

The Family Together - Week 14

Daily Devotions For The Family



Sunday

Read together John 4:19-24

Hymn for the day: O Worship The Lord

Sunday Morning Starters:

Worship is *God-centered*, not man-centered.

Edification is *a one another*, not a *oneself*, procedure.

Service is *need-based*, not wish-oriented.

Study is a *life science*, not just scholarly enterprise.

Love is an act of the will, not an emotion.

The point? Keep your focus.

Pray together: Make my worship today fill my heart with the grace of God.

Monday

Read together Matthew 6:1-18

Hymn for the day: "More Holiness Give Me"

A Plea For Sincerity

Religion without sincerity is religion without heart. It's a hollow religion, a performance, a sham. Religion in this form is recognizable in others and detestable to all. It's not so easily detected in ourselves and requires vigilance to prevent its appearance. **Beware of hypocrisy in your benevolent deeds.** The priest and the Levite might have helped their injured countryman had he fallen prey to bandits in downtown Jerusalem. But it was the Samaritan who stopped when no one was looking. Do good not because of who sees, but because *He sees* and because *you've* seen the need. **Watch out for hypocrisy in your worship.** It's easily done. Songs are not addressed to God when your mind has left the building. Prayers have not the benefit of your Amen when they've not had the benefit of your attention. Your neighbor is not helped when you apply the sermon to him; even worse - you're not helped. Worship is between you and God. Funny how often God gets left out of it.

Guard against hypocrisy in your sacrifices. If you must tell how strong you are, how much you've lost, how much you've given up, what glory does God get in that? Self-righteousness, intention or unintentional, sours others on religion. Certainly they have no right to be sour, but you have no right to make them that way either. If you're doing this for the Lord, do it for the Lord, not for the applause of men. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Help me be true to God today in my life.

Tuesday

Read together Proverbs 12:16-19

Hymn for the day: "Will You Not Tell It Today"

The Mighty Tongue

The tongue is man's smallest member, but the most powerful. With but a word, it can tear down or build up. It can give hope or breed despair. It can promote life and health or death and injury. Today's proverb celebrates the constructive potential and destructive power of the mighty tongue. **The tongue can build or ruin your credibility.** An untimely explosion of anger or wrath and you'll have a reputation for volatility to live down. But hold your tongue and temper, speak kindly, speak wisely and you'll earn a medal for diplomacy. **The tongue can make or break the reputations of others.** If you have an appetite for tasty morsels of gossip, you'll hurt somebody one day. Maybe not today, but someday. But no one is injured by a kind word, and a morsel of truth and charity is far more substantial than a mouthful of rumors and prattle. **The tongue is sharp.** And like a sharp knife it can be wielded to help or to harm. You can use it to jab and but, to stab and wound your opponents. Or you can use it to cut through a foul mood or "cut through the fluff," as we say, and "get to the point" of an important discussion. While the mighty tongue is powerful both for good and for evil, the Lord has mandated that only the truthful tongue shall endure. "It shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is for a moment." So be careful little tongue what you say today. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Give me strength today to use my voice for good things and not bad.

Wednesday

Read together Luke 8:22-25

Hymn for the day: "Master, The Tempest Is Raging"

Manning The Storm

It happened on an ordinary day like most calamities do that try men's faith. They were just getting in a boat to cross the lake, a lake they had often crossed. In fact, it was the Lord's idea on this occasion reminding us that it sometimes rains even when we're doing the Lord's bidding. And so they launched out on this ordinary day, on an ordinary lake, in an ordinary boat, and encountered an extraordinary storm. It came suddenly like most ordinary calamities which try men's faith. The Master slept. The fishermen toiled. The boat filled with water. The Master still slept. Recognize that the Master knows but He acts in His own time. "Master, Master, we are perishing!" they cried as they awoke Him. Without a word, He rose not to take an oar, nor to man the tiller, nor to trim the sail, but to trim the wind and man the storm. With a word, He shut up the clouds, He silenced the storm, He shushed the raging sea. All was calm. Notice that the Lord's answer comes as suddenly as the winds which prompt men's prayers. Neither the answers nor the perils should catch us unexpectedly. "Where is your faith?" He asks. Good question - for us. It's strong and resolute when we from the shore peer out at the disciples wrestling in the deep. But how about when *we* launch out? The winds and the waves still obey the Master's will. Peace. Be Still. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Teach me faith today in the face of calm and fear of the storm.

