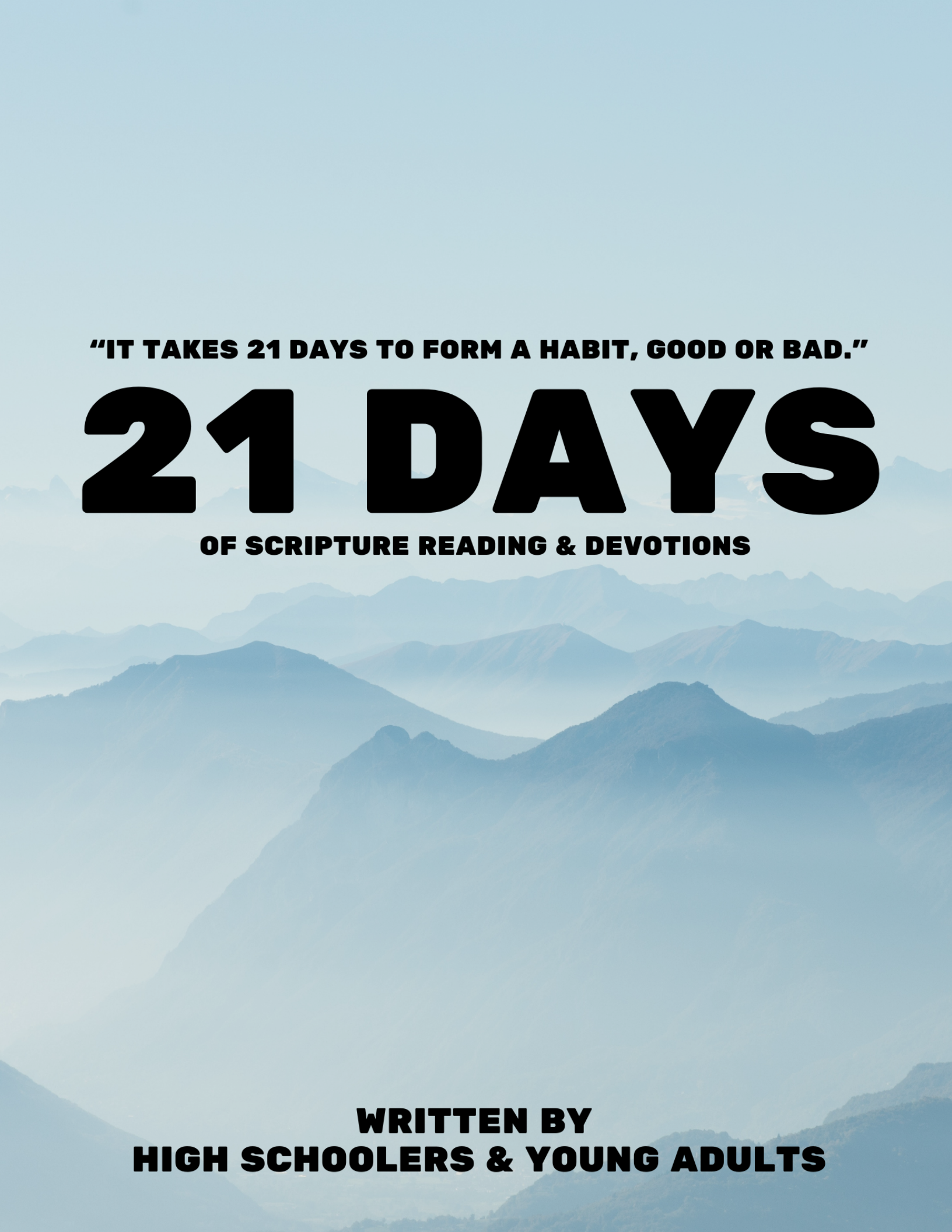


The background of the entire page is a photograph of a mountain range. The mountains are layered, with the closest peaks in sharp focus and the ones further away becoming increasingly hazy and blue, creating a sense of depth and tranquility. The sky is a pale, clear blue.

"IT TAKES 21 DAYS TO FORM A HABIT, GOOD OR BAD."

21 DAYS

OF SCRIPTURE READING & DEVOTIONS

**WRITTEN BY
HIGH SCHOOLERS & YOUNG ADULTS**

DAY #1 – COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

Colossians 1:9-14

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Paul, in his opening remarks to the Christians in Colossae, wanted to make it clear to them that he was constantly praying for them (vs. 3 & 9). Paul prayed and asked God that they may be “filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.” Knowing God’s will brings spiritual wisdom and understanding in all areas of life. How does someone know God’s will? They spend time with God. They are daily camping out within the pages of Scripture, they are fighting sin, they are communicating to the Lord on a daily basis through prayer. Paul shared that, “so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord”. What does that mean?

