

Weekly Bible Reading - June 2019

//June 2//

Matt 11:1-9, John 1 - John the Baptist

In the section in Matt 11, we see John the Baptist is in prison and having doubts about whether or not Jesus is the Messiah. Although in John 1, he claims Jesus is the Lamb of God who will take away sin, his present situation makes it hard for him to see that Jesus is truly the one. Maybe John has been swept up into the common view that the Messiah will restore Israel and drive the Romans from their land.

- Are we looking for Jesus to be more than our Savior? Are we looking for Jesus to fix our political and social issues?
- Jesus declares that no man who has lived is greater than John. But then he adds that the least in the kingdom will be greater than John. What does that do for your self-worth and how important are you to God?
- This section ends with a parable about his generation. In a time with incredible activity by God in the land, many if not most still failed to come to faith and change. When both John the Baptist and Jesus were active in ministry, people managed to find issues with the “style” of both and used these as excuses not to believe. Do we reject the true message of God because we have issues over “style” with the one bringing the message?

//June 9//

Hebrews 4 - Warnings and Great Promises

This chapter in Hebrews starts with warnings about the potential to lose our salvation if we do not obey God, but it ends with great hope and promise that God is there to help us in our time of need.

- Six times, in verses 1,2,3,5,6, & 11, the writer states that we can fail to enter God’s rest due to disobedience and a hard heart. This message is not popular today but one we need to both hear and heed. Has disobedience become a way of life for you? Has your heart become hardened by sin? We need to understand that losing our salvation is the absolute worse thing that could happen to us in this life.
- We also learn of the power of God’s word to expose the sin in our lives - it is sharp and powerful. To use a phrase from a famous preacher - “Have you been in God’s Word this week?” We tend to run from God’s Word when we have sin and yet we need it the most at those times to show us who we are. We are accountable to God!!!
- This chapter ends with a great promise. We are told to come boldly before the throne of God - not when we have cleaned up our act - but rather in our time of need. It is in these times that we will find God’s incredible mercy and grace.

//June 16//

John 17 - Jesus and Father

We see in this passage an incredible relationship between a father and a son. Put yourself in Jesus’ place as you study and meditate on this passage. We are ‘sons’ of God and He wants us to have a close relationship with Him just as He did with Jesus.

- Verse 1 tells us that Jesus is getting ready to return to the Father, and he wants God to glorify him so that He can point that glory back to

the Father. Do you want the Father to bless you for yourself or so that those blessings will be used to bring glory to God?

- Verse 11 tells that the Father gave His name to Jesus and He asks the Father to protect us by the power of His name. It’s Father’s Day and most of us have a name we received from our earthly father. Can you remember a time in your life that being the son or daughter of your father protected or helped you? If you can do so, share that story with your father.
- Verse 24 is a passage which should provide great encouragement to us. Jesus wants us to be with Him and see the glory the Father has given to Him. Do we long for that day or are we focused solely on this world?
- Happy Father’s Day to the dads out there!

//June 23//

Acts 6: 1-7 and 1st Timothy 3:8-13 - Deacons

These 2 passages provide us with in-sights into the role and qualifications of deacons. Although the Acts 6 passage does not use the word deacon, it is clear that these men were selected to serve a critical role in the early church.

- List the qualifications for the men in Acts 6
- What was the role for those selected in Acts 6, and what can this passage teach us about selecting men to serve as deacons?
- List the qualifications for deacons in 1st Timothy 3.
- There are no specific tasks listed in 1st Timothy 3, only the qualifications. Why do you think there are no roles or responsibilities listed?

//June 30//

Luke 12:13-34 - The fool and teachings about money

This section opens with a man asking Jesus to instruct his brother to share the family inheritance. Jesus responds by warning against greed of all types. He then proceeds to tell a parable and shows us who the fool in life is - the person with earthly treasures but no relationship with God.

- Have you ever been involved in an inheritance issue where people were arguing about who would get what? This passage teaches us that greed can come in many forms and does not need to involve large amounts of money or valuable objects.
- Focus on verses 15 and 21. How do you measure success? Do you have a rich relationship with God?
- Verse 31 tells us to seek the kingdom first and that God will provide all that we need. How does that trust in God to provide for your needs get demonstrated in your life?
- Verse 34 tells us that the true measure in our life, and the desires of our heart are closely aligned. What do the desires of your heart tell you about the real treasure in your life?

