

Daily Walk With God

Week 34

Week 34 Day 1

Readings: Luke 15:11-19; Colossians 4:1-9; Psalm 44; Proverbs 11:22-26; Isaiah 64-66.

Focus Verse: "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving." (Colossians 4:2)

Key Concept: A Lost Son (Luke 15:11-19). This is the third in a series of parables about the lost. Three main characters are introduced--a father and two sons. These verses focus on the erring ways of the younger ("prodigal") son. "Prodigal" means "wasteful," and it accurately describes this young man as he squandered the resources his father had granted him.

The parallel to this son is clear. He is any person who wastes his life and his God-given resources. The money runs out--the life is thrown away--and there is no lasting fulfillment in lust and sin.

This son came to his senses and determined to return to his father. When we stray from God, we need the same determination to return in humility.

Action: Are you separated from God by sin? Return today.

Week 34 Day 2

Readings: Luke 15:20-32; Colossians 4:10-18; Psalm 45; Proverbs 11:27-31; Jeremiah 1-2.

Focus Verse: "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise." (Proverbs 11:30)

Key Concept: A Jealous Brother (Luke 15:20-32). After setting up His theme in three parables, Jesus now breaks new ground to correct the self-righteous Pharisees (cf. 15:2). The lost can return. The Father and His servants rejoice when he does. This older brother reflects the attitude of the Pharisees (and maybe some Christians?) who felt left out when sinners came to God. Jealousy is deadly!

Action: You know plenty of lost people who need to be led to the Lord. Try to rescue one today.

Week 34 Day 3

Readings: Luke 16:1-13; 1 Thessalonians 1; Psalm 46; Proverbs 12:1-6; Jeremiah 3-4.

Focus Verse: "God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)

Key Concept: Being Faithful in What is Least (Luke 16:1-13). The parable of the unjust steward shows a man using present resources to prepare for the future. It does not condone his dishonesty, but does remind us that we will be removed from our "stewardship"--possession of material things. The lesson? Use our "little" things--such as money--to serve the One who will provide an eternal home for the faithful.

Action: Use your earthly wealth to glorify its real owner--God.

Week 34 Day 4

Readings: Luke 16:14-18; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Psalm 47; Proverbs 12:7-11; Jeremiah 5-6.

Focus Verse: "For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding." (Psalm 47:7)

Key Concept: "But What Will You Do in the End?" (Jeremiah 5:30-31). Many people make spiritual choices on the basis of immediate benefits to themselves or society. There is often little thought of eternity. Jeremiah offers God's analysis: "An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land: the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?"

Action: Live today to prepare for "the end."

Week 34 Day 5

Readings: Luke 16:19-31; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20; Psalm 48; Proverbs 12:12-16; Jeremiah 7-8.

Focus Verse: "For this is God, Our God forever and ever; He will be our guide Even to death." (Psalm 48:14)

Key Concept: "If They Do Not Hear . . ." (Luke 16:19-31). The account of the rich man and Lazarus clearly demonstrates the consequences of our choices in life. The closing exchange between the condemned (rich?) man and Abraham also reminds us of the power and adequacy of God's word. Abraham says there is no value in sending a messenger from the grave to relate the facts about eternity. The revealed word of God, he insists, is sufficient.

Action: Hear the word of God while there is time!

Week 34 Day 6

Readings: Luke 17:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3; Psalm 49; Proverbs 12:17-22; Jeremiah 9-10.

Focus Verse: "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps." (Jeremiah 10:23)

Key Concept: Man Cannot Direct His Own Steps (Jeremiah 10:23-24). The Bible's answer to human philosophies is clear--they don't work! When people seek to explain their existence and purpose without God, they end up with countless questions and no satisfying answers. Instead of turning to high-sounding philosophy, we need to turn to God to say, "O Lord, correct me, but with justice."

Action: Find your purpose in life in God's word.

Week 34 Day 7

Readings: Luke 17:11-19; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Psalm 50; Proverbs 12:23-28; Jeremiah 11-12.

Focus Verse: "Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God." (Psalm 50:23)

Key Concept: Worship the Lord in Gratitude (Luke 17:11-19). This account of healing ten lepers should give all Christians occasion to examine themselves. Jesus has cleansed us of something much deadlier than leprosy. Are we like the nine who then go on with our lives? Our gratitude for salvation from sin should motivate us to glorify God in continuing worship.

Action: Worship the God who cleanses us from sin. Show your gratitude by the way you use today.