- “bearing fruit” (vs. 10)
- “increasing in the knowledge of God” (vs. 10)
- “being strengthened” (vs. 11)
- “giving thanks” (vs. 12)

These four things, Paul wrote, represent a life that is lived in a manner worthy of the Lord. Christians are called to bear fruit, meaning to exhibit and show tangible ways that we are constantly being sanctified. You might think of the fruit of the spirit from Galatians 5. That’s a good start but it goes deeper than that. A healthy Christian will produce spiritual fruit. We’re called to increase in the knowledge of God. This is done by spending time in His Word and with God himself. We’re called to be strengthened in our Christian walk so that we can endure the trials and tribulations of life with all patience and joy. Lastly, we’re charged to give thanks. To give thanks to the Father for all He has done for us. One of the many things He has done is letting us share in the inheritance of the saints. What is that? Being redeemed. Eternity in Heaven. Being children of light instead of children of darkness.

Is your life lived in a manner that is worthy of the gospel? Is your conduct in life a good representation to someone of someone who follows Jesus well? Are you bearing spiritual fruit? Are you spiritually healthy? Are you growing in your knowledge of God and His Word? Are you constantly being strengthened as a Christian? I won’t ever get strong muscles if I don’t spend time in the gym and lift heavy things and push my body. You won’t ever get strong spiritual muscles if you don’t get into the spiritual gym and get that work done. Lastly, are you constantly giving thanks to God? Is your life a life of thanksgiving? May we all live our lives in a manner worthy of this glorious gospel.

DAY #2 – COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

Colossians 1:15-23

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Paul, after telling us we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins through Christ answers the question, “Who is Jesus?” with five profound statements about our Lord and Savior.

- *“He is the image of the invisible God” (vs. 15)*
- *“the firstborn of all creation” (vs. 15)*
- *“all things were created through him and for him” (vs. 16)*
- *“in him all things hold together” (vs. 17)*
- *“And he is the head of the body, the church” (vs. 18)*

Paul urges us to take a fresh look at Jesus because seeing Him for who He truly is changes everything. Instead of beginning with the dangers of false teaching, Paul wants us to embrace and experience the glory of Jesus. He knows that once we see Jesus clearly, many of our problems will resolve themselves. Until we grasp the supremacy of Jesus, nothing else will really matter.

Jesus is the image of the invisible God, making the unseen visible. He is not just another created being; He is supreme over all creation. As the firstborn, He holds the highest rank, ruling over everything. Not only that, but He is also the Creator. Everything exists through Him and for Him, from the most powerful angel to the tiniest insect. He not only made the universe but continues to sustain it. Every atom, every law of nature holds together because of Him. If He stopped sustaining, everything would cease to exist.

Yet, Jesus is not just supreme and powerful, He is also our Savior. He is the head of the church, the one who reconciles us to God through His death and resurrection. He has solved our greatest problems: sin and death. One day, all things will be fully submitted to Him, either in willing worship or forced submission. The right response is to trust Him completely, to stand firm in faith, and never shift from the hope of the gospel. May we never take Him for granted or settle for anything less than His glory. Lord, help us to see Jesus clearly, to marvel at Him, and to worship Him alone. Amen.

DAY #3 – MATTHEW 7:24-27

Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Jesus gave the two ways that we can live our lives. We all want to build our lives on a solid foundation, one that can withstand the storms of life. Jesus made it clear in Matthew 7:24–27 that the key to this is simple: hear His words and obey them. Those who build their lives on His teaching stand firm when trials come, while those who ignore His words collapse under pressure. The difference isn't just in hearing, it's in doing. A life rooted in God's Word is a life that endures.

So how do we build on the rock? We commit to hearing, reading, studying, and meditating on Scripture daily. More than that, we put it into practice. James 1 reminds us not to be hearers only, but doers of the Word. When life's hardships come, God's truth will sustain us, strengthen us, and keep us from falling. His promises will uphold us when lies and discouragement threaten to shake our faith.

Lord, help us to be both hearers and doers of your Word. May it be our daily practice to meditate on your truth and live it out. For those facing trials right now, may your Word sustain them and give them strength. None of us knows what tomorrow holds, but we know that if we stand on your Word, we will not be shaken. Thank you, God, for giving us the foundation we need to endure. Amen.

DAY #4 – GENESIS 3

Genesis 3

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." ¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." ¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." ²⁰ The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was

the mother of all living. ²¹ And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. ²² Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" ²³ therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Genesis 3 is a pivotal chapter in Scripture, revealing the root of all suffering and brokenness in the world. Without it, we cannot fully grasp the depth of human sin or our need for salvation. This chapter recounts how the serpent deceived Eve, causing her to doubt and distort God's Word, leading to the first act of disobedience. Adam, fully aware of God's command, also chose to rebel. Their sin immediately resulted in shame, fear, and blame; fracturing their relationship with God and bringing judgment upon all creation.

