

Daily Walk With God

Week 20

Week 20 Day 1

Readings: Mark 8:11-21; 1 Corinthians 9:1-10; Psalm 115; Proverbs 28:22-28; 1 Samuel 18-19.

Focus Verse: "A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, and does not consider that poverty will come upon him."
(Proverbs 28:22)

Key Concept: Contrast of God to Idols (Psalm 115). Contemplate this description of powerless idols, remembering that the most popular idol in our society is money (cf. Colossians 3:5).

"Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them." (Psalm 115:4-8)

Action: Remember: "But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases." (Psalm 115:3)

Week 20 Day 2

Readings: Mark 8:22-30; 1 Corinthians 9:11-18; Psalm 116; Proverbs 29:1-7; 1 Samuel 20.

Focus Verse: "What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" (Psalm 116:12)

Key Concept: Serve God Because of His Saving Mercy (Psalm 116). The psalmist offers his worship, sacrifice and devotion to God because of his gratitude for God's mercy. When we contemplate the grace and kindness that God has demonstrated toward us, we will do no less. Since we are blessed with a clear revelation of God's grace, it seems only appropriate that we return our love to God.

Action: Thank God for salvation in Jesus Christ. Thank Him by what you say, and by what you do today.

Week 20 Day 3

Readings: Mark 8:31-9:1; 1 Corinthians 9:19-27; Psalm 117; Proverbs 29:8-14; 1 Samuel 21-22.

Focus Verse: "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mark 8:36)

Key Concept: Following Jesus (Mark 8:34). Being a disciple of Jesus requires:

- (1) Desire--"whoever desires to come after Me"
- (2) Denial--"let him deny himself"

(3) Determination--"and take up his cross"

(4) Direction--"and follow Me"

If we give anything less, we are not truly disciples!

Action: Determine to follow Jesus all day today and every day.

Week 20 Day 4

Readings: Mark 9:2-13; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Psalm 118:1-14; Proverbs 29:15-21; 1 Samuel 23-24.

Focus Verse: "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." (1 Corinthians 10:12)

Key Concept: Things Written for Our Instruction (1 Corinthians 10:1-13). Paul shows the value of Old Testament examples as he refers to the failures of the Israelites. After they were saved from Egyptian bondage, and despite the spiritual nourishment God provided, they returned to sin and were punished. Lessons for us:

(1) Take heed and don't sin.

(2) There is a way of escape from every temptation.

Action: You'll be tempted today. Find the escape route God has provided.

Week 20 Day 5

Readings: Mark 9:14-29; 1 Corinthians 10:14-22; Psalm 118:15-29; Proverbs 29:22-27; 1 Samuel 25.

Focus Verse: "A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor." (Proverbs 29:23)

Key Concept: Choosing One Master (1 Corinthians 10:14-22). Idolatry was a big problem in Paul's day, so he reminded his brethren that serving Christ demanded a clean break from idols. A Christian could not "straddle the fence" between good and evil. Idolatry is a big problem in our time. There is great temptation to pursue the things of the world while trying to serve Christ. It won't work. We must choose one Master.

Action: "Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry." (1 Corinthians 10:14)

Week 20 Day 6

Readings: Mark 9:30-37; 1 Corinthians 10:23-33; Psalm 119:1-16; Proverbs 30:1-6; 1 Samuel 26-27.

Focus Verse: "I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways." (Psalm 119:15)

Key Concept: The Beauty of God's Word (Psalm 119). Today's schedule brings us to the longest of the Psalms. It is a beautifully constructed poem extolling the value of God's word. The psalm is divided into 22 sections, each labeled with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In Hebrew, every verse begins with the letter that heads its section. Psalm 119 is an elaborate acrostic poem reminding us of the greatness of God's revealed word. It is filled with praise to God for His wisdom and love in giving us the Scriptures.

Action: Thank God for the gift of His word.

Week 20 Day 7

Readings: Mark 9:38-50; 1 Corinthians 11:1-16; Psalm 119:17-32; Proverbs 30:7-14; 1 Samuel 28-29.

Focus Verse: "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law." (Psalm 119:18)

Key Concept: Radical Repentance (Mark 9:43-50). Hell is a terrible place which is to be avoided at all cost. Jesus emphasizes this fact with a series of illustrations to show us the radical changes necessary in turning to the Lord.

Anything that would keep us from heaven must be cut off. Sinful lifestyles must be abandoned. We must cease to walk in sin, and begin walking as children of light.

Action: Examine yourself. Have you cut off your sins?