

The Family Together - Week 10

Daily Devotions For The Family



Sunday

Read together Proverbs 25:8-11

Hymn for the day: Holy, Holy, Holy

Practical Pointers From Proverbs

"Do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame? Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret, lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end. A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver." (Proverbs 25:8-11) The wise man reminds us that we can't be right with God when we're wrong with our neighbor. Go to your brother before you bring your offering. "Go not forth hastily to strive." (KJV) Don't be so quick to go to war with your brother. Why not rather be defrauded? "Argue your case with your neighbor himself." Keep it between you and him. Don't make it public until you've first met in private with your brother. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold." Say it carefully. Say it kindly. Say it to God first, then you'll say it better. Get Wisdom. She'll protect you from yourself. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Give me wisdom today to speak good things for God's glory.

Monday

Read together Psalm 15

Hymn for the day: "We're Marching To Zion"

The Citizen of Zion

So much is said in the Psalms about the blessings and privileges that are granted to the righteous man. Psalm 15 describes and defines who the righteous man is. David begins with a question, "who may abide in Thy tent" and "dwell on Thy holy hill?" *Abide* and *dwell* suggest that he is not interested in just passing through. He is looking for permanent residence in the presence of God, citizenship in Zion. Several characteristics are listed, but they all stem from the three qualities in verse 2. What a man is. He who "walks with integrity." Walking is stable, consistent, and constant; it is running neither behind nor ahead. To walk with integrity (like the word *integer*) is to go through life as a whole, complete person,

without any artificial parts or components. What a man does. He who "works righteousness." Because of his inward desire for integrity, his outward deeds follow suit. "There is a way which seems right" (Proverbs 14:12) to many men. But the citizen of Zion is not interested in doing what *seems* right, he's interested in doing what *is* right. What a man says. He who "speaks the truth in his heart." It is no coincidence that proper use of the tongue is required to be at home with God. His heart is true to his words; he does not say one thing and mean another. "He who does these things will never be shaken" (vs. 5). That promise is as sure as the throne of God. - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Help me walk today in the integrity of the Lord.

Tuesday

Read together John 3:1-15

Hymn for the day: "I Will Sing The Wondrous Story"

The New Birth

Wouldn't it be great if you could undo your past? Not the good, but the bad. Wouldn't it be grand if you could remove your mistakes from your record? The truth is that you can. That's what the new birth is all about. Unbelievable, isn't it? Incomprehensible! How can a man start again when he is old? The secret is not to live life over. That would just mean making the same or similar mistakes all over again. The point of the new birth is to make the man over again - not the outside of the man but the inside. "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." The changes indicative of the new birth pertain to a man's spirit rather than his body so that this birth is not perceived in the same way as the birth of a child. We don't see the wind. We see the evidences of its movements in the stirring of the leaves or the waving of a flag. The spiritual newborn does not necessarily experience any changes in his physical constitution to indicate that the birth has occurred. But there are signs in the conduct and direction of the spiritual newborn that betray the change that has taken place within. There are new habits, a new diet, a new vocabulary, and a new outlook - all products of the new birth. Folks say to him, "You've really changed!" Have they seen the change in you? - Jason Moore

Pray together: Let people today see Christ living in me.

Wednesday

Read together Acts 10:1-8

Hymn for the day: "Is Thy Heart Right With God?"

Keys To Conversion

We call this account the "Conversion of Cornelius." But after reading the first couple of verses, many might wonder, "what does this man need to be converted from?" The world looks and concludes, "this man's gotta be heaven-bound." He was a devout man. Not only was he a Roman soldier, he was an officer, a Centurion, a commander of 100 men. To earn such rank he must have been responsible, diligent, an honorable man. He was even "well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews" (vs. 22). Not bad for a Gentile. He was a God-fearing man. He was not an idolater or a worshiper of the Roman gods. He believed in the true God of heaven and feared Him. That's not an emotion, that's an attitude. And he shared this conviction with all his household. He was a generous man. He gave many alms to Jewish people, seeing a need and doing what he could to satisfy it. Such charity expects nothing in return. He was a praying man. He prayed to God continually and with great devotion. Matthew Henry observes, "Wherever the fear of God rules in the heart, it will appear both in works of charity and piety, and neither will excuse us from the other." Cornelius was all of these things, but he was not a Christian. He was religious, but he was not right with God. He was ready to hear all that had been commanded by the Lord (vs. 33), but he was not saved until he obeyed it (vs. 48). - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Make my heart right with you, O Lord, in accordance with this will.