Thursday

Read together Nehemiah 4:13-18

Hymn for the day: "How Firm A Foundation"

How To Build Well

Building is hard work. It takes planning, determination, and sometimes courage. In the case of Nehemiah, his enemies had given him warning of their opposition to what he was building, yet he was not deterred in his mission, nor was his spirit daunted. He manifests the right attitude about building. **1. It sometimes takes courage.** He told his followers, "don't be discouraged by the counsel of the enemy,

we build for God, He will sustain us." That's excellent advice for those of us who want to build a strong Christian character. **2. Building is never a private enterprise.** Remember that you build for your brethren, for your sons and daughters, your friends and neighbors. If we remember that others are depending on us, we will do better work. **3. Organize the project.** Nehemiah planned his work and worked his plan. What is your plan for building up your own character? Are you actively looking for ways to diminish your own weaknesses and magnify your strengths? **4. Build with what you have.** It may be that you must do it with a sword in one hand and a trowel in the other, but build anyway! We can if we will; and we must. Nehemiah and those of his company did what they decided to do. We can do the same if we will but rise up and build. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Lord I want to be a worker for you today.

Friday

Read together Acts 9:1-22

Hymn for the day: "Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus"

Salvation For Chief Of Sinners

God's means of saving men from their sins is an awesome and powerful demonstration of His grace. His eternal purpose is seen in it; His love's expression is embedded in it; His merciful consideration of His creatures is unspeakably wonderful in it. The conversion of Saul of Tarsus is a good illustration of God's love and mercy. How could one so caught up in opposing Christianity, so determined to stamp it out by whatever means it took, be the object of such love and affection? Only by the grace of God, such wonderful grace. Paul would later refer to himself as chief of sinners (I Tim. 1:15), yet God made provisions for even him. If God can save one who was, by his own admission, at the top of the list of those who opposed Him, surely He can save me. Sin is a heinous crime against God. Man can't do anything about it, because, "the way of man is not in himself," said the prophet of old (Jer. 10:23). The fact that sin is softened, even ignored, does not argue that it ceases to exist. It remains a horrible and offensive blast at God; yet man can do nothing about it by his own means or methods. But God, who is rich in mercy and love, "when we were yet sinners" did something about it. What we could not do for ourselves, He did for us. What we could never have accomplished, He made possible

through His Son, Jesus Christ. How dare we refuse it? How dare we treat it with contempt? How dare we change it? Let us rejoice in our salvation and be glad for our forgiveness. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Thank you, O God; Thank you, O Lord; Thank you for your MERCY.

Saturday

Read together Psalm 14

Hymn for the day: "Our God, He Is Alive"

Who Says There Is No God?

Without God man quickly turns to his own devices and in doing so, quickly degenerates to something less than God had in mind when He created him. It is the fool who says in his heart, "there is no God," for both nature and inspiration attest irrefutably to not only His existence, but to His interest in mankind. To seek to live life without any relationship to God is to invite sure failure. God looked down at man and found him degenerate, floundering in filth and ungodliness, doing abominable works. "There is none that doeth good, no not one," we are told. How sad. How terrible man's condition without God, how miserable and wretched he is! There are several ways to say "there is not God." You can ignore Him and say it; you can ignore what He says and say it; and you can deny the Christ whom He sent and say it. You say it every time you decide to do what He does not allow or don't want to do what He commands. When you sin, you essentially say "there is no God." "Oh, that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion!" Our needs are not many, but one. And that need is salvation. That deliverance came through Jesus Christ. The cross was the method for our deliverance, the blood the sacrifice for our sins. Our sins and iniquities are all sent away through this great sacrifice. Let us look up and see from whence we are come and rejoice today in our salvation. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Give me a heart of joy today as I remember my salvation.