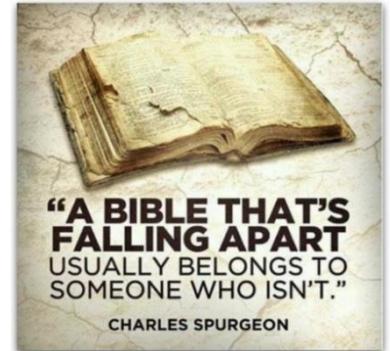




Beaches Baptist Church

June 24-30, 2019



A WORD for the Journey

These are short daily Bible readings that have been chosen to reinforce a particular teaching that is important to help us live successfully as disciples of Jesus. They can be used individually, with your spouse, friend or used as family readings. Each week's readings correspond to the previous Sunday's sermon preached at Beaches Baptist Church. You can download the sermon from <https://beachesbaptist.com/>. If you would like to receive these readings via email, please email me on beachesbaptist@gmail.com with "A Word for the Journey" in the subject title.

THE DEMANDS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus demands our Resources

TRUE DISCIPLESHIP comes at a cost. No one could ever accuse Jesus of not explaining and demonstrating the high price one has to pay to follow him. Indeed, he told us it would cost our very lives! (Lk.9:23-24). This week we look at the final demand- RESOURCES. From the Old Testament to the New we are taught that the earth is the Lord's (Ps.24:1). We need to hold all resources with an open hand seeking to use them all for the mission of God.

Monday

Genesis 2:5-15 (MSG)

⁵⁻⁷At the time God made Earth and Heaven, before any grasses or shrubs had sprouted from the ground—God hadn't yet sent rain on Earth, nor was there anyone around to work the ground (the whole Earth was watered by underground springs)—God formed Man out of dirt from the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. The Man came alive—a living soul!

⁸⁻⁹Then God planted a garden in Eden, in the east. He put the Man he had just made in it. God made all kinds of trees grow from the ground, trees beautiful to look at and good to eat. The Tree-of-Life was in the middle of the garden, also the Tree-of-Knowledge-of-Good-and-Evil.

¹⁰⁻¹⁴A river flows out of Eden to water the garden and from there divides into four rivers. The first is named Pishon; it flows through Havilah where there is gold. The gold of this land is good. The land is also known for a sweet-scented resin and the onyx stone. The second river is named Gihon; it flows through the land of Cush. The third river is named Hiddekel and flows east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵God took the Man and set him down in the Garden of Eden to work the ground and keep it in order.

Reflect: Both the Old Testament and the New Testament are positive about material creation and even about wealth. Material possessions are to be enjoyed. God created a natural resource (a garden)- Adam and Eve were to tend the garden and make it productive.

Tuesday

Genesis 2:1-4 (MSG)

Heaven and Earth were finished,
down to the last detail.

²⁻⁴ By the seventh day

God had finished his work.

On the seventh day

he rested from all his work.

God blessed the seventh day.

He made it a Holy Day

Because on that day he rested from his work,

all the creating God had done.

This is the story of how it all started,

of Heaven and Earth when they were created.

Leviticus 23:3 (NLT)

³“You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of complete rest, an official day for holy assembly. It is the Lord’s Sabbath day, and it must be observed wherever you live.

Reflect: The Sabbath caused the Jews to live with what seemed like a diminished capacity to earn income for the sake of their spiritual, social/family, health and mental well-being. Their income was diminished but their souls were enlarged.

Wednesday

Leviticus 23:22 (NLT)

When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges of your fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. Leave it for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 25:25-38 (NLT)

If one of your fellow Israelites falls into poverty and cannot support himself, support him as you would a foreigner or a temporary resident and allow him to live with you. ³⁶ Do not charge interest or make a profit at his expense. Instead, show your fear of God by letting him live with you as your relative. ³⁷ Remