

The Family Together – Week 19

Daily Devotions For The Family

Sunday

Read together Mark 2:15-17

Hymn for the day: The Great Physician



The Great Physician

OUR MOST SERIOUS AILMENTS ARE NOT PHYSICAL, BUT SPIRITUAL. We are hurt far more by the malignancies in our character than by the illnesses in our body. And it is the removal of these sins in the heart that God is concerned with. The Great Physician desires to restore our spiritual health and wholeness.

If we want to improve, we must be honest and open to the truth about our character right now. Not even the Great Physician can help us if we're not willing to be examined. Trying to hide our symptoms and pretending that nothing very serious is wrong will only result in our getting worse. An accurate diagnosis will be humbling, to be sure, but we should still want to know the whole truth. David's prayer is that of an honest man: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; . . . see if there is any wicked way in me" (Psalm 139:23,24). We must desire to see ourselves as God sees us.

But more than that, we must cultivate confidence that God knows what He's doing. Whether we understand the wisdom of His plan or not, we must trust both the accuracy of His diagnosis and the effectiveness of His treatment. We must also have the courage to submit to the healing process that He prescribes. The cancer cannot be cut away from our character without radical surgery. Because sin is so entangled in our thinking, the purging operation is always painful and often lengthy. But as with physical disease, if we're not willing to endure momentary pain in order to become healthy later on, our only option is to get sicker and sicker. We can stay in our sickly "comfort" zone or we can move toward greater health, but not both at the same time. "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19).

How much commitment do we have to the truth about ourselves? For all our talk about loving the truth, do we really desire to see all that God sees when He examines our hearts? There will be no redemption for those unwilling to face reality. – Gary Henry

"When we go to our meeting with God, we should go like a patient to his doctor, first to be thoroughly examined and afterwards to be treated for our ailment. Then something will happen when you pray" (O. Hallesby).

Pray together: Let me worship today with a great sense of love for you O Lord.

Monday

Read together I Kings 19:1-18

Hymn for the day: "Hold To God's Unchanging Hand"

Never Quit!

There are many ironies to this story about Elijah. Elijah prayed for death, but the Lord kept him alive. He hid in a cave, but the Lord told him to come outside. Elijah said, "I alone am left," but the Lord said, "I have 7000." Elijah ran away, but the Lord said, "Go return." What is the message in all of these episodes? Never quit! Don't let the enemy distract you from duty. We are not the first to be disturbed by the triumph of the wicked. Elijah was discouraged by Jezebel's slaughter of the prophets. "What are you doing here?" the Lord asked the prophet hiding in the cave. To hide was to concede victory to the enemies, to let the blood of the prophets be shed in vain. Now that the blood of God's own Son has been shed, we dare not keep silent. Never quit! Remember that you don't see the whole picture. "I alone am left," declared Elijah. But there were others – 7000 that had not bowed the knee to Baal. Never quit. You don't know all the forces that God has at His disposal. God showed Elijah the wind, the earthquake, the fire, then sheer silence. There is a time for them all. And God uses them all to accomplish His purpose. Never quit. Wait on the Lord. We don't know how He will show Himself. Is He in the fire? Is He in the wind? He doesn't always show Himself in the way we want or in the way we expect. We must wait on Him. He knows the best time and the best way. Never quit! - Jason Moore

Pray together: I will not quit, Lord. Give me strength and courage today.

Tuesday

Read together I Thessalonians 4:1-8

Hymn for the day: "Purer In Heart, O God"

Flee Fornication

The body, just like every other blessing from the Lord, comes with a responsibility to use it properly. "This is the will of God...that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel (vss. 3-4). Here are some suggestions to help you do just that. Control your environment. "Do not give the devil an opportunity" (Ephesians 4:27). It's hard to get burned when you stay away from the fire. How many times have you heard people say, "I never thought this could happen?" If we just stay out of dangerous and potentially dangerous situations, it never will. And don't think it won't happen simply because you're "just friends." Run at the first sign of trouble. That's what Joseph did. When Potiphar's wife grabbed him, "he left his garment in her hand and fled" (Genesis 39:12). Look for the way of escape and take it. If you wait too long, you might never leave. And don't deceive yourself into thinking you can handle the pressure. You may find out the hard way that you can't. Look past the moment. There are consequences attached to every sin. Some are immediate – loss of purity, loss of self-respect, an illegitimate child, disease, divorce. But all of these pale in comparison to the eternal

wages of sin – death. Is it really worth your soul? Sex is something sacred for husband and wife. Flee all other forms of it. - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Make my heart to be pure today and put away evil from my life today.

