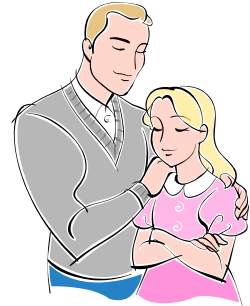


The Family Together - Week 13

Daily Devotions For The Family



Sunday

Read together Psalm 93

Hymn for the day: Holy, Holy, Holy

Sunday Morning Starters:

What really matters?

Is it what you get, or what you give?

Is it how you feel, or how you are?

Is it how you are helped, or how you help?

Is it how it is said, or how you hear?

Is it why they came, or why you came?

Does what really matters start with others, or does it start with you?

Pray together: Fill my heart with your majesty today, Lord.

Monday

Read together Matthew 5:21-28

Hymn for the day: "Lord We Come Before Thee Now"

A Plea For Higher Thinking

The wise man said, "As he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7). That principle is true for every man. You do what you do because you have been thinking to do it. You may say when you have made some mistake or some bad judgment, "I just wasn't thinking." Yes, you were. You may not have thought long nor well, but you thought. This section of the *Sermon on the Mount* deals with right thinking. Jesus begins by saying that killing is the result of being angry. If a man controls his anger, he will not kill. He further alleges that a man will not commit adultery who does not first lust in his heart. If a man controls his desires and brings them into line with what he knows is right, he will not commit sexual immorality. In the same way, he says a true believer need not confirm his affirmations with an oath; he just needs to tell the truth and there will be no need for such. He decries the

idea of retaliation, saying that a good man will go as far as he possibly can with those who have done him misery. He concludes the section with a warning about the highest thinking of all - love. He says if you would be perfect like your Father, you must do more than others - in this case, love your enemies. Right thinking always precedes right actions. Wrong actions are always the result of wrong thinking. Make this day one where you engage in good, wholesome, and edifying thinking and you will have a good day. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Create in me a new heart and direct my thinking by your love, O Lord.

Tuesday

Read together Proverbs 8:32-36

Hymn for the day: "Only A Step"

You Are What You Hear

Solomon was the wisest man on the earth. His sayings penetrate to the very heart of who we are and they are practical to meet our needs. A wise man will heed them and not forget to use them in his life. "**Hearken unto me**" is another way of saying "Sit up and listen." We are, to a large extent, what we hear. To pay attention is to be wise; it lessens the possibility of trouble in your life. And to listen to God is the best listening you can do. It means that you will be hearing the wisest, more useful information there is. "**Blessed is the man that hears me**, watching daily at my gates." Every one of us would do well to practice vigilance, and listening is part of that watching out for evil. The devil is always around and if we don't watch out, he will come and devour us. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (I Pet. 5:8). "**For whoever finds me, finds life.**" To find God is to find salvation, to find forgiveness, to insure eternal life. Without Him there is nothing left but destruction and punishment. If you sin against Him, you "wrong your own soul;" you separate yourself from Him and from all that is good. Listen for God today. What is He saying about what you are doing, where you are going, what you are saying? Make Him part of your life and you will be happy and at peace. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: O God may my ears be attentive to you today.

Wednesday

Read together Luke 5:1-11

Hymn for the day: "Faith Is The Victory"

Watching Faith Grow

The faith of the Apostle Peter is at once astounding and puzzling. At times he was a strong disciple, seemingly undaunted by opposition of any kind; but when he denied the Lord we see a side of him that is weak and faithless. In this little story, he shows an immense amount of faith in Jesus. The men had fished all night and caught nothing, but when Jesus told Peter to cast out nets, he launched out on his faith. The result was a net full of fish. Faith is not a one-time thing that never changes. It has to be constantly built up, regularly reinforced. We need a constant association with the Savior in order to do that. Peter's faith was not always as fervent as it ought to be, but he never gave up on making it better. He worked at the job. When he saw the power of Jesus, he said, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Peter saw Jesus for what He was, but he also saw himself for what he was. Humility is the basis on which faith rests and by which faith grows. Peter worked at the job. Peter's affirmation is an indication of the growth of his faith. In the same manner, we must make our faith grow by being close to Jesus, by listening to His commands, and, after having seen how they are representative of His power, to believe Him all the more. We must work at the job. Work on your faith today. Make it stronger. Trust Him who leads you and He will take you where you ought to go. Work at the job. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Give me more faith today, Lord.

