was even aware of their predicament. When they woke Him, they cried in desperation: "Do you not care that we are perishing?" Jesus calmed the sea, enabling the boats to safely proceed to their destination.

We face storms in life, and can mistakenly assume that God is not concerned with our plight. Paul says: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

Action: Conquer your storms with God's strength.

Week 18 Day 2

Readings: Mark 5:1-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-11; Psalm 105:23-45; Proverbs 25:15-20; Judges 15-17.

Focus Verse: "Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint." (Proverbs 25:19)

Key Concept: Pride is at the Heart of Sectarianism (1 Corinthians 3:1-11). The problem of division which Paul confronted in this text has multiplied many times, but its root is the same. Human pride causes ungodly men to divide from the Lord, exalting their opinions above His revelation. This carnal spirit has resulted in countless rifts. Paul's answer--Do your work of planting and watering, never forgetting that God gives the increase.

Action: Plant, water, and glorify God!

Week 18 Day 3

Readings: Mark 5:21-34; 1 Corinthians 3:12-23; Psalm 106:1-27; Proverbs 25:21-28; Judges 18-19.

Focus Verse: "Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls." (Proverbs 25:28)

Key Concept: "Unthinkable" Crimes Become "Thinkable" (Judges 18-19). The persistent anarchy of the era of the judges led to continual decline in the spirituality of the people, which is illustrated in two incidents here. The first is the extensive idolatry of the Danites, who turned their backs on Jehovah. Second is the incident at Gibeah, which shows the immorality, selfishness and brutality of an ungodly people. Pervasive sin, allowed to continue without repentance, becomes progressively worse.

Action: Stop sin before it kills you!

Week 18 Day 4

Readings: Mark 5:35-43; 1 Corinthians 4:1-13; Psalm 106:28-48; Proverbs 26:1-6; Judges 20-21.

Focus Verse: "He who sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off his own feet and drinks violence. (Proverbs 26:6).

Key Concept: A Clear Conscience is Not Enough (1 Corinthians 4:4). A clear conscience is important (Acts 23:1; Romans 14:23). Yet, contrary to the ideas of some people, conscience is not a complete and sufficient guide for our actions. Paul affirms that he is unaware of offense in his life, but that God is the final authority to judge innocence or guilt. We should work to keep a clear conscience, but we need to continually test and train it by the revealed word of God.

Action: Train your conscience according to God's standard and it will be a valuable tool in serving Him.

Week 18 Day 5

Readings: Mark 6:1-6; 1 Corinthians 4:14-21; Psalm 107:1-22; Proverbs 26:7-12; Ruth 1-2.

Focus Verse: "Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him." (Proverbs 26:12)

Key Concept: Loyalty of Love (Ruth 1:16-17). Ruth refused to return to the land and gods of Moab. Her famous statement in these verses expresses a determined loyalty. She vowed allegiance to her bereaved mother-in-law, assuring her care and company throughout life. She also expressed allegiance to Jehovah, thus renouncing the pagan gods of Moab. Ruth's loyalty was rewarded with an outstanding husband and a place in the ancestry of Jesus (cf. Matthew 1:5).

Action: Be loyal to God and family. God will reward your fidelity.

Week 18 Day 6

Readings: Mark 6:7-13; 1 Corinthians 5; Psalm 107:23-43; Proverbs 26:13-19; Ruth 3-4.

Focus Verse: "Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?" (1 Corinthians 5:6)

Key Concept: Purging Out the Leaven of Sin (1 Corinthians 5). Paul rebuked the Corinthians for their tolerance of immorality in the church. He instructed them to act decisively to purge out the leaven of evil--to put away the one who persisted in sin. There are at least three purposes of such action:

- (1) The hope of saving the erring Christian
- (2) Preservation of the faithful by protecting them from corruption
- (3) Obedience to God--He said to do it!

Action: Work today to salvage the soul of an erring Christian.

Week 18 Day 7

Readings: Mark 6:14-29; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11; Psalm 108; Proverbs 26:20-28; 1 Samuel 1-2.

Focus Verse: "A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin." (Proverbs 26:28)

Key Concept: Washed--Sanctified--Justified (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Christians have much to be thankful for! Paul reminds us of the change in our lives accomplished by the power of God. We used to walk in sin, as he emphasizes by reminding us of some of the things we used to do. If we have turned to the Lord, we have now been cleansed, set apart from sin, and declared forgiven before God. God has indeed been generous to undeserving sinners!

Action: Live today as a sanctified child of God.