

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST

DAILY READING ASSIGNMENT: **Luke 14-18**

"Teachable Moments"

SCRIPTURE Luke 14-18

OBSERVATION

To Jesus, every moment was a teachable moment. By using parables, Jesus constructed scenarios to be used as examples for how his followers should live their lives - not only for those to whom he was speaking, but to you and me, as well. What is intertwined within these four chapters is a collection of essential core beliefs of being a follower of Jesus Christ. In Chapter 14, Jesus shares the importance of humility; how God's kingdom is open to anyone; and the potential cost of being a disciple. Jesus encourages his followers not to give up or lose sight of the end result of humility and self-sacrifice – an eventual joyous banquet with him.

In Chapter 15, Jesus highlights the importance he puts on each and every one of us. He uses three parables to illustrate the great lengths that he will go to find even one who is lost. God does not forget those who lose their way – including you and me. He is willing to go to any lengths to bring one home. Searching for a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son are extraordinary illustrations of his love for you. If you feel far from God don't despair – he is searching for you.

Chapter 16 gives an example of who actually owns the store. It is easy to get wrapped up into worldly ways and forget the importance of using money wisely. Scripture does not tell us that money is evil – it tells us that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Tim. 6:10). Money can be a great tool to show our faith and obedience to God. But in order to do this we must give up some material things, most of which are deemed important by our society.

Lastly, Chapters 17 & 18 remind us that belief in Jesus should not be just some verbal clamor; nor should it be something we show by attending worship every weekend, and then forgotten about the rest of the week. Jesus gives examples of the importance of the forgiveness of others and how critical a role faith plays in order for our belief in him to become truly heartfelt.

APPLICATION

As you read these four chapters remember that the Holy Spirit will guide you to what lesson you need to learn at a particular time. What is critical is taking that first step; open your Bible and actually read the words!

Whew! You may ask yourself how in the world you can learn all that – and that maybe you'll never learn all you are supposed to be. Don't forget another important gift God bestowed – the bride of Christ; namely the Church. What is important to remember is that the church is not some building made of brick and mortar, but is made up of brothers and sisters in Christ trying to find their way just like you and me. We are all at different levels in our walk of faith – that is why it is important not just to read the word alone, but to also participate in a life group or discipleship class. We learn from each other, and in so doing elevate the whole of the congregation. No question should be regarded as silly. Amazing discussions have resulted from asking simple questions.

Take the time not only to ponder the parables of our Lord and Savior, but do yourself a favor – share them with others. Learning can become contagious and, when it is from the Word of God, life-changing. Remember God loves you, he is just and faithful, and, most importantly, he will search for you when you're lost.

Mark Twain once stated: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

See you in church, and by the way – don't forget your Bible!

PRAYER

Lord, help me to follow your word and to believe and understand – really understand – that I am loved by you – the one and only God Almighty. Help me to rest in you when I am weary and downcast, to learn from your word, and to see ways in which I can share with others. Help me understand your plan for my life and enable me to make your will my priority. Amen.

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