The consequences of their fall were severe. The serpent was cursed, Eve would experience pain in childbirth and struggle in marriage, and Adam would toil for survival. Death, both spiritual and physical, entered the world. Yet even in this judgment, God provided hope. Genesis 3:15, the "Proto-Evangelium" or "first gospel," foretells a coming Savior who would crush the serpent's head, pointing to Jesus Christ's ultimate victory over sin and death.

This passage teaches us that sin distorts God's truth, bringing suffering into the world, yet God's Word remains the standard by which we must live. Jesus, the "Last Adam," overcame temptation by affirming Scripture and providing a model for us. Jesus came to restore our relationship with God when Adam broke it. The solution to our fallen state is not in self-improvement but in Christ, who bore our sins and offers redemption. Through Him, we can escape sin's consequences and find eternal life.

Ultimately, Genesis 3 reminds us that while sin brought ruin, God's grace provides restoration. Through Christ's sacrifice, we are not only forgiven but also given the hope of a future where sin and suffering will be no more. To God be the glory!

DAY #5 – TITUS 3:3-6

Titus 3:3-6

³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

There are many gospel passages in the Bible; passages that are plain and clear what the gospel is, passages like Ephesians 2, Romans 3:23-24, and Titus 3:3-6. We all need these passages to remind us of the gospel, what it means for us and how it should transform us, and that is what I love about Titus 3:3-6. In verse three, we see who we are before Christ. We are described as disobedient, being led astray or being wayward. We were enslaved to passion and pleasures, things that might get us hooked to them. At the end of the verse, we see what sin does to relationships causing them to be riddled with hate. This is what sin does to us.

But that is not where the passage ends. Through verses 4-6 we see a good God, saving those that had no right to be saved, showing mercy to those that should have had the

punishment shown to them. When Jesus took up the cross for us and was nailed to it, it was all for us. He became the payment for the sins that we have committed. There was nothing that we could do to earn this, it was not a payment plan that we must pay back. This was done for us, so that we can be made new, so that we can have a relationship. We can now have the Holy Spirit dwell within us, sanctifying us, intervening between us and the Father.

How should we respond? What should our call to arms be? It all hinges on the words at the beginning of the passage, "For we ourselves were once..." This was written in the past tense to tell us that is who we were. But that is not who we are now. We are justified for our sins from our confession of our sin and belief in Jesus Christ as Lord (Romans 10:9). Then as we walk with Christ, we will grow in our love for God's teaching and commands and find less satisfaction in our sinful actions. Jesus paid the complete payment for our sin, so that we can live completely for Christ. Here is the thing: what are you completely living for?

DAY #6 – PSALM 1

Psalm 1

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. 4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; 6 for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Psalm 1 is a powerful change to how someone would live their life. In Psalm 1 is the comparison of the wise man and the unwise man. We see that one man is blessed for not doing three things with people: walks, stands, and sits. What is so important about walking with people, standing with people and sitting with people? By not doing these things he refuses to be influenced by the people that are around him, the people that are ungodly and far from God. In the next verse (verse 2) we see what this man takes his influence from, the word of the Lord. In fact, he delights in the Law of the Lord because he is living by the way that he is living, the way that God designs. He does not view law as something that restricts the way that he is living because he is living the way that he was designed to live.

From that delighting in God law, having a consistent source of strength, he is able to bear much fruit, and he will never have a lack of abundance. But now, we compare the ungodly man. This man does not have a consistent source of strength like the wise man; in fact he is not even rooted in anything at all. A chaff is the unwanted parts of the wheat, it is the outer shell and when the wheat was tossed in the air, this chaff falls off. Because of their ungodliness, they will have no place in heaven. At the end of time, when those who have lived a life for the Lord will be able to sing His praises, those that did not, will not see heaven.

What can we take away from this? Following God's law is the best and wisest way to live. Now, we know that we cannot live to God's law perfectly, but that does not give an excuse to sin. We read about that in the book of Romans. And we do not have to sacrifice lambs anymore because Jesus came and took the punishment for us. But there are still things that God has commanded us to do, and we need to do our best live up to those things. Not because by doing them we earn our salvation, or gain better status with God, but in way that loves God. Do you delight in God commands and laws?

DAY #7 – MATHEW 6:25-34

Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. ³⁴ “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

To start off here, let us build context about the person who wrote the passage we will read. Mathew, a former tax collector for the Roman government, was a sinner like all of us are still today. But one day, when he was sitting at his tax booth, our Lord Jesus saw him and called Mathew to follow Him. Without hesitation, Mathew followed Jesus and became one of His 12 Apostles. Later on, after Jesus’ death and resurrection, Mathew wrote the Gospel named “Mathew,” which we read in the bible today.

