

# ***The Family Together – Week 9***

## ***Daily Devotions For The Family***



### **Sunday**

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Read together Proverbs 22:1-3

Hymn for the day: Tell me the story of Jesus

Practical Pointers from Proverbs

"A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. The rich and the poor meet together; the LORD is the maker of them all. The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it." (Proverbs 22:1-3)

Three points to determine your bearings today.

"A good name is better than riches." So what if the world doesn't know you. The Lord does. "The rich and poor meet together." The only thing of real value that any man possesses is his soul. Your soul is the only thing in this life you have to lose, and the only thing you can be assured of keeping. "A prudent man foreseeth the evil." Wisdom is the ability to see the end of a thing from the beginning. The fool can't see that trouble is around the corner. He never considers the consequences before he acts. *Get Wisdom. She'll keep you on track.* - Jason Moore

Pray together: Teach me this week to see the importance of wisdom in all my decisions that I make.

### **Monday**

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Read together: 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Hymn for the day: "I Walk With The King"

Clash Of Cultures

The questions that Paul posed to the Corinthians concerning their response to their culture still need answering in our time. In view of the promised alliance with the just God - "I will dwell in them" - what partnership do we want with lawlessness? In consideration of the promise of divine company - "I will walk among them" - who would dim the brightness of His light by fellowship with darkness? In the face of a

God who came to adopt us as children - "I will be their God" - who would prefer to Belials and false gods who make promises which they cannot keep? In view of divine election - "they will be My people" - who would elect to be in the company of unbelievers who question and even mock God's initiatives in redeeming man? The questions are easily posed and easily answered. In spite of their ease, they are seldom considered and often ignored. Ask them today. Answer them in the choices you make as you interact with our culture. Remember who you are. "Having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." - Jason Moore

Pray together: Give me strength today to remain undefiled from the influence of the world.

## Tuesday

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Read together Revelation 20:11-15

Hymn for the day: "Take My Life, And Let It Be"

### The Day of the Lord

There was a misunderstanding among the early disciples about Christ's Final Coming. I guess there still is. Some thought that Jesus would return immediately after His ascension. When that didn't happen, they began to wonder whether He would return at all. Peter said that mockers would come saying, "where is the promise of His return? All continues just as it was from the beginning of creation" (2 Peter 3:4). Perhaps the Christians were afraid God had forgotten His promise to judge the world, to punish the wicked and rescue the righteous. This revelation assured them otherwise. Since God is still reigning, judgment is still certain. There has been a lot of talk the last few months about the United States "bringing the terrorists to justice." I hope that we do. But even if they continue to escape our military, I have more confidence in another day of reckoning. "The great and small" will be brought out of the rocks and hills and other hiding places and will be judged "according to their deeds." I have heard that in the margin of his bible, next to this passage, Martin Luther wrote, "Born once, die twice. Born twice, die once." The lake of fire, the second death, awaits those who have not obeyed the Gospel of Christ. But for those who have been born again, resurrected to walk in newness of life, they need not fear death at all. - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Lord come today.

## Wednesday

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Read together Proverbs 11:29-31

Hymn for the day: "What Shall It Profit A Man?"

### A Wise Man's Portfolio

You can try to say something well, or conjure a precept to live by, and always find it said better in the Proverbs. It is a shame that this reservoir of wisdom is drawn from so infrequently and that men stop only for a sip but not to drink deeply for strength to continue on their journey. Quench your thirst on the words of the wise man today. Make an investment in home improvement. Some houses collapse for neglect. Some are left in shambles by abusive tenants. But the occupants of both houses inherit the same fate. The wise man said, "He who troubles his own house will inherit wind." They're both rendered homeless. Make an investment today, not in your house, but in your household, in your home and family. It will pay off big. Invest in a lost soul today. Time spent in teaching the gospel is the sole investment in this life where a man suffers no loss of capital. Even if the gospel is rejected you win because you've reminded a man of his accountability to God. That glorifies God. "He who is wise wins souls." Remember that every man receives a return for his investment in this life. Men don't stop to consider that the nature of God demands His response to sin. God could not be good and do nothing about sin. The righteous will be rewarded. It is a certainty. And if their fate is certain then "how much more the wicked and the sinner!" - Jason Moore

Pray together: Let me work today to build up my family to be holy.

