

# FAITH BIBLE READING

Feb 25 – Mar 3, 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, FEBRUARY 25

### Read Matthew 20:17-34

**TAI:** Go back and read the first two predictions Jesus gives of his death and resurrection (Matt. 16:21, Matt. 17:22-23). What new and/or different details does Jesus give this third time? What purpose do these new details possibly serve? What "cup" is Jesus appointed to drink? In what way(s) will his disciples drink that cup too? Notice the contrast between the request of the disciples and the request of the two blind men. Who seems to understand the purpose of Jesus better?

**PP:** Praise Jesus as the one who ultimately does the serving on our behalf. Philippians 1:29 says, "For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake." Pray for a proper perspective on, and willing embrace of, suffering as a follower of Jesus in light of his suffering for us.

**Additional readings:** Acts 27:27-44; Psalm 45; Leviticus 21-23

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

### Read Matthew 21:1-11

**TAI:** Palm Sunday Preview! The Jewish people had long been expecting their Messiah. What do you suppose were their expectations of this coming king? In what ways does Jesus meet and/or defy those expectations? What are some expectations that people have of Jesus today? In what ways does Jesus meet and/or defy those expectations?

**PP:** The cloaks on the road were a symbol of *submission* to the coming king while the palm branches were a symbol of *victory*. Express your desire in prayer to be fully submitted to Jesus. Confess any areas in your life where this has not been the case. Praise God for the victory of Jesus over sin and death on your behalf.

**Additional readings:** Acts 28:1-16; Psalm 46; Leviticus 24-25

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

### Read Matthew 21:12-22

**TAI:** The fact that the fig tree had leaves indicated that there should have been fruit. But there wasn't any. How can this be related back to what Jesus found (or didn't find) when he entered the temple? What does the cursing of the fig tree have to do with the clearing out of the temple? Why does Jesus follow all of this up with instruction about faith and prayer?

**PP:** There is a warning in this passage about spiritual appearances. The temple had become devoid of any real spiritual life and wasn't bearing any fruit. Confess any areas of your Christian life that have become lifeless. Now would be a good time to ask God to restore you and make your life more fruitful!

**Additional Readings:** Acts 28:17-31; Psalm 47; Leviticus 26-27

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

### Read Matthew 21:23-32

**TAI:** What does the chief priests' and elders' refusal to answer Jesus' question ultimately reveal about them? Was their answer, "We do not know," a genuine one? Where do you see this kind of "appeal to ignorance" today when it comes to questions of truth? Why then wouldn't Jesus answer their question about where his authority came from? How does the parable of the two sons further condemn the religious establishment?

**PP:** People today will often avoid making definitive statements about truth by saying, "We don't know." Pray that God would open the eyes and hearts of such people. Pray for our church to be effective in challenging our relativistic culture and pointing lost people to Jesus.

**Additional Readings:** Romans 1:1-17; Psalm 48; Numbers 1-2

## FRIDAY, MARCH 1

### Read Matthew 21:33-46

**TAI:** Can you identify who the main figures in the vineyard parable are intended to represent?

- Master =
- Tenants =
- Servants =
- The son/heir =

What is the point of this parable? Why do you think the Lord chose to make a "rejected stone" rather than an "accepted stone" the "cornerstone" of his kingdom? In what ways should this be marvelous in our eyes?

**PP:** Pray for those you know who are hostile towards the gospel that they would repent and trust Jesus rather than be "broken to pieces" or "crushed" by him in judgement. Once again, Jesus highlights the issue of producing real kingdom fruit (v. 43). Keep praying about this in your own life.

**Additional Readings:** Romans 1:18-32; Psalm 49; Numbers 3-4

## SATURDAY, MARCH 2

### Read Matthew 22:1-14

**TAI:** What an incredible honor to be invited by the king to his own son's wedding feast! To turn down such an invitation would be a great dishonor and insult to the king. What is the "wedding feast" symbolic of in Jesus' parable? The man who was caught without proper wedding attire (v. 11), what do you think he was lacking? What exactly is the "outer darkness" where there will be "weeping and gnashing of teeth?" Explain in your own words Jesus' statement, "For many will be called, but few will be chosen."

**PP:** We are not called to discern ahead of time who will accept the king's invitation and who will not. Pray that the invitation to this gospel feast would boldly go out to all and be received by many putting their trust in Jesus. Pray for the first overseas missionary whose name comes to your mind!

**Additional Readings:** Romans 2; Psalm 50; Numbers 5-6

## SUNDAY, MARCH 3

### Read Mark 9:2-13

**TAI & PP:** Recall the dramatic events of last week's text from the gospel of Mark (8:22 – 9:1):

- Peter's confession of Jesus being the Christ
- Jesus announcing his death/resurrection
- Peter's refusal and Jesus' rebuke
- Jesus' call to take up a cross and follow him

All of this now sweeps us right into the glorious mid-point of Mark's gospel. Jesus gives Peter, James, and John a "peek under the hood" of who he really is. Why do you think Jesus only took these three disciples up the mountain? What echoes of previous passages in Mark do you see in this passage? What is the significance of the fact that, in the end, they were left with "Jesus only?" Why was it important for Jesus' disciples to see his glory at this point? As always, pray for pastors Dana (south campus) and Jayson (west campus) as they preach this passage on Sunday morning. Pray that the glory of Jesus Christ would be impressed upon all who hear this message today!

**Care Point: Romans 15:14** "...Instruct one another." Go read Romans 15 in order to get the context of this important "one another" command. What specifically should Christians instruct one another about? What should ultimately be the *source* of that instruction (see Rom. 15:4)? What should be the *goal* of that instruction? Why do you think Christians shy away from this command? Are you willing to accept a fellow Christian's instruction? Why or why not?