Let’s break our passage down. The theme across this passage of Scripture is “Don’t be anxious,” which in today’s world is a very hard thing to overcome. Modern things like school, work, relationships, etc., allow anxiety to take over our logical thoughts all the time, but Jesus said in this passage that we shouldn’t be anxious because God will take care of us according to His plan. A very good example that Jesus gave was about food and drink (verse 25). We tend to idolize food and drink because our body needs it to survive naturally, so we crave it. But again, we need to keep our focus on things above this world (Colossians 3:2), meaning we should not worry about when we will eat or when we will drink as well as what we will intake. Now I am not saying don’t plan out your next dinner or anything like that. I am saying we should not let those thoughts take over our entire mind. Although it may be hard to do, a good tactic is to breathe for a second and pray to our Lord. Prayer is a very powerful tool that can help us (Philippians 4:6-7).

Some things I ask for when I pray about being anxious are for the Lord to help give me peace, for the Lord to ease my mind and remind me that he can take care of all things according to His plan, and for a softer heart so I can show love to the Lord like a child would love Santa Claus (Mark 10:14 and Luke 18:16-17). I encourage you, the next time you have an interview for a job, have to take a quiz or test, or some relationship causes you to worry, to pray to our Father and remember that God takes care of the birds in the sky (verse 26). He also takes care of the natural flowers (verse 30), so He will take care of you the best way He planned on doing.

DAY #8 – JOHN 13:1-20

John 13:1-20

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During

supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him,³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God,⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist.⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?"⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand."⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you."¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?"¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.'¹⁹ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

Now, as we get into our passage today, we should first understand who is writing this (if you don't already know). The John who wrote this was an Apostle of Jesus who referred to himself as "*disciple whom Jesus loved*" (John 13:23/19:26-27/20:2). However, this is not the same person as John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus (*Luke 3:4*). The author John the Apostle also wrote 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John, and people think he also wrote Revelation. John the Apostle was a fisherman before becoming a disciple of Jesus, and became part of Jesus' inner circle with Peter and James. John witnessed some key events such as the Transfiguration (*Matthew 17:1-2*), and Jesus' agony in Gethsemane (*Mark 14:33*). Now that we know who John was, let's dive into what he wrote in today's passage.

I personally find Jesus' thoughts and actions in this passage kind of amazing. To start off, He already knew who was going to betray Him. That's because Jesus is God, and God is omniscient (all-knowing). Although Jesus knew that Judas Iscariot was going to betray him and lead Him to a crucifixion death (in that time period, it was one of the most humiliating ways to die), Jesus still served him by washing his and all His disciples' feet. We are called to be servants to everyone to honor our Lord, and we can easily do this by not putting ourselves above others. In verses 15 and 16 Jesus said that a servant is not greater than his master. (In that time, slavery was a lot different than our modern day, where almost everyone, including doctors and workers were slaves.) In any case, by not putting ourselves above others it makes it easier for us to serve them. Always try to be the bigger person in a situation. I think this a great way to start living our lives, because Jesus isn't excluding anyone when He said this. He included everyone, even people who may have wronged you, or people you may not even know. We are called to serve everyone we encounter as brothers or sisters.

DAY #9 – JAMES 5:1-6

James 5:1-6

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. ² Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. ⁴ Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. ⁵ You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

This passage from James really stuck out to me as materialism used to be a controlling factor of my life when I was younger. After learning the Lord's wisdom and understanding that monetary and physical values will be useless when one dies, one can inherit more of the Lord's love and care rather than focusing on worldly values. James 4:3 tells us, "Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire." To me, this verse is yet another example of how wealth and worldly values will be completely irrelevant when it comes to your relationship with the Lord.

Understanding that the rich will weep when loneliness and coldness arises shows that you prioritize your spiritual relationship with the Lord more than anything else. I personally used to believe that having an extremely large surplus of money was the most important thing ever; this was until I found the Lord's mercy and understood the true peace, protection, and love that no worldly value could ever give.

DAY #10 – LUKE 8:26-39

Luke 8:26-39

²⁶ Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.²⁷ When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." ²⁹ For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.)³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. ³¹ And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. ³² Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

³⁴ When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.³⁶ And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from

whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying,³⁹ “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

This empowering passage gives a view on how, through the Lord’s mercy, the healing of someone can change their life in the most important way. It also is a good passage that reminds us, as followers of the Lord, we are instructed by Him to spread His Word to others. Luke 8:39 says, “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” It has a big impact on my life as I feel that I have been personally instructed to spread the gospel through many ways, whether it’s work, college, or anywhere else in public.

The passage also shows that Jesus freed a man from the demons that possessed him and how Jesus’ cleansing power is the most powerful force in the world. When I am personally tempted by Satan to do things that would dishonor the Lord and His Kingdom, I remind myself what He does for me through love and what He did for me through sacrifice on the cross. The Lord is the only one who can a person from Satan’s grasp and put them under His light in order that they may lead a better life through His influence.

DAY #11 – MATTHEW 18:8-9

Matthew 18:8-9

⁸ And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

In this passage, Jesus spoke to His disciples, and He warned them about the dangers of sin and explained that sin should be avoided at all costs. He used an extreme example, saying that if something like your hand, foot, or eye leads you to sin, it’s better to cut it off and remove it than to let it cause you to be separated from God forever. Think about that! Jesus would rather us have one eye! That is how destructive sin is, and how much it separates us from God! Even though losing a part of your body might seem like a big sacrifice, it’s far better than being sent into the “eternal fire.”

Cutting off body parts or tearing out your eye isn’t what Jesus was teaching exactly. Jesus meant that we need to completely take away quite literally anything in our life that causes us to sin. Although the worldly doings seem much more fun than the things God calls us to do, if you stand at the gates of heaven and Jesus says: “Depart from me I never knew you, you worker of sin and lawlessness,” will all of that sin and “fun” you practiced be worth it? This passage is a reminder to focus on what matters and the only thing that matters is our spiritual well-being and relationship with God.

Sin separates us from God more than anything on this earth, you cannot sin and worship Him at the same time, 1 John 1:6 says: “If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.” Lukewarm Christianity is the most common way people are separated from God, and Jesus said in the book of Revelation that He would rather us not follow him at all than for us to follow the world and Him. So, we must pick up our cross as it says in Matthew 16, follow Jesus through the highs and the lows, and cut off all temptation from our life.

DAY #12 – EPHESIANS 2:8-10

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

This passage tells us that we are saved by grace through faith. It means that our salvation is not something we have to work for, nor is it something we can earn by doing good things. Instead, God gives it to us freely out of His love. Salvation is not a reward for being “good enough” or following a set of rules it is a gift from God, it is received through faith in Jesus Christ.

There may be times when we feel like we need to prove ourselves to God by being kind, helping others, or obeying His commandments. While these things are good and pleasing to God, they do not save us. Our works don’t earn us a place in heaven. As Galatians 2:16 says: “Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.” No amount of good deeds can take away our sins or make us righteous before God. It is only through Jesus Christ that we are saved.

However, this doesn’t mean that works don’t matter. Ephesians 2:10 reminds us: “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” As followers of Christ, we are called to obey the law He has provided for us and walk in the good works that God has set before us. But we must remember that we are not justified by works alone. Faith without works is empty, and works without faith are meaningless. If we claim to worship God but continue to live in sin, we lie to ourselves. True faith produces transformation, leading us to walk in righteousness out of our love for God, not because we must.

If salvation depended on our own efforts, we would always fall short, because no one is perfect. That’s why God sent Jesus to take our place. Jesus paid the price for our sins on the cross so that we could have eternal life with Him. Through His sacrifice, we don’t have to live in fear or uncertainty, our debt has already been paid. Praise God for His incredible grace, for the gift of salvation that we could never earn on our own. All we have to do is trust in Him.

DAY #13 – ROMANS 7:17-25

Romans 7:17-25

¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Paul’s words in this passage are deeply relatable because they describe an ongoing battle, which is the war between our desire to do what is right and the sinful nature that constantly pulls us in the wrong direction. Verse 18: “For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.” That struggle is something we all experience. No matter how much we long to live righteously, we fall

short. And it can be discouraging, even exhausting, to recognize that no matter how hard we try, we cannot overcome sin on our own.

But the beauty of this passage is that it doesn't end in despair. Paul says in verse 24: "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" is met with the only true answer: Jesus Christ. The battle between flesh and spirit is real, but so is the righteousness found in Jesus. We are not meant to fight this war alone. God's mercy, provides grace, redemption, and the strength to overcome through Jesus. Even when we fail, even when we fall into the very things we swore we would never do again, God's grace still remains. It is not in our ability to be perfect (because we can't be perfect); it's because there was One who was perfect for us. And for that, we can confidently say: Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DAY #14 – COLOSSIANS 3:1-16

Colossians 3:1-16

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Before we dive into today's passage, we should understand the context behind this book and its author. The book of Colossians was written by the Apostle Paul. Paul was originally named *Saul of Tarsus*, and during the time he was Saul, he was one who persecuted (and murdered) Christians because of their belief in Jesus. Later, Saul was stopped by a light from heaven, and in that light, Jesus spoke to him directly (Acts 9:5-6). After his encounter with Jesus, Saul lost his sight for three days. After those three days, Saul regained his sight, was baptized and began preaching the same gospel he once tried to destroy. (And his name was changed to Paul.) Paul ended up writing 13 books in the Bible we read today (probably many more letters as well), and today we are focusing on his letter to the church in Colossae. The main reason he wrote this entire letter was to tell the Colossians to fight against false teachings of the gospel, which is something you and I will encounter even in modern day. Now that we understand the context behind the book and the author, let us dive into the passage.

Let's cut this up into a couple of key points. In verses 1-4, Paul's writing told the Colossians to seek things "that are above." The things that are above us that Paul wrote about is that we are to set our focus on the Lord. Our priorities should always be Him because the Lord is eternal, and nothing on this earth will come with us to heaven (Matthew 24:35).

Next, in verses 5-10, Paul wrote about putting to death sinful desires and also putting away sinful attitudes. What exactly does that mean though? Well, putting it to death would mean killing it, specifically cutting off any sinful habits you might have. If you don't know if something you are doing is sinful or not you could A) look it up, B) ask someone, or C) just assume it is. Paul gave examples like impurity, evil desire, sexual immorality, and others, but his intentions include any sinful habits we may have. As I stated, he also wrote about sinful attitudes. The examples Paul gave for sinful attitudes were anger, slander, obscene talk, and some others. Now remember, we are not God, and we are humans, so it means that stopping ourselves from doing these things are going to be very challenging and even seem impossible. But remember that through God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26).

For the last set of verses 11-16, Paul wrote that we should be Christlike and allow Him to rule our hearts. Let's be real, being Christlike is going to be an everyday struggle, and some days you aren't going to feel like honoring God in a certain area, or maybe you won't feel like obeying God in a particular decision. This is where allowing the Lord to take control of our hearts takes place. Everything we do should be for the glory of God (1Cor. 10:31) and allowing Him to take control will make doing that a lot easier. God will give us what we need, we may not always like what He chooses, or it may not be what we asked Him for, but God knows what is best, and He has a plan for us, so we just need to be patient and allow Him to work (Matt. 6:26; Luke 12:24).

If you take away anything from this devotional, remember it is written in the Bible that we should allow Jesus to control our hearts to help us be Christ-honoring children of God and to remind us to look at the things that are above this earth, to the eternal.

DAY #15 – JAMES 2:18-19

James 2:18-19 "But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe and shudder!"

Have you ever met someone who talks a big game but doesn't back it up with action? Maybe they say they want to be the best on the team, but they never show up to practice. Or they talk about how much they care about their friends, but they never actually show kindness or support. That's what James, in this passage, warned us about when it comes to faith.

It's easy to say, "I believe in God." But believing isn't the same as following. James pointed out that even demons believe in God, but that doesn't mean they love Him or obey Him. Just knowing that God is real isn't enough. We have to live out our faith through our actions.

Think about a flashlight. It was made to shine light, but if you never put batteries in it, it's useless. In the same way, our faith is meant to shine through our lives. If we say we follow Jesus but don't live like Him—loving others, serving, standing up for truth—our faith isn't really active.

The good news is that we don't have to be perfect to live out our faith. God isn't looking for people who have it all together; He's looking for people who are willing to take small, daily steps of

obedience. Maybe that means choosing kindness instead of gossip, forgiving someone who hurt you, or spending time praying and reading the Bible even when you don't feel like it.

True faith isn't just words, it's action. Let's live in a way that shows the world who Jesus is.

Reflection Questions:

1. If someone watched how you live, would they be able to tell that you follow Jesus?
2. What's one small way you can put your faith into action this week?
3. Are there any areas where you've been saying you have faith but not really living it out?

DAY #16 – MATTHEW 12:33-37

Matthew 12:33-37

"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Have you ever bitten into an apple that looked good on the outside but was rotten inside? At first, it seemed fine, but one bite told you everything you needed to know. That's what Jesus was saying in this passage. It's our words that reveal what's really going on in our hearts.

Jesus compared people to trees. A healthy tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. In the same way, the words we say, how we talk to others, what we joke about, the way we speak when we're angry, show what's inside us.

It's easy to think words don't really matter, especially when everyone throws around mean jokes, gossip, or insults. But Jesus said that every word we speak matters to God. Our words can build others up or tear them down. They can reflect a heart that loves God or a heart that is selfish and careless.

