

Daily Walk With God

Week 36

Week 36 Day 1

Readings: Luke 19:28-40; 1 Timothy 1:1-11; Psalm 58; Proverbs 14:22-28; Jeremiah 26-28.

Focus Verse: "Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith." (1 Timothy 1:5)

Key Concept: "The Stones Would Immediately Cry Out" (Luke 19:28-40). As Jesus entered Jerusalem, He was praised by the crowds that surrounded Him. They acknowledged Him as the King (v. 38). This irritated the Pharisees, who undoubtedly counted it blasphemy (cf. Matthew 26:65). They called to Jesus to rebuke the crowd, and Jesus replied: "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out" (v. 40). Even when men deny the power of the Lord, the stones speak truth! Not far from there, the stones had given up Lazarus from the grave (cf. v. 29 and John 11). Those stones, and the stones around us, were a small part of the handiwork of God when Jesus created the world. They all testify of His power (cf. John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Psalms 148).

Action: Praise the Lord, "for His name alone is exalted" (Psalm 148:13).

Week 36 Day 2

Readings: Luke 19:41-48; 1 Timothy 1:12-20; Psalm 59; Proverbs 14:29-35; Jeremiah 29-30.

Focus Verse: "You shall be My people, and I will be your God." (Jeremiah 30:22)

Key Concept: "You Shall Be My People" (Jeremiah 30:22). This chapter predicts the restoration of Israel and Judah after their deportations by Assyria and Babylon. Verse 22 reflects God's desire for them, and His desire for all people today. He wants us to have a relationship as His special people--faithful servants enjoying the privileges of being heirs of God. That is His desire (cf. 2 Peter 3:9-15). Is it ours?

Action: Be sure that you are walking today in fellowship with God.

Week 36 Day 3

Readings: Luke 20:1-8; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Psalm 60; Proverbs 15:1-6; Jeremiah 31.

Focus Verse: "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." (Proverbs 15:1)

Key Concept: "A Wholesome Tongue" (Proverbs 15:1-4). These verse remind us of the power of the tongue. When used improperly, it can: (1) Stir up anger, (2) Pour forth foolishness, and (3) Break the spirit with perverseness. When used correctly, it can: (1) Turn away wrath, (2) Use knowledge rightly, and (3) Serve as a tree of life. It is our choice whether to make our tongues tools of God or tools of Satan!

Action: Weigh your words carefully. Use your tongue to edify and encourage, not to damage and destroy.

Week 36 Day 4

Readings: Luke 20:9-19; 1 Timothy 2:8-15; Psalm 61; Proverbs 15:7-12; Jeremiah 32.

Focus Verse: "A scoffer does not love one who reproves him, nor will he go to the wise." (Proverbs 15:12)

Key Concept: Avoiding Good Advice (Proverbs 15:12). It is never easy to admit personal failure, so it is natural to seek the approval of others. But sometimes we are wrong, and we need to be corrected. If we are wise, we will seek out good advice that may not be easy to swallow. Those who want to hear only the reinforcing praise of others will stunt their own spiritual growth. We need friends who will tell us the truth, even when it is unpleasant.

Action: Seek good advice from the One who is truly wise!

Week 36 Day 5

Readings: Luke 20:20-26; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Psalm 62; Proverbs 15:13-18; Jeremiah 33-35.

Focus Verse: "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred." (Proverbs 15:17)

Key Concept: Qualifications of Bishops (1 Timothy 3:1-7). Bishops (also called pastors, elders, shepherds, etc.) are assigned the serious business of taking care of God's people. God offers certain requirements (cf. the similar list in Titus 1:5-9) which must be met if one desires to serve in this capacity. Except for a few particulars (age, sex, family, experience), these qualifications summarize what every person should be.

Action: Carefully consider each qualification for bishops. Take them as a challenge to encourage your own progress.

Week 36 Day 6

Readings: Luke 20:27-40; 1 Timothy 3:8-16; Psalm 63; Proverbs 15:19-23; Jeremiah 36-37.

Focus Verse: "Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice." (Psalm 63:7)

Key Concept: Qualifications of Deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-13). There are many servants (deacon means servant) in the church of God. In fact, all Christians are to serve others (Galatians 5:13). Some men, however, are specifically qualified and recognized to serve with the bishops in a local church (Philippians 1:1). It is not a glamorous work, but an important role of service (read verse 13 again).

Action: Set your goals of spiritual growth. The qualifications of bishops and deacons provide good targets.

Week 36 Day 7

Readings: Luke 20:41-47; 1 Timothy 4:1-10; Psalm 64; Proverbs 15:24-28; Jeremiah 38-40.

Focus Verse: "He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live." (Proverbs 15:27)

Key Concept: A Prophet in a Dungeon (Jeremiah 38-39). Jeremiah's preaching brought a harsh response from the princes of his own people. They put him in a dungeon and nearly let him starve, all because they did not want to hear the truth. Our tolerant society makes it easier to speak truth, but there are still plenty of people who are irritated by it. Even if our intentions are misconstrued as badly as Jeremiah's were, we need to keep spreading the gospel.

Action: Regardless of the cost, speak the Truth.