MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Read Matthew 7 – Judging, The Gate, Not Everyone, Building a Firm Foundation



MY NOTES My Insights / My Questions

- 1. Judge not, lest you be judged. What is the difference between judgment (of condemnation) and discernment?
- 2. Jesus cautions us to enter by the narrow gate. How does this affect the words we say, the thoughts we have, and the deeds we do?
- 3. Most Americans say that they are "Christian." What does Jesus say will happen on Judgment Day? How does this affect us as believers?
- 4. A firm foundation is designed to support weight and survive stress. How does faithful devotion to Jesus' sayings build a firm foundation in you?
 - Pray for a kind, gentle and wise spirit.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Read Matthew 8 -Power over Damage Caused by Sin, Creation, Sickness and Demons

- 1. Jesus demonstrates his authority over the effects of sin by healing people and by casting out demons. Do you believe in demons or believe that this is a way that the ancient people had to explain certain unusual behaviors?
- 2. Jesus seemed to want to avoid large crowds. He also challenged people's commitment when they say that they want to follow Him. Why?
- 3. Jesus is acknowledged to be the Son of God (Matthew 8:29) by what? Do they ask permission of Jesus? How do you feel about this encounter?
 - Pray that the Holy Spirit would help you understand the depth of both Jesus' power and Love in your life.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Read Matthew 9 - Forgiveness of Sin, the Call of a Sinner, Power over Death

- 1. What was the most important thing that Jesus did for the paralytic? Do we get our priorities mixed up sometimes in our own lives?
- 2. What does Jesus mean when he says "I desire mercy and not sacrifice."?
- 3. Jairus's daughter was dead, yet he believed that Jesus had power even over death. Even though He was on His way to resurrect Jairus's daughter, he was not too busy to stop to minister to a woman along the way. Does "busy" interfere in your obedience to Jesus' will?
 - Pray that today God would give you His priorities and that He will give you the strength to follow them.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Read Matthew 10 – Commissioning of the Apostles, Persecution, Sword

- 1. What is the difference between a disciple and an Apostle?
- 2. On their first "assignment," Jesus tells the Apostles specifically go to whom? What is the "Mission Statement" that God has given to the Jews? With that mission, doesn't it make sense to go to them first for their "training"?
- 3. Jesus says that the Apostles will be hated and persecuted for His name's sake. Have you ever been hated by co-workers, family members, neighbors for your faith in Christ?
- 4. Jesus says "I did not come to bring peace (on earth) but a sword." Think about the temptation that Satan offered Jesus about giving Him all the world (4:8-9). Are we comfortable and friends with our broken world? Is Jesus?
 - Pray that you can witness the Love of Jesus to an unbeliever today.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Read Matthew 11 - John's Doubts, Woes, Bruised Reeds

- 1. Even John developed doubts as he languished in prison for obeying God's direction. Do you ever doubt the love and sovereignty of God when you are faced with life's challenges such as divorce, death of a loved one, false accusations, failing health, depression? How does Jesus respond to John's plea for assurance?
- 2. Jesus issues oracles of woe to Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum. Why did they deserve it and why did Jesus issue the warnings?
- 3. Picture a drawing of the little Dutch girl carrying water in two buckets suspended by a yoke. This is the type yoke to which Jesus was referring. What is the yoke the sinner is carrying? What yoke does Jesus give us in its place?
 - Pray that Jesus asks you to do a specific task today. Write it down and give thanks for the opportunity to serve.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Read Matthew 12 - Flax, Unforgivable Sin, Demons

- Isaiah promises that Jesus will not break a bruised reed not quench a smoldering flax. Justice (see question 2 above) and mercy (see question 3) are both present in Jesus. Do we tend to overemphasize one component over another?
- 2. What is the unforgiveable sin?
- 3. Jesus seems to be warning us against "self-improvement" without repentance and the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. What did he say moved back into the man? Do you believe in demon possession?
 - Pray that you can help a friend today that is a bruised reed or smoldering flax.

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