Thursday

Read together Zephaniah 1:14-18

Hymn for the day: "Will Jesus Find Us Watching?"

Warning Message From Zephaniah

The book of Zephaniah is a book about judgment. While the judgment he describes is warning against disaster for the children of Israel, it also has the effect of warning against the final accountings of things, that final judgment at the end of time. As you think about these warnings, think about the final judgment as well. "The great day of the Lord is near." It was near for the nations in Zephaniah's time and it is near for all people today. "It is appointed to man once to die and after this

the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). Even the "mighty men will cry there." "That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress." As it was in Zephaniah's day, so it will be for those who have not revered and obeyed God at the final judgment. "I will bring distress on men." What a horrible thought that "their blood shall be poured out as dust, their flesh made as dung." It should cause even the most confident to think. "Their silver and gold shall not be able to deliver them." "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?" never had more meaning than it will have at the judgment. These are warnings intended to prevent the horrible fate Zechariah describes. We need to get as close as we can to God so that when that day comes we need not be afraid. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Direct my steps to serve God today; to serve him in eternity.

Friday

Read together 2 Corinthians 7:8-16

Hymn for the day: "Did You Repent, Fully Repent?"

Repent: The Hard Command

Repentance may be the hardest commandment of all. It requires the very best in a man. Many a person will be lost, not because he didn't have faith, not because he denied the historicity of Jesus, but because he never repented. "Godly sorrow works repentance," Paul declares. Notice, he said, *godly* sorrow works repentance. Sometimes folks are sorry for their sin, but only because they got caught. Godly sorrow is the kind that comes of the realization that you have offended God. But look at godly sorrow and its accompanying repentance and see what it accomplishes: Carefulness. Once a man realizes he is in an undone condition he is more apt to be careful about how he walks, where he goes, what he does. Clearing. The conscience cannot be relieved by any means other than the obedience wrought by repentance. This "seasons of refreshing," as Peter calls it, comes out of repentance and obedience (Acts 3:19). Indignation. Once a man has repented of his sin and taken a stand for truth and piety, he has a disdain for his former life. That helps to insure his continued faithfulness. Good attitudes. What strong desire is brought by repentance, what zeal for goodness, what revenge is gained against evil! These are attitudes of the righteous. They insulate against worldliness and its allurements. Repentance is truly hard; but when the time comes that it is needed, it is the most logical thing in the world. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Father, forgive me of my sins.

Saturday

The Family Together: Five Reasons

1. Encourage spiritual headship among fathers. Many fathers are providers and decision makers but not spiritual leaders in their households. *The Family Together* equips fathers for daily conversations with their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." 2. Promote together time within families. Household habits like television, little league, overtime, tee time, and many more leisure time activities pull families apart. *The Family Together* builds the daily habit of uninterrupted family time to draw the family closer together. 3. Restore living room religion. Congregational bible classes supplement but cannot - and should not - supplant the biblical and moral instruction provided by parents, especially fathers, in the home. *The Family Together* encourages a return to the old path of teaching the Bible "diligently unto thy children...when thou sittest in thine house." 4. Inspire hearth and home worship to God. According to Jesus, the habit of "closet" prayer and worship in "secret" cures hypocrisy and vain religion. *The Family Together* encourages private, daily devotion in the home which prepares true worshippers for public, weekly worship in the assembly. 5. Kindle homespun Bible instruction. *The Family Together* is not a children's book, but a family workbook. It's *home* work for the family *together*. It serves as a practical companion, but not a substitute, for the spontaneous, interactive guidance of the parent. It creates a natural context for such guidance. Get your family together today and every day. It just makes sense.