

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of March 17, 2019

THEME: "Questions People Asked: Why?" WHY WORRY?

Sunday **Read Matthew 6:19-27**

"Who of you by taking thought can add one cubit to his stature?" In this passage of Scripture, the Lord Jesus gives the most valuable financial management strategy ever presented by anyone anywhere! His teaching is the best possible advice ever for handling our money and material resources! There are those investors who get excited about their Wall Street investments; how about investments in heaven! The Master Teacher of all times tells us that earthly treasures erode. Heavenly treasures are eternal, forever rewards. Jesus taught in our Bible reading today that people of faith in Him and who place the *"kingdom of God and His righteousness"* as their highest priority in life will have all their needs met. That does not include all desires, but God is known to provide the *"exceedingly abundantly above"* when it is appropriate. After all, God places the needs of His people of faith in Christ above the needs of the birds of the air and fish in the sea, and we know they are never left wanting. The point Jesus is making with us is that we need *"take no thought for tomorrow!"* He is telling us not to worry! Our faith in God and total commitment to His will is the requirement for freedom from worry about our temporal needs in life. What a loving Heavenly Father!

DISCIPLES' QUESTION

Monday **Read Mark 9:17-28**

"Why could we not cast him out?" Jesus did a wonderful thing for this family who was suffering from the problems caused by a demon-possessed son. They had approached the disciples of Jesus to remedy the problem, but to no avail. The family then went to Jesus Himself, and our Lord cast out the demon bringing unspeakable joy to this family! Later, when the disciples got alone with Jesus, they asked Him why they were not able to cast out the demon. Jesus told them to do such a thing required the power that is accessed by prayer, indicating the importance and power of our prayer lives! Is it possible that many people are failing to realize that Biblical praying in the name of Jesus is communicating with the Almighty Creator of the universe? Perhaps too many people fail to realize the very important lesson on prayer that Jesus gives in Matthew 6:7 that prayer ought not *"be in vain repetitions."* That may well be the way some people actually engage in prayer. Prayer in a Biblical way is among our highest privileges here on earth; it is access to God's throne in heaven! It is important to understand that the privilege of access to God is limited to those who approach Him in the name of Jesus: those who are calling upon Jesus to be their Savior and to those who have already received Him. That is the truth given to us in Romans 5:1-2: *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have access by faith into the grace wherein we stand."* It may be shocking to some whose rejection of Biblical truth actually causes their prayers to be a stench to God. Check Proverbs 28:9: *"He that turns his ear away from the law, even his prayer shall be abomination."* That is not good news for those who pay little or no attention to Biblical truth.

GOD'S POWER

Tuesday **Read Jeremiah 32:17-19**

"Ah, Lord God! Behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee." The prophet Jeremiah says it well about the joy and privilege of those people who have received Christ as Savior. He mentions that there is absolutely nothing too hard for God, and that means anything with which we are faced! The fact that our decision to receive Jesus, according to what we are told in John 1:12-13, places us into the family of God, what Jesus calls in John 3:3-7 being *"born again."* Whereas our first birth put us into an earthly family, our second birth puts us into God's heavenly family. That means the Almighty God of the universe is our Heavenly Father! All the power of God is available to every child of God. Any and all requests we make in the name of our Savior are heard by God, and He, as a perfect Father, will respond in our best interests! Nothing is beyond His power! That is not to say we will

get everything we want, because, as any parent knows, children sometimes ask for things that would do them more harm than good. Request denied! Why? God's love prevents Him from misusing His power!

ONLOOKERS' QUESTION

Wednesday Read Mark 5:35-42

"Why trouble the Master?" The daughter of a ruler of the Pharisees had taken ill. How interesting that one of the important leaders of this group of people who had so often publicly challenged and opposed Him would now come to Him for help. He knew where to go when his private life, as opposed to his religious viewpoints, needed Divine help! He knew where to go when his religious companions would have been of little value. How wonderful that our Lord demonstrated the love of God with not any indication of resentment. That is the kind of love that God wants us to put on display in this dark world. Did not Jesus tell His people to *"love their enemies?"* What is noticeable is that while Jesus was detained by another needy person, the report came to the crowd that there was no more need to trouble Jesus because the daughter of the ruler had died. Jesus advised the ruler of the synagogue not to worry, simply believe! When Jesus arrived at the home, the people there laughed at him in a very mocking way. Did the scoffing and jeering bother our Lord? Not at all! Jesus went in and took her hand and told her to get up. Well she did just that, and I imagine went out and greeted the people who considered her to be dead and gone. What a display of God's love and power!

PEACE OF MIND

Thursday Read Psalm 37:4-7

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass." Our minds can sometimes drive us crazy. How often do our thoughts race here and there thinking the worse? So many times our circumstances leave us bewildered and worried, filled with anxiety! God knew that would happen to us, so He has included in His Holy Scriptures the remedy so we can have peace of mind. The psalmist gives this answer in today's Bible reading: turn it over to God and leave it there. The apostle said pretty much the same thing in I Peter 5:7: *"Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you."* As believers, God is our Father who loves us in a way that is indescribable because we have accepted His Beloved Son as our Savior! God will do the right thing at the right time, and to have peace of mind we must, as the psalmist said, *"Wait patiently."* The key to having peace of mind is given to us in Philippians 4:4-8: *"Rejoice in the Lord...Be anxious for nothing, but in everything with prayer and thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God, and the peace that passes understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true...honest...just...pure...lovely...good report...praiseworthy, think on these things."*

PHARISEES' QUESTIONED

Friday Read Matthew 15:12-16

"Then came His disciples, and said unto Him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard the saying... And Jesus said, why are ye yet without understanding?" Here is a circumstance where Jesus asked the question "Why?" Why do ye not understand? Jesus had just called the Pharisees hypocrites because they professed faith in God, but were substituting manmade doctrine for truth while minimizing the Scriptures. If we have the Bible testifying of all that God has done, is doing, and will be doing on His earth and the hereafter, why would not God be offended for man's efforts to describe what only God can describe. So if the worlds of manmade religions and Godless education are offended, so be it. God's Word is perfect. Is that hard to understand?

ANSWER TO ALL QUESTIONS

Saturday Read II Timothy 3:16-17

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto good works." We have God's truth in Holy Scriptures! No book is more valuable than the Bible. It is the Word of God! All those who ignore the Bible are making the biggest mistake anyone could ever make. It is the foundation for learning, the source of true wisdom. God has protected the publication of His Word throughout all the ages of man even though autocratic rulers have taken pains to remove it, even burning at the stake men who have interpreted it into

other languages, such as William Tyndale who committed himself to making an English interpretation. The beauty of Scriptures is that, in addition to detailing the origin of things and the future of things, it is the handbook for living! God gives us His instructions for living our lives as He intended it to be. Ignoring God's instructions is missing life as it should be and a guarantee for failure from the eternal viewpoint, and man is an eternal being! Ignoring the Bible means a person is limited to physical life and misses out on the deeper life of spiritual things. The Bible gives us God's instructions. Read it! Memorize it! Practice it!