

Daily Walk With God

Week 26

Week 26 Day 1

Readings: Luke 2:8-20; 2 Corinthians 10:1-11; Psalm 145; Ecclesiastes 10:8-15; 2 Kings 15-16.

Focus Verse: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh." (2 Corinthians 10:3)

Key Concept: Mighty Weapons of Warfare (2 Corinthians 10:1-6). Paul had become involved to some degree in conflict among the Corinthian brethren, and he assures them in this section of the motive and the might of his battle against evil. His motive was love (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:11). His might was the power of God. He would not engage in carnal battles fought with carnal weapons. Paul would use the weapons that every Christian should employ. Our battles are against those things which exalt them-selves before God, and our victory is assured if we will press the battle with the weapons God has issued (cf. Ephesians 6:10-20).

When we are tempted to bend the rules to use carnal tactics to reach justifiable ends, we need to remember Paul's comments. Let's stick with the weapons God has provided!

Action: Win your spiritual battles by using God's weapons.

Week 26 Day 2

Readings: Luke 2:21-35; 2 Corinthians 10:12-18; Psalm 146; Ecclesiastes 10:16-20; 2 Kings 17.

Focus Verse: "But the Lord your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies." (2 Kings 17:39)

Key Concept: "They Feared the Lord, Yet Served Their Own Gods" (2 Kings 17:33). People who were moved into the area which had been occupied by the kingdom of Israel, were willing to worship Jehovah along with their gods. God has never accepted the efforts of men to demote Him to place the Creator alongside the creatures. In fact, when Israel had tried it previously, He scattered the nation. Today, He still expects our undivided loyalty!

Action: Serve the God of heaven . . . only!

Week 26 Day 3

Readings: Luke 2:36-52; 2 Corinthians 11:1-11; Psalm 147; Ecclesiastes 11:1-6; 2 Kings 18-19.

Focus Verse: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." (Luke 2:52)

Key Concept: Prayer that Stopped an Army (2 Kings 18-19). In a day that men are tempted to put their trust in military might, it is helpful to remember this defeat of the Assyrian army outside Jerusalem. 185,000 Assyrian troops fell in a single

night because of prayer. Reread 2 Kings 19:19-35 and notice the prayer, the answer, and the action. We need to put our trust in the power of God, not in the power of weapons and human will.

Action: Take time today to pray for all the people you know, and for the rulers of nations throughout the world.

Week 26 Day 4

Readings: Luke 3:1-14; 2 Corinthians 11:12-21; Psalm 148; Ecclesiastes 11:7-10; 2 Kings 20-21.

Focus Verse: "Let them praise the name of the Lord, For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven." (Psalm 148:13)

Key Concept: "Bear Fruits Worthy of Repentance" (Luke 3:8-14). John challenged the sincerity of his audience by calling on them to display their repentance by changing their lives. Fruits of repentance should be apparent in attitudes and conduct at home, in the community, and on the job. Those who come to the Lord today must likewise display changes in their lives.

Action: Demonstrate your faith and repentance by your conduct.

Week 26 Day 5

Readings: Luke 3:15-22; 2 Corinthians 11:22-33; Psalm 149; Ecclesiastes 12:1-8; 2 Kings 22-23.

Focus Verse: "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them.'" (Ecclesiastes 12:1)

Key Concept: "One Mightier Than I" (Luke 3:15-18). Men have painted many pictures of Jesus--some on canvas and others with words. Some emphasize His suffering on the cross; others his helplessness as a newborn baby. Few focus, as John the Baptist does here, on His power. He de-scribes the greatness and might of Jesus (cf. Revelation 1, which depicts the awesome power of Jesus).

Action: Show respect to the awesome Christ.

Week 26 Day 6

Readings: Luke 3:23-38; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10; Psalm 150; Ecclesiastes 12:9-14; 2 Kings 24-25.

Focus Verse: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

Key Concept: "The Conclusion of the Whole Matter" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). The author of this book now draws conclusions from his observations. He has searched for meaning "under the sun," and has found inequity and futility. He closes by broadening his discussion to include the One who is over the sun. Man's whole purpose for existence, he concludes, is to serve God with respect.

Action: Fulfill your duty--glorify God.

Week 26 Day 7

Readings: Luke 4:1-13; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21; Psalm 1; Proverbs 1:1-7; Job 1-2.

Focus Verse: "But Jesus answered him, saying, `It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'" (Luke 4:4)

Key Concept: Facing Hardship (Job 1). Key points to glean from Job 1 include:

1. Don't take blessings for granted; they are God's gifts.
2. Good people suffer in this life.
3. God is not to be charged with fault.
4. Satan has power to afflict, but not beyond our ability to withstand (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13).
5. Suffering is sometimes without immediate explanation.

Action: Face your hardships with faith in God.