Wednesday

Read together Isaiah 55:6-13

Hymn for the day: "Looking To Thee"

Man's Great Need In This Age

People don't really change. Culture changes, social conditions may vary, technology moves, but people and their needs and attitudes just don't change. The people in Isaiah's time were the same as they are today, their needs not much different than ours. Notice: The assignment. Seek the Lord while He can be found, call on Him while He will still hear. The implication is that He will not always be available, that He will not always hear. We best hear while He is near. Man's greatest need in this age is to hear God, to listen to His word, to let Him speak to his needs. The reason. It's simple: God's thoughts and ways are so far above ours. We should not hesitate to not only hear what He says, but to favor what He says above anything man says. His word will accomplish what He set out for it to do, but only if we listen to and obey it. Man's greatest need in this age is to hear God, to listen to His word, to let Him speak to our needs. The result. The word of God will make us happy, prosperous and saved. It rids us of all the things that impair our happiness, that retard our joy, that diminish our hope. It makes fir of thorns, sweet leaves of the brier. But only if we use it. Man's greatest need in this age is to hear God, to listen to His word, to let Him speak to our needs. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Fill my life today to hear you, my Lord and my Savior.

Thursday

Read together I Peter 4:7-11

Hymn for the day: "To Christ Be True"

The Christian System

Peter summarizes for us the Christian system: "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ." Here is the rule for speech: "Speak as the oracles of God." Here is a rule not just for the pulpit but for all speech. How much harmful speech and poor communication would be prevented by following this simple principle? Our speech should be seasoned with hope, confidence in the resurrection, knowledge of the cross, and wisdom gleaned from the word. Folks from Texas have a peculiar accent. Folks who read the Bible ought to talk differently too and be ashamed if it's otherwise. Here is the rule for action: "Minister as with the ability God supplies." First, it should be noted that God supplies the strength to minister. The kingdom belongs to the servant. It's the Servant of servants who is King of kings,

and He equips His citizens to serve in like manner. The servant who whines, “I can’t” has not considered that God can. If He orders it, it can be done. Doing God’s work in God’s way always accomplishes more, not less. Here is the motive for speech and action: that in all things God may be glorified. Here is a different way of seeing your life. It’s not about you. It’s about God. “In all things” aim your life – your speech, your conduct, everything – to glorify Him. He in turn will glorify you. So simple. So forgotten. Remember it today. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Today my speech will glorify you in everything I do.

Friday

Read together Psalm 90:1-17

Hymn for the day: “As The Life Of A Flower”

Death’s Reminders

Solomon said that “it is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for...the living takes it to heart” (Ecclesiastes 7:2). Death, whether it is sudden or expected, has a way of teaching those that remain. Moses reminds us of these lessons in his prayer. Death is real. “Thou dost turn man back into dust” (vs. 3). Try as we may to ignore its certainty, it is, according to an Arab proverb, a “black camel that kneels beside every man’s gate.” Vitamins, exercises, treatments and surgeries only prolong your inevitable appointment (Hebrews 9:27). Life is short. “For soon it is gone and we fly away” (vs. 10). James compares our lives to a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away and David said, “surely man at his best is a mere breath” (Psalm 39:5). Even those that live 80 and 90 years are just a fleeting moment in the eternal ages. Judgment is certain. “So teach us to number our days, that we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom” (vs. 12). Since life is short, every day is extremely valuable and one that we cannot afford to lose. Even today. And the manner in which you number your days determines where you will spend days without number. The Christian need not fear death and judgment. Jesus said, “he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die” (John 11:25-26). - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Teach me to number my days and live with hope of eternal life.

Saturday

Read together Psalm 25:1-13

Hymn for the day: “Praise Him! Praise Him!”

Praise Him! Praise Him!

David was a praying person. We would do well to be like him. The 25th Psalm is a beautiful example of the type of prayer he prayed. Look at it. It is: A prayer of praise. Who can look around and not thank God for His blessings? Who can ignore the great things of God, especially His gift of His Son? And who would dare fail to praise Him regularly in consideration of His great power and majesty? A prayer for guidance. “Show me thy ways, O Lord, teach me thy paths,”

he says. We don't know how to go. We stumble along without sufficient light to see and with no goal in mind. God's word is the lamp we need, the light that lights our way. Let us beg Him, as did David, for His guidance in our lives. A prayer for forgiveness. We can't forgive ourselves, that's for sure. Where shall we turn? To some other man, to some group of men who cannot save themselves either? How foolish! Forgiveness is an act of God and only when we turn to Him and do as He says is forgiveness possible. A prayer of faith. There is no doubting in David's prayer. "All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies," he says. Only in God is doubt sent away. Only in Him is there complete confidence. Let us pray the prayer of praise, guidance, forgiveness and faith. Let us pray to God – regularly. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Praise you Lord, praise you from my heart; praise you.