

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of May 21, 2023

THEME: "Biblical Roads"

ROAD TO EMMAUS

SundayRead Luke 24:13-18

"And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs." As two men were leaving Jerusalem to head to Emmaus, Jesus joined them. They had been there for the crucifixion and started home. Before leaving, they heard reports that Jesus actually came back from the dead and was alive again. It appears that they were having a hard time accepting that as truth. They had both assumed Jesus was the promised Messiah, but apparently lost hope when He was crucified. Jesus then, without revealing His identity, reviewed the Old Testament accounts of the Messiah, detailing both the crucifixion and the resurrection. After Jesus had left them to go into the city, the two men realized that they had been talking with Jesus. Does this not tell us something about our Lord that He would take the time and go out of His way to share the truth with those men! Should we not be willing to do the same!

ROAD TO EGYPT

Monday Read Acts 8:26-30

"And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert." Another road in Scripture that has profound meaning is this passage in Acts 8. It is a great lesson on personal evangelism. Philip, a real ambassador of Christ, was preaching in Samaria. It was there the Holy Spirit instructed him to leave and head to the road that goes from Jerusalem to Egypt. Being the obedient servant of God that he was, Philip went. When he arrived at the road leading to Egypt there was a chariot occupied by an African eunuch. He was reading literature he retrieved in Jerusalem, but was perplexed at its meaning. This gave Philip the opportunity to explain the way of salvation, and the eunuch responded favorably.

ROAD TO DAMASCUS

Tuesday Read Acts 9:1-5

"And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven." The loyal Pharisee Saul was so angered by people who considered Jesus to be the Messiah that he embarked on a determination to persecute all he could of those who became followers of Jesus. Hearing many were in Damascus, he headed there to continue his persecution. Suddenly, he was blinded by an unusual bright light in the sky. Here it was Jesus coming to defend His followers from the impending danger. In addition, He showed His amazing love and mercy. The normal reaction to someone persecuting His people would be to kill him. Jesus gave Saul

instructions on how he could be saved: by going to one of His followers in Damascus. Saul responded and received his sight, both physically and spiritually.

TWO

ROADS

Wednesday Read Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." In His teaching, Jesus spoke of the two roads of life: one road leads to eternal destruction and the other leads to eternal life. He goes on to say that most people are on the road that leads to destruction. The way to heaven, and there is only one way, is personal faith in Christ. The wide gate and broad way may well be a reference to all the manmade religions in the world. Many people believe them and think that will take them to heaven. Those on the narrow road are people who have received Jesus personally and believe they are on the road leading to heaven on the merits of the shed blood of Christ.

WAY OF TRUTH

Thursday Read Psalm 119:30

"I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me." God has recorded His eternal truth in the Holy Scriptures. The Holy Spirit inspired writers to record God's truth. That is what we read in II Peter 1:21: *"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."* It is our instruction book for life as we read in I Timothy 3:16: *"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."* The Bible shows us the true way of life. Following God's truth is living as our Creator wants us to live. Jesus Himself gave this testimony about God's truth in John 17:17: *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."* We read in Ephesians 6 that God's truth is a great defense in winning life's battles. That passage also says this: *"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness."*

WAY OF PEACE

Friday Read Philippians 4: 4-8

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Our minds determine our moods. Prayer brings peace! But an individual must be sure they have a right to come before God's throne, because God could be turned off by prayer. We read this in Proverbs 15:8 *"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is his delight."* After praying, we are advised to focus on things that are honest and just, pure and lovely, things of good report and prayer worthy. Also we should not allow our minds to drift back into negative thinking. Focus on favorite Bible verses and not on things that bring anxiety. That is peace!

WAY TO HEAVEN

Saturday Read John 14: 1-6

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." There is one way to get into heaven: personal faith in Jesus as Savior. He is the perfect Lamb of God. He alone, of all human beings ever, perfectly

satisfied God's holy law. He was virgin born of the Holy Spirit without a sin nature and lived a sinless life. His blood satisfied the law of God, and God accepts all people who confess their sins and ask Jesus into their hearts and lives. Eternal life is the reward of responding to the call of Jesus mentioned in Revelation 3:20: *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."* Has He gotten your attention? Have you received Him?