

The Family Together – Week 16

Daily Devotions For The Family

Sunday

Sunday Morning Starters:

An angel descended.
Armed guards became as dead men.
The tomb was found empty.
Three women reported a vision of angels.
Two men raced through a garden.
Two pilgrims met a stranger.
One woman interrogated the gardener.
Ten disciples hid in fear.
One man stood in their midst.
You don't know what a day will bring.



Monday

Read together Psalm 23

Hymn for the day: "Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us"

My Shepherd

The words of familiar passages are easily passed over if we're not mindful. The preventative for such neglect is to revisit them afresh. The Lord is Shepherd. He is my Shepherd. I have no need that will be left unsupplied. Some wants certainly, some pleasures assuredly. But needs, never. Trust Him today for all I need. The Shepherd knows when and where it is safe to rest and what waters are safe to drink or to cross. He knows how much I can take and just what is needed to revive my strength. He knows the way, the right way. Follow His lead today. The Shepherd knows the dangers that lurk about. He knows that the Devil is alive and well. He knows how dumb we sheep can be and what trouble we get ourselves into. He knows better than me the shadow of death. Stay close to Him today. He's been here before and knows the way. There will be wolves abroad today. Some behind the trees. Some in sheep's clothing. The Shepherd knows their disguises, their devices, their aims. He can take care of the enemy and the detractors better than me. He'll not abandon me to their aims. Wait on Him today. Today will be hard. And so will tomorrow. And the day after that. Concentrate on today! Stay with the Shepherd. Follow His lead. For one of these days will wind up eternity. And won't that be just fine? - Jason Moore

Pray together: I will trust you in every thing I do today, Lord. Thank you for being MY shepherd.

Tuesday

Read together Nehemiah 6:1-9

Hymn for the day: "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes"

Lord, Strengthen My Hands

Nehemiah took upon himself to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. As we have previously seen, it was an awesome task, one which required intense planning and determined leadership. He supplied both; but not without opposition. He had enemies, dedicated enemies. No matter the project, some will oppose it. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus said, "Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake." Those who serve well will find opposers. Like Sanballat and Tobiah, they may ridicule and make fun of your efforts. If that doesn't work, they may use other means to put barriers in your way; but don't despair. God sees; and He cares. Use Nehemiah's example. Determine to finish. If you always look toward the goal, you are more likely to make progress toward it. Don't be deterred by those who oppose you. Keep on keeping on. Underline the importance of your work. The work of God is the most important of all work. As such, it deserves a person's most intense concentration. Keep on keeping on. Ask God to help. In verse ten of this text "...they made us afraid...now therefore O God, strengthen my hands." If you invite God's help that means He will be a participant. Be sure you are right, then go to the work. Keep on keeping on. God will help. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Give me courage today oh my God to never give up in your Cause.

Wednesday

Read together Acts 16:6-15

Hymn for the day: "Send The Light"

Send The Light

"The blessed gospel is for all, the gospel is for all..." We sing the song; but we need to believe it so strongly that we are constantly seeking ways to make it so. Paul and his companions saw a vision. The man asked for the gospel: "Come over and help us," he said. We can this vision The Macedonian Call. There is a constant "Macedonian call." It comes from people all over the world who are lost in sin, who need to hear the gospel – even people like your neighbors, your fellow workers, your kinspeople. Like Paul, we are charged with preaching the gospel whenever and wherever we can, not because we are all preachers, but because we are all Christians. Christians in New Testament times considered the gospel the greatest priority in their lives. When they were persecuted for preaching it, the Scripture says, "they went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). Their interest in saving souls drove them to speak about Jesus and His salvation wherever they went, even if it meant incurring the wrath of some. Are we so evangelistically minded today? The gospel message is especially powerful when it is presented by the common people. When each one teaches ones, the gospel spreads easily and without need for monies or organization. It moves on the power of the enthusiasm of its adherents. Send the light today. Look for someone who is looking for Jesus. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Let me have an opportunity today to speak to one person about you, oh Lord.

Thursday

Read together Matthew 9:18-26

Hymn for the day: "Wonderful Love of Jesus"

A Day In The Life Of The Master

Wouldn't it have been fine to have followed Jesus around for just one day to witness the lives and events He affected? There is so much to be learned from even one day in the life of Jesus. Jesus had time. Jesus was constantly interrupted by people in distress like the synagogue official mourning his daughter or the lady afflicted with a hemorrhage for twelve years. Jesus made the most of such interruptions. You'll have interruptions today. Plan for them. Make the most of them. Have time for who matters – people. Jesus knows. The woman with the flow of blood said, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well." She said this to herself but Jesus heard her thoughts. He turned answering her, "Your faith has made you well." Jesus knows your faith. We who have not spoken face-to-face with Him are assured by this account that He knows even when no one seems to know how hard we're trying. Jesus will be vindicated. Jesus saw the mass of mourners. He said, "The girl is only sleeping." He knew what was coming next. The people mocked. They were forthrightly dismissed from the house. Shortly afterwards a healthy girl emerged. Folks will mock and ridicule your faith but one day the Lord will vindicate His cause and His people. Follow Jesus today. He has given you this day. He'll help you make the most of it. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Who will follow Jesus today? I will, Lord. I will.

Friday

Read together Proverbs 26:3-12

Hymn for the day: "My Jesus, I Love Thee"

Don't Be A Fool

Being a fool has nothing to do with a man's I.Q. It has everything to do with a man's character. A man becomes a fool by being foolish. Solomon depicts him graphically. The fool is undisciplined. You can correct the stubborn beast with a whip, but not the fool. He despises correction. The fool is obnoxiously proud. React too quickly to his folly and you may repeat his error and give credence to his cause. Answer him not at all, and he'll conclude that he alone has the answer. The fool is undependable. The man who sends a message by him handicaps his own effectiveness and brings hazard to his own head. The fool is oblivious to truth. He misses the point of a proverb as the drunk does a thorn in his own flesh. Correction and advice from his mouth are as limp to his hearers as the legs of a cripple. The fool in power is a menace to society. The man who gives honor to a fool, hands him a loaded gun. It's anybody's guess where he'll shoot. The fool gets what no right thinking man wants – what he deserves. God promises the wages of his folly. For a proud man, there is hope that circumstances will teach him. But the fool is unteachable. Therein lies the rub. The fool repeats his folly. He never learns. Don't be a fool. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Let me know the path of the fool and stray not in his path.

Saturday

Read together Matthew 7:1-6

Hymn for the day: "An Evening Prayer"

Cautious Judgments

"Judge not, that you be not judged" is often quoted but frequently misunderstood. Jesus did not forbid making moral assessments of character. He merely urged caution and forbade the following: Hyper-critical judgments. These are overly harsh judgments, ones based on appearance and without all the facts. They are the product of pride, prejudice, jealousy, or competition where the aim is to drive the splinter, not remove it. Beware! When you measure with a short stick you invite the Lord to use the same standard on you for "with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." Hypo-critical judgments. If you correct another when you are guilty of the same, a similar, a greater, or a public fault, you condemn yourself. Further, your correction is not likely to be heard. The offender only sees your warts. He can't hear your words. Get the beam out of your own eye first. Then you will see clearly to help your brother. And he will be more willing to let you assist him. Excessively tolerant judgments. "Don't cast your pearls before swine." There are some folks with whom we should not waste our energy and resources. They have proven themselves unethical and uninterested in truth. Jesus said that it is our task to judge when it is time to let them be. Make wise judgments today, for, in the manner you judge, you will be judged. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Help me to know your wisdom today, God to discern truth in every way.