Think about your daily conversations. Do your words show kindness, truth, and encouragement? Or do they show anger, gossip, and negativity? The good news is that God doesn't expect us to fix our words by ourselves. When we spend time with Him—reading the Bible, praying, and filling our hearts with good things—our words will naturally change, just like a healthy tree naturally grows good fruit. If your words haven't been the best lately, don't be discouraged. Ask God to help you and take small steps to be more mindful of what you say. Your words have power. Use them to reflect Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

1. If someone only knew you by the words you spoke, what would they think about your heart?
2. Do your words bring life and encouragement to others, or do they hurt and tear down?
3. What's one way you can be more intentional about speaking kindly and truthfully this week?

DAY #17 – MATTHEW 18:15-20

Matthew 18:15-20

15 "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

In this section of Scripture, Jesus gave us a blueprint of how to react if our brother sins against us. First, Jesus first tells us to approach our brother one on one, "Between you and him alone" (vs. 15). If our brother doesn't listen, we are to get another brother to join us in sharing about his sin. Jesus defends why he says this by saying "that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses" (vs. 17). Finally, Jesus tells us to let the whole church know, and if the offender doesn't listen at that point, we are to treat him like a gentile tax collector. It is inevitable that issues will arise with our brothers or sisters in Christ as we live on Earth, because we are all sinners. Knowing that we will all fall short, Jesus gives us the gift of showing us how to respond when we have been wronged. We should also hope for this kind of grace and compassion from our brothers and sisters when we wrong them.

Verse 18 should all make us pause and reflect on what Jesus meant when He spoke this. The answer, however, could not be more obvious. Jesus was letting us know that whatever we attach our hearts to on Earth we will be bound in Heaven as well. The second part of this verse, talking about whatever we loose on Earth, should give us all great encouragement to let go of sin, the unneeded anxiety or worry, and focus on the Kingdom and what will last for eternity.

Finally, Jesus shared the importance of community and true brotherhood in His name. Jesus emphasizes how impactful the faith of two or more can have when they both have the same mission and purpose. This purpose, of course is, advancing the gospel. These two verses should give you excitement about the possibilities that you and your church can create through faith. And if you don't have those Christian friendships this should give you the push to go and find those people because they are out there.

Are you being the brother or sister in Christ that you would want to have? Or more importantly, are you being the brother or sister in Christ that Jesus has called you to be? How often are you quick to gossip about your friend before you go and tell them how they wronged you directly? Are you preoccupied with your own desires or are you thinking about the desires of the Kingdom? Have you taken for granted the community God has given you? Have you doubted the power that our God has, and what He can do through the power of prayer? God has blessed us with community and shows us that we can grow closer to Him when we grow closer with our family in Christ. Hopefully this message that Jesus has given us reminds us of the desire God has for our lives.

DAY #18 – 1 JOHN 4:7-21

1 John 4:7-21

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to

be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

In this passage, the Apostle John laid out perfectly why we should love, and what love is. The world around us may tell us that love is just a feeling, a chemical reaction in the brain, or love isn't even a real thing. However, John explained to us that love isn't something that humans can do alone, but rather that it comes from God Himself (vs. 7). John also stated very sternly that if you do not love, you do not know God (vs. 8). This should be very alarming and important for Christians because showing love shows what God has done first. John also clearly showed us that God did the most loving person ever, sending us a Savior to live a perfect human life, and take all our sins and wash us clean with our Savior's blood (vs. 9). While all of this is true, our flesh often makes loving the way God loves impossible. John doesn't allow this to be an excuse for us, however, and he emphasized that if we love God, He will abide in us, allowing Him to sanctify us and then we will become greater expressions of who Jesus is. (vs. 12)

John told us that our greatest ally in loving one another as God loves us is the Holy Spirit who resides in us (vs. 13). The Holy Spirit within us is truly the only way that we can live in a manner that pleases Christ, as John alluded to. We can try and white-knuckle Christianity but that will never truly please God. The Holy Spirit guides and leads our path in ways that we as humans will never fully understand.

In verses 16 & 17, John affirmed why we should have confidence in our status on judgement day, not because of anything we can ever do, but because of what Jesus did for us. John then went on to make the point of how loving those around us truly shows the fruit of the Spirit (vs. 20-21). How can you truly say you love God, or your brother, if you aren't showing that in how you act and speak?

This section of the Word really emphasizes why love is our main calling card as Christians. This thought can be backed up by Jesus himself when He was asked what the most important commandment is (Mark 12:28) and followed that up with Mark 12:30-31, *"³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."* Jesus tells, and shows us, that love is the best way to honor Him.

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Am I loving my brothers and sisters well enough?
2. Am I relying on the Holy Spirit to guide me, or am I trying to do this on my own?

3. What ways can I show love to those around me?
4. What areas of my life am I lacking love?

God is the answer to all these questions. Rely on the Holy Spirit to guide your walk, and you will be able to show the love that God showed you first.

