

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of March 9, 2025
"Lovest Thou Me"

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION

Sunday Read Luke 21:9-17

"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs." In this gathering with His disciples after His resurrection, Jesus asked Peter three times the question: "do you love me? Why did He single out Peter? Is it because at the time of His crucifixion, Peter had denied his companionship with Jesus three times. Instead of Jesus retaliating with words of condemnation, the questions about love were to give Peter the assurance that Christ wanted a positive relationship with Him. The same is true now for all believers in Jesus, to show love! To show love honors our Lord!

LOVE OF GOD

Monday Read John 3:16-18

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God's love for the people in the world was so great that He wanted to have them in His eternal Kingdom. The problem, however, is that all humans, because of the sin of Adam and Eve, are sinners. God's heaven is sinless, so He had to do something about the sin problem. Throughout Old Testament Scripture, from the sin of Adam and Eve to the law of God being put into writing, we see that "shedding of blood" was required for God to forgive sin. That is clearly stated in Leviticus 17:11: *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."* It would take the blood of a sinless human being for God to grant a pardon from the penalty of sin. God gave His Son to be that sacrificial Lamb.

SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP

Tuesday Read John 15:10-15

"Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." There are many titles that are appropriate to describe Jesus. He was the Lamb of God whose blood cleanses from sin. That made Him the Savior of the world. His obedient servants rightfully call Him their Lord. He is the Captain of our salvation in warfare against the devil. As a virgin born baby, He is the Son of God. He is the King

of kings who will one day rule the world from the throne of David in Jerusalem. Amazingly, He chooses to call Himself the Friend of believers. Of all our friends, our Lord stands out.

ALONE WITH GOD

Wednesday Read Psalm 5:1-4

" My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up." There is nothing more important for true Christians than having time alone with God. Prayer is an amazing privilege! Imagine speaking with God, the creator of the universe. Jesus gave us access to God's throne in heaven by going to the cross to pay the penalty for our sins that we might have a Divine pardon. That is the truth underlined in Romans 5:1-2: *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."* We should be eager to capitalize on that privilege every morning, as did the psalmist.

GIFTS OF LOVE

Thursday Read I Corinthians 16-1-5

" Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." Giving to God's work is truly a high privilege and meaningful expression of love. Jesus mentioned in Matthew 6:20 that giving to God's work is making investments into heaven. It reads this way: *"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."* Making wise investments in earthly endeavors is a good idea for those who can do that. That, however, does not come close to the value of laying up treasures in heaven. Giving of tithes and offerings is a high privilege and great investment! It demonstrates a love for God and His work.

BROTHERLY LOVE

Friday Read John 13:33-35

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." When an individual accepts Jesus as personal Savior, he or she becomes a child in the family of God. That is the truth expressed in John 1:12: *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."* All Christians are brothers and sisters in God's family. As part of God's family we should show love to our brothers and sisters in Christ. That is the command of Jesus in today's Bible reading. A huge responsibility is obeying this command to be an active part of the

local church. That means worshiping together with brothers and sisters and having a precious time of fellowship!

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Saturday Read James 5:16-20

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." An important way to show love for others is to pray for them. Asking God to intervene in the lives of others to provide for them is a great privilege and important responsibility. It is important to stay in touch with others so we can understand better how to pray. Remember that God said this in Jeremiah 33:3: *"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."* What an amazing promise!