

# FAITH BIBLE READING

Jan 14-20, 2019

At Faith Baptist Fellowship, we *Love God's Word and Prayer* (Ephesians 6:17-18)! Take the 'sword of the Spirit' (God's Word) and persevere in prayer! In this year, ask God each day to speak directly to you from the Scripture portions you read. Select a quiet place and consistent time to read and pray.

Our plan for 2019 will be similar to previous years **with one exception**. Monday-Saturday we will focus on one main devotional passage; the additional readings will keep you on track to finish the entire Bible in one year. On Sunday, we will have a passage from the upcoming Sunday sermon along with questions for Faith Group discussion. **In addition**, we will include a **"One Another"** passage also for Faith Group discussion and personal application in caring for one another in the body of Faith.

*We suggest having a notebook and pen for answering questions and recording your thoughts/insights. Bring this notebook with you to Faith Group for discussions and prayer times.*

Abbreviations: **TAI** – Think About It | **PP** – Prayer Points

## MONDAY, JANUARY 14

### Read Matthew 5:21-32

**TAI:** Anger, lust, divorce—three difficult and very relevant topics. Briefly summarize the main point Jesus makes on each of them:

Anger:

Lust:

Divorce:

Bible scholars believe that Jesus is using deliberate overstatement to make his point in vv. 29-30. Why do you think that is the case? Jesus is here honoring humility (with a concern for reconciliation), purity, and fidelity. Do you seek these attributes for yourself?

**PP:** Take some moments for self-reflection. To what extent do you struggle with anger, lust, or marriage faithfulness? Talk to God about it. Confess your struggles to him. Ask him to fill you with his Holy Spirit and help you by grace to humbly be reconciled with others, think and act with sexual purity, and remain firmly committed to your marriage (if married). Thank God for the cross, and for forgiveness of sin when we do confess our sin in Jesus' name.

**Additional readings:** Acts 7:39-60; Psalm 12; Genesis 29-30

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

### Read Matthew 5:33-48

**TAI:** Jesus continues his very practical instructions, taking common notions of right and wrong and making them matters of the heart. Briefly summarize the point he is making on each of these three:

Oaths:

Retaliation when wronged:

Enemy love:

How do you think this exhortation to enemy love relates to our commitment to world evangelization? Do you find it difficult to love and pray for those you perceive as enemies? To turn your cheek?

**PP:** Wow, Jesus teaches us to be radical in loving others, literally going the extra mile! Ask God to give you this kind of love for others. Ask the Father to help you be a person true to your word, a person who does not lash out when wronged, who prays for your enemies. Pray that we would be radically obedient to Jesus in these matters, especially when the world seems increasingly self-centered and even violent about such disagreements. Pray that we love like Jesus!

**Additional readings:** Acts 8:1-25; Psalm 13; Genesis 31

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

### Read Matthew 6:1-15

**TAI:** It is certainly worthwhile to contemplate the problem of doing things “in order to be seen” by others. What motivates our efforts? Is it the credit we hope others will give us? How should we give? What is promised? How should we “not” pray? Ponder the amazing truth of v. 8. What stands out to you about the model prayer of Jesus? It certainly is remarkable for its brevity and clarity, isn’t it? What happens if we refuse to forgive others? *Think about that for awhile.*

**PP:** Tell God that you desire to do everything for his honor and glory, and not for your own, including giving to a needy person. Pray through the model prayer of Jesus, thought by thought, making his prayer your own. Is there anyone in your life you’ve refused to forgive? Tell that to God. Ask for his help to forgive that person.

**Additional Readings:** Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 14; Genesis 32-33

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

### Read Matthew 6:16-24

**TAI:** “When you fast...” assumes we will fast! Have you practiced the discipline of prayer with fasting? Similar to yesterday’s reading, we need to be careful that our motivations are Godward and not for credit from people. What is the problem with earthly treasure? How is heavenly treasure different? How does our “treasure” expose our hearts? What are the two masters? How do they conflict?

**PP:** Have a frank discussion with God about fasting. Pray also about the treasure in your life—do you “treasure” earthly things as much (or more!) than heavenly things? Ask God to show you the things that will last forever so you can treasure them! Express to God your desire to walk in the light and be filled with light, to live for God and serve him with all your might.

**Additional Readings:** Acts 9:1-19; Psalm 15; Genesis 34-35

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

### Read Matthew 6:25-34

**TAI:** How big of a problem is anxiety (worry, fretting) in your life? How does Jesus beautifully illustrate God’s ability to meet our needs? Anxiety does not make us healthier, wealthier, wiser, smarter, happier, or holier. And our God is able to do ALL we need! So fretting is an affront to his promise to care for us. Memorize v. 33. Verse 34 makes clear that life will not be trouble-free; that is not Jesus’ point. Rather, in life’s troubles, we are to **trust God!**

**PP:** Are you a worry-wart? Lay that down at the foot of God’s throne right now. Confess your tendency to be anxious and fret. Express your desire to “trust in the Lord with all your heart” (Prov. 3:5-6) and rely on his promises. Are there any specific situations or circumstances you are fretting about right now? Tell the Lord about them. Ask for his grace in each one. Tell God that you want to seek FIRST his kingdom and the righteousness that comes through Christ and let him handle all the rest. Troubles today? Rest in his promise.

**Additional Readings:** Acts 9:20-43; Psalm 16; Genesis 36

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

### Read Matthew 7:1-14

**TAI:** These verses do not forbid making wise, discerning choices in life's difficult circumstances, but rather being judgmental in an unkind and self-oriented way. If we desire mercy from God, we ought to show mercy to others. We must be humble and merciful, acknowledging our own faults, rather than hypocritical and harsh. Memorize vv. 7-8. How is God like a wise parent? How do v. 1 and v. 12 relate to one another? Ponder Jesus' words about the narrow and wide gates.

**PP:** Express to God your desire to be merciful and generous with people rather than harsh or critical. Thank God for his grand mercy toward you in Christ Jesus! Thank him for pouring grace into your life. **ASK! SEEK! KNOCK!** What important things do you want to talk to God about today? Ask and receive! Seek and find! Knock and see what doors God opens before you. Thank him for the gift of prayer. Thank him for being a generous and wise Father to you! Tell the Father of your commitment to walk in the narrow way of faith.

**Additional Readings:** Acts 10:1-23; Psalm 17; Genesis 37-38

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

### Read Mark 6:14-29

**TAI & PP:** Warren W. Wiersbe: "Herod silenced one voice, but he could not silence the Word of God." (*With the Word*, p. 659) Herod's conscience *convicted* him, just as his pride had *compromised* him. Reflect on the price that has been paid over many centuries to make your life in Christ possible. Thank God for his servants who paved the way by paying the price; men and women of whom the world is not worthy (Hebrews 11:38; the entire chapter). Pray for the pastors preaching on this provocative and heart-wrenching text today.

**Care Point:** **John 13:14** ...wash one another's feet. *There are churches today that practice literal foot-washing. In what sense ought we to "wash one another's feet" today? What does radical servanthood look like in 2019? Give an example of someone serving you in love.*