## Thursday

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Read together Revelation 2:10, 21:1-4, 22:1-5

Hymn for the day: "When We All Get To Heaven"

### Looking Through

Jesus said that part of following Him involves a willingness to take up your cross (Matthew 16:24). Suffering and persecution are not a possibility; they are a certainty. But what makes them bearable is that they "are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18). To those who are faithful until death, God has promised these rewards. "I will give you the crown of life." Athletes compete for a prize that rust and moth destroy. But our great

Champion, who has run the race before us, is waiting to award us with an imperishable one. Let there be no doubt about it: your cross is well worth your crown. "God Himself will be among them." After a lifetime of seeing Him through the eye of faith, we will finally be able to see Him face to face. We long for reunion with those who have gone before us. But just one glimpse of Him in glory will the toils of life repay. "They will reign forever and ever." We don't fit in here. We're at odds with the world. That's why we're persecuted. But the good news is that we're just passing through. We are headed to a place where no one is different, where everyone fits in. Those who serve God through suffering in this world will reign with Him in glory in the next one. Let us hear, read and heed the things that are written in this book. For the time is nearer than when we first believed (Revelation 1:1-3). - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Today I will look more closely at the crown of life that has my name written upon it.

## Friday

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Read together Ezekiel 37:1-15

Hymn for the day: "In The Morning Of Joy"

In That Great Getting' Up Morning

"Dem bones, dem bones, gonna walk around,"

"Dem bones, dem bones, gonna walk around,"

"Dem bones, dem bones, gonna walk around,"

"Now hear de word of de Lord."

So says the old Negro spiritual which made this passage the most famous in the book of Ezekiel. This wonderful story gave hope to Israel, now divided into two kingdoms, led away into captivity scarcely even recognizable as a nation. Enter God. The bleached bones had laid so long in the valley they were dried up. God said, I will raise them up, put sinews to connect them ("de foot bone connected to the ankle bone,"), shroud them with flesh and skin. Further, He said, I will give them life. "Dem bones gonna walk around," He says. He then told Ezekiel to prophesy again, this time concerning life, giving the four winds of the earth as a metaphor of His life-giving spirit. The bones began to come together, bone to bone, sinew to sinew, flesh to flesh, life to life. What that says to us is as significant as what it said to the children of Israel. "I will deliver you!" "I will raise up that which seemingly no longer has any life." In that great resurrection morning, "all that are

in the graves shall hear His voice and come forth...those that have done good unto the resurrection of life." (John 5:28-29). Yes sir! Dem bones gonna walk around! - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Lord, help me to see the glory of the resurrection day.

## **Saturday**

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Read together Matthew 28:16-20

Hymn for the day: "Far and Near"

### *The Great Commission*

God's plan for saving the lost world is a simple one. In the great commission it is simply stated by God Himself in the person of His own Son. "All authority has been given to Me." Both the disciple and prospective disciple must recognize Jesus' right to command. When His rule in religion is not acknowledged men fashion idols and idle religion. Disciples who don't submit to His lordship don't go. And prospects who don't see His authority don't follow. "Go." Recognizing Jesus' authority gives reason to go. He has authority in heaven and on earth, over the natural and the supernatural, over life and even over death. That should fuel our efforts because the one who said, "Go," is able to equip us for success. "Make disciples." Being an effective disciple maker does not actually require good leadership qualities. Instead it requires good following skills. Good disciples make good disciples because they show others how to follow the Leader. "Baptizing them." Jesus has all authority. He alone has the right to declare the terms of man's pardon. He has been pleased to do so. "Teaching them." Being an effective teacher of disciples does not require great communicative genius, but just the patience and humility to show other disciples how to observe all that the Teacher has already communicated. - Jason Moore

Pray together: I need patience and humility to share the good news of Christ today.