

The Family Together - Week 11

Daily Devotions For The Family



Sunday

Read together John 20:1-10
Hymn for the day: "He arose"

Sunday Morning Starters:

It's not just another day.
It's the Lord's Day
It's not just another week.
It's a new week.
It's not just another Sunday.
It's the first day.
It's not just another morning.
It's the resurrection morning.
It's not just a matter of perspective.
It's a matter of attitude.

Pray together: Let me spend this day in devoted worship to God.

Monday

Read together Matthew 5:1-12
Hymn for the day: "Take My Life And Let It Be"

Attitudes And The Beatitudes

The *Sermon on the Mount* is without doubt the most famous of all Jesus' sayings; it is quoted around the world. It is quoted by folks who don't even believe in Jesus. And all with good reason, for it is the most perfect piece of information ever presented. The sermon begins with Jesus pronouncing a blessing on those who adopt and maintain a good attitude. There is no etymological connection between the word *attitude* and *beatitude*, they merely sound alike. But there is a connection between the beatitudes and the attitudes that are produced by it. "Blessed" is that man who has a right attitude. First, *toward himself*. He must be humble, seeing himself as having little value when divorced from his relationship to Jesus.

He is to be meek, gentle and under control. He is to have a right attitude *toward God* by having a thirst for spiritual things, seeking to find and sustain a pure heart. He is to have a right attitude *toward his fellows*, being merciful, a seeker of peace. And he is to have a right attitude *toward persecution* if, of course, it comes because of who he is - a Christian. When these attitudes are present he is called "salt," that which flavors and preserves the world, and "light" that by which others see the Savior. Try today to reflect the Great Light. Light up the little corner of the world where you are. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Make me a light today!

Tuesday

Read together Proverbs 1:1-6

Hymn for the day: "Take My Hand And Lead Me"

Importance Of Good Judgment

I made a mistake. It was just a foolish error, one common to young people. "You just used foolish judgment," my dad said, "you need to stop and think about what you're doing." **Life is full of opportunities for judgments of various sorts** - some are little, seemingly insignificant, some are very important and may have long lasting results. Every decision is important, none ever easy. **Judgments follow us wherever we go.** The wise man urges us that we pay careful attention to judgments and he says the book of Proverbs is given in order that justice, judgment, equity, knowledge and discretion might prevail in all areas of life, no matter your age. This revelation can make the young man wise, even though he may not yet have much experience with living life. **Your decisions are important.** The word of God makes it possible for you to make good decisions, not foolish ones. But in order to do so, you will have to develop a familiarity with it. Make the word of God part of who you are and what you decide and you will not render foolish judgments. As you go about your activities today, look for ways to implement God's word; it will help you judge which way to go. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Lord, give me a heart of wisdom today to follow thy will.

Wednesday

Read together John 2:1-11

Hymn for the day: "Jesus Is All The World To Me"

Power of Jesus To Command

Jesus' very first miracle was the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. John 2:11 says, "This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him." Miracles are signs. They are suspensions of nature, in this case, a sign of great power. Throughout the personal ministry of Jesus He showed people He was the Messiah by doing the great signs only a Messiah could have done. And yet some still rejected Him, just as they do today. There is an interesting little side note in this narrative. In verse five, Mary, the mother of Jesus, said, "Whatever He says to you, do it." Since Jesus is the Messiah and since it is to Him we owe our thanksgiving for coming and providing for the remission of sins, we should certainly listen to the advice of His mother, "Whatever He says to you, do it." He Himself said, "Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in Heaven" (Matt. 7:21). Jesus did many signs, all of which are recorded to make sure we know of His "eternal power and Godhood" (see John 20:30-31) and if we truly believe Him to be the Son of God, we will do all that He says - even today. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: I will promise today to do whatever Jesus says to do.

Thursday

Read together Nehemiah 1:1-11

Hymn for the day: "Did You Think To Pray?"

A Model Prayer

The sermon on the mount preserves Jesus' model prayer. But the Scriptures are replete with other prayers worthy of our imitation such as that of Nehemiah in today's reading. Look at it again. **It is the widow's prayer.** Jesus told the parable of the widow who pleaded with the unjust judge to avenge her of her adversary. Nehemiah prayed with such persistency "day and night" (vs. 6). The Lord's answer to his plight is a demonstration that God shall indeed "avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him" (Luke 18:7). **It is the sinner's prayer.** "God be merciful

to me a sinner!" was Nehemiah's petition as he mourned the sins of his people and his times. The man who regularly speaks to God and reflects on His law feels the same as God about sin. Nehemiah went down to his house justified for "he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 18:14). **It is the participant's prayer.** Nehemiah didn't just pray for the Lord to do. He prayed for the Lord to help *him* do: "Let your servant prosper this day" (vs. 11). This is the prayer of faith - the prayer uttered by a man marching off to do the Lord's bidding. If there is any prayer God will answer, it is the volunteer's prayer: "Here am I, send me." If you wish to offer a prayer that you know will be heard, imitate this model prayer of Nehemiah. It was written for our learning. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Lord, teach me to pray.

Friday

Read together Acts 2:1-47

Hymn for the day: "Zion's Call"

A Sign For All Seasons

"They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues..." (Acts 2:4). As with all God's wonders, there is in the sign of tongues a message in the miracle. **"God unto all the world."** Salvation is for all. Packaging the message in the languages of many people's communicated the universal scope of the redemptive plan. "For the promise is to you and to your children and to all who are afar off..." (vs. 39). **"Preach the word."** The good news *is* news. News is meant to be broadcasted, especially good news. This news is not just good, but the best news. It deserves the best advertising - word of mouth. **"All Scripture is inspired of God."** The men of Pentecost spoke not by their own genius but "as the Spirit gave them utterance." Peoples then and now were assured that this was heaven's message. **"That they all may be one."** At the Tower of Babel God scattered mankind by confusing his speech. At the cross He reconciled all nations to Himself. The miraculous tongues signified the gospel's power to reverse the curses brought by sin. **"God has made this Jesus Lord and Christ."** The miracle of tongues said that Jesus lives and reigns. "Being exalted to the right hand of God...He poured out this which you now see and hear" (vs. 33). The miracle of tongue-speaking still has a message for us. Hear it. Live it. Pass it on. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Show me your signs each day to know that you are Lord.

Saturday

Read together Psalm 2

Hymn for the day: "Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!"

It's A Small World After All

I stopped to watch a crew of ants working to move a little piece of potato chip. It struck me how very small they were next to me and how vulnerable. I can blow - not very hard - and accomplish what it takes the whole colony of them to do. I can take a twig and with a couple of sweeps bring havoc to their miniature world. A carelessly placed footstep and the entire project is brought to naught. What's amazing is that they seem not to notice me unless I get in their way. They go about their business unaware that I'm watching and ignorant of the amusement they give me. They scurry along oblivious to the giant hovering over their world. I looked away from the ants securing their daily bread and up at the clouds traversing a pale blue sky. Somewhere beyond the clouds the Father and His Son look down on our blue-green orb. Like tiny ants occupied with tiny projects that seem so big and important in our tiny world, we've not time to look up. How little thought is given to the *Gentle Giant* of the Heavens who holds our world in His hands. How silly for me to look down and see the ant and then look up and not see Him, and not fear. "Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?" Like little ants, we're all so busy getting our little piece of the potato chip we've not seen just how little it all really is. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Lord, show me how small my boat and how large your ocean.