DAY #19 – MARK 2:16-17

Mark 2:16-17

¹⁶ And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹⁷ And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

The religious leaders were shocked that Jesus spent time with tax collectors and sinners, people they considered unworthy. But Jesus made it clear that He came for those who recognized their need for Him. Just like a doctor is for the sick, Jesus is for the broken, the lost, and the struggling. We can sometimes fall into the trap of thinking we need to “clean ourselves up” before coming to Jesus. But the truth is, He invites us as we are. He doesn’t demand perfection, He offers healing. His grace is for the humble, the repentant, and those willing to acknowledge their need for Him. We must also realize we are no better than anyone else. Even if we do more “godly things,” like go to church and read our Bible more than someone, it doesn’t mean we are “better Christians.”

Questions:

1. Are there areas in your life where you feel unworthy of God’s love?
2. Have you ever judged someone for “not being holy enough?”
 - a. Remember, we are all sinners, Jesus came for you as well as anyone else accepting of Him.
 - b. Instead of hiding your struggles, bring them to Him. He is ready to heal, restore, and walk with you in grace.

DAY #20 – JAMES 4:6-10

James 4:6-10

⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” As believers in Jesus Christ, there is no other option but to humble ourselves before the Lord and seek His grace. We need His immeasurable grace to continue. God opposes those who are proud in their ways, saying “I do not need God, or His grace.” Verse 7 reads, *“Submit yourselves therefore to God.”* James emphasized what was stated in verse 6, that we must submit to the One who knows all things, and whose ways are infinitely better than our own. In the latter part of verse 7, *“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”* It is shown that first submitting to God is necessary, then through our submission the devil will flee. Only in humble submission to God will we be able to *resist* the devil.

In the first part of verse 8, James wrote, *“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.”* God is always waiting for us to respond to His call. God's hand is always outstretched towards us, and all we must do is reach back to Him in His constant faithfulness. The second part of verse 8 cannot be read in the correct context without continuing with verse 9, *“Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”*, verse 9, *“Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.”* James told us how we are to treat our sinfulness and our separation from God, along with His coming judgement. God's judgement is not something to just brush under the rug and ignore. Thanks be to God for the way through which we can be pardoned from His wrath. But to not care about sin is to not have a healthy fear and awe of who God is. James restated in verse 10 what he began with in verse 6, *“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.”*

God's grace is reaching out ready for us, great sinners, to humbly accept. But as well as in His mercy, He will exalt those who humble themselves before Him. So, will you choose to humble yourself before the Lord today?

DAY #21 – PROVERBS 3:5-6

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Trusting in the Lord with all your heart can be one of the most difficult things, if not the most difficult thing to do. Trusting in the Lord with all your heart is something that has to be checked so commonly. It is very easy to give things over to the Lord in one moment, but in the next be stressing about it once again. How could we not trust in the God who sees all things, knows all things, and has His mighty hand in all things. Trust in the Lord with everything you have. Every thing, big and small, is to be trusted with the Lord. Our cares about relationships, work, health, and everything in between is to be trusted to the Lord.

We cannot lean on our own understanding. Our understanding of things is not complete, and in fact, we often misunderstand what reality is. We cannot lean on the understanding we have from our human perspective. God sees things from beginning to end. We cannot fathom the work that the Lord is doing in the present with what we can see. We are called to trust in the Lord for He sees all things and is within all things.

Verse 6 tells us, *“In all of your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”* In every single way that our steps may carry us, we are called to acknowledge God in it. This means that we are to compare what we are doing to His Word. Here, we should ask ourselves if what we are doing is aligned with the Word of God, and if it is pleasing to the Lord. The direction of the Lord is the pathway that the wise walk on. The Lord in His omniscience (all knowing) ways has infinite amounts of wisdom in which we should walk no matter the cost of what that might be. The Lord will make straight our paths if we choose to walk in His way. The straight path is by far not the easiest path, especially walking through this world which tries to keep us from living holy, God-honoring lives.

We are to continually progress towards a goal, and this goal is to walk this life in such a way that is pleasing to the Lord. The Lord gives us strength through His Holy Spirit to do so. The way of the Lord is living in the freedom of Jesus Christ and walking in a way that is a holy offering to the Lord God.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON FINISHING 21 DAYS OF DEVOTIONALS! DO NOT STOP HERE
THOUGH. PICK YOUR BIBLE UP TOMORROW AND BEGIN READING IT FOR YOURSELF,
SLOWLY MAKING OBSERVATIONS AND CROSS-REFERENCES VERSE BY VERSE. MAY
YOU FIND BLESSINGS UPON BLESSINGS THROUGH THE RICH AND POWERFUL AND LIVING
WORD OF GOD.**