

# FAITH BIBLE READING

Mar 4 - 10, 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, MARCH 4 Pray for Prayer Gathering 2019

### Read Matthew 22:15-33

**TAI:** What was the Pharisees agenda? Why? What is disingenuous about their question? Jesus responds in a truly brilliant way. How did they respond to his object lesson? How does this "render to" concept apply to us today? Pastor Dana's father, Pastor Wally, used to say, "The Sadducees were sad, you see, because they didn't believe in the resurrection." How true! What is their trick question? Jesus points out their ignorance. How does he answer their query? What is the point Jesus makes about the resurrection?

**PP:** We think to ourselves, "How foolish of the Pharisees and Sadducees to think they could trick Jesus or manipulate him." Yet do we think that somehow our machinations or manipulations are unseen by our Father? "Great God in heaven and Father, I know my life is completely laid bare before you. Nothing is hidden from your sight. I render my whole self to you. I am so glad that the future is secure in Jesus, and that the resurrection is real. What a future I have with you in the new heavens and new earth. Hallelujah! Amen."

**Additional readings:** Romans 3; Psalm 51; Numbers 7-8

## TUESDAY, MARCH 5

### Read Matthew 22:34-46

**TAI:** The interplay with the religious leaders continues. How does Jesus answer the Pharisees question about the greatest command? (How do you think this was an attempt to test Jesus?) Ponder the twin truths of the Great Commandment and the second like it. How is it that all the law and prophets “depend” on these two? What was the difficulty in the question Jesus posed back to them? Why did this completely stump the Pharisees? *Faith Group: if Jesus were present in your group tonight, what question would you like to ask him?*

**PP:** After reflecting on the great love command, pray asking God to help you love him with your entire being. After doing the same with the “second” command, pray for your neighbors and ask God to help you love them as he commands. Pray a prayer of praise, honoring Jesus as greater than David yet from David’s line. Praise God also for the masterful, brilliant teachings of Jesus. *Pray for Prayer Gathering.*

**Additional readings:** Romans 4; Psalms 52; Numbers 9-11

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

### Read Matthew 23:1-12

**TAI:** Jesus offers a series of warnings concerning the Jewish religious leaders. Can you sum up those warnings? Jot down your thoughts here:

Be a servant, with Christ as your teacher and God your Father!

**PP:** Pray through this series of warnings and exhortations, taking each one to heart and praying the key truths back to God. *The 2019 Prayer Gathering closes at noon today; please pray for all who have attended and for safe travel back to their homes and churches.* Pray also for the precious servants who work with our children and youth on Wednesday nights under the supervision of Angela Myers, and for the kitchen team which provides a tasty meal as well.

**Additional Readings:** Romans 5:1-11; Psalm 53; Numbers 12-14

## THURSDAY, MARCH 7

### Read Matthew 23:13-24

**TAI:** Woe #1: the “religion” of the leaders actually keeps people out of the kingdom, for it focuses on the wrong things. Woe #2: once they have gained a follower, they misdirect their faith and do more harm than good. Woe #3: arbitrary and misguided “rules” for making promises are blind directions from blind teachers, unhelpful and even hurtful. Woe #4: the Pharisees majored in the minors and neglected the weightiest matters of all! What are those? *How are we sometimes tempted in a similar way? Think of an example.*

**PP:** Two days ago, we read about the great love command and the second like it. To love God wholeheartedly and love our neighbor puts these “woes” in perspective: misdirected religious rules are not helpful; loving God and following Jesus in loving others captures the entire law. Ask God for grace to love him and others, to major on Christ, and humbly walk by faith. Pray that our church would be a body characterized by our loves (think of our 5 Loves) and allegiance to Jesus Christ as Lord, rather than rules and regulations.

**Additional Readings:** Romans 5:12-21; Psalm 54; Numbers 15-17

## FRIDAY, MARCH 8

### Read Matthew 23:25-39

**TAI:** Woe #5: Matters of the heart are in view—it’s a mistake to think that a clean outside is synonymous with a clean “inside.” Start with the heart and, if truly cleansed and changed, the outside will follow. Woe #6: What a vivid image! Ponder the thought of a white-washed tomb. Spare us, Father. Woe #7: reread this paragraph thinking of the crowds crying, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” before the crucifixion of Jesus. The chapter closes with a lament.

**PP:** Pray through these woes, with a mind on your own heart. Is your heart clean before the Lord through the blood of Christ? Do you have sin to confess? Do so now. Rejoice in the cleansing power of Jesus and God’s grace to mercifully wash us from the inside out.

**Additional Readings:** Romans 6:1-14; Psalm 55; Numbers 18-20

## SATURDAY, MARCH 9

### Read Matthew 24:1-14

**TAI:** As the end draws near, what are we supposed to do? *Memorize vv. 13-14.* We are to endure by faith in Christ, and spread the gospel to all the peoples of the earth. That is our assignment. What hardships are described here? Would you say that the tribulations pictured could very well describe today? What warnings does this passage give us as believers?

**PP:** Pray for Dr. Larry Caldwell (and Mary!) who serves both our Converge International mission and the Sioux Falls Seminary in mobilizing to reach the unreached peoples of the earth with the gospel. Larry recently returned from training Christian workers in the middle east, workers who often face persecution and hardship. Larry reported the burning of hundreds of churches in one country. Pray for all our missionaries and the lasting impact of those who have recently been on short-term mission projects.

**Additional Readings:** Romans 6:15-23; Psalm 56; Numbers 21-22

## SUNDAY, MARCH 10

### Read Mark 9:14-32

**TAI & PP:** First reflect on the devastating impact of the demonic presence on this boy and his family. Then ponder the statement of Jesus in v. 23 and the father's heart cry in response (v. 24). "I believe; help my unbelief" is a worthy prayer for all of us. In fact, pray that prayer now. Ask God to strengthen your faith in Christ and fill you with the Holy Spirit. Pray for our Pastors preaching on this passage today. Ask God to apply this word to your life this week.

**Care Point: I Corinthians 12:25** "...Have the same care for one another."

Read the entire paragraph where this "one another" is found. What is the context of the statement? Why do we need a great variety of gifts within a healthy body of Christ? Why do we sometimes consider one gift "greater" or "lesser" than another? Why is this wrong-headed? Describe how someone used their spiritual gift at a key time of your life to make a great impact on you. Share with your group how you have benefitted from the gifts of others.

How can your Faith Group fulfill this exhortation? Discuss.