Thursday

Read together Nehemiah 4:1-6

Hymn for the day: "Work, For The Night Is Coming"

A Mind To Work

When you have a mind to work, you make enemies. Productive workers by their diligence call attention to the idleness of others. In the kingdom, that translates into the wicked hurling sticks and stones at workers who are doing the building of God. Work anyway. The insults of the Sanballats of our day are just as harmless as

they were in Nehemiah's time. **When you have a mind to work, you invite criticism.** There's always somebody who could have done it better, faster, or cheaper. Mind your work. There are plenty of critics in our day who say concerning marriages, families and children, "It won't last. You can't do it." Just mind your work. **When you have a mind to work, you need to mind your prayers.** Prayer will keep you focused. Prayer will check your motives. Prayer will bring you new opportunities. If you have something to say about your enemies and your critics, say it to God in prayer. It's hard to gossip when you tell Him. **When you have a mind to work, you fuel the enthusiasm of fellow workers.** When you mind your work, others get to work. That's how all work, even the Lord's work, gets done. The builders of Jerusalem's wall completed the task because the *people* had a mind to work. But the work started with Nehemiah. Start a work today and watch it grow. - Jason Moore

Pray together: I will work for you today, Lord, to show your glory.

Friday

Read together Acts 8:26-40

Hymn for the day: "Teach Me Thy Way"

The Nobleman's Quest

A good question is the beginning place for all learning. Learning after all is a *quest* for knowledge, a search for the answers to your *questions*. Four pivotal questions are found in the story before us. **"Do you understand what you are reading?"** Philip is trying the door. A question is the perfect way to launch a quest for Bible study. His simple query found the door ajar. The eunuch himself was on a quest and eager to learn as Philip soon found. **"How can I, unless someone guides me?"** Here is the quest for help. It takes a humble man to make this request, to admit he doesn't know. The man who approaches the word of God assuming that he already has all the answers won't learn. He can't learn. He's not on a quest. He's on a mission. **"Of whom does the prophet say this?"** This is the quest for context. It is an indication that the Bible is an ordinary book to be understood by ordinary means. The key to reading the Bible effectively is to ask questions of it all the while. Questions like *Who? What? Where? When? Why?* **"What hinders me from being baptized?"** Here is the application question. Every disciple should ask and answer - this question. The eunuch is really asking, "So what?" He wants to know

how this information about Jesus applies to him. Try one or more of these questions out today. They're sure to help you on your quest to serve God. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Increase my zeal to know the word of God in my life.

Saturday

Read together Psalm 15

Hymn for the day: "We Shall See The King Some Day"

Walking With God Today

Dwelling with God in eternity begins by walking with God today. Here's how: **"Walk uprightly"** - Don't slouch today. Don't even lean. Stand tall. The man who does right has no reason to be ashamed. **"Speak the truth in your heart"** - Speak the truth in your home, on your job, on the playground, at the school. Don't lie today. Be honest. **"Don't backbite"** - Build somebody or somebody's up today. Don't put anyone down. Encourage. Don't discourage. Don't gossip. Don't listen to gossip. Choose your words carefully. **"Despise vileness"** - Don't give consent to evil today. Don't be silent when you need to speak. Don't stay when you need to leave. Don't laugh when you need to censure. Stand up for what's right and who's right. **"Swear...and do not change."** - Do what you say you'll do today. Don't make commitments that you can't or won't keep. Be a man of your word. **"Don't put out your money"** - Spend wisely. Use your time, your talents, your money as if you were borrowing them. They are, after all, on loan to you from God. Make Him a profit today. **"He who does these things shall never be moved"** - That's a promise. And God keeps His promises. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Thank you for the week of your blessings. Help me in the week to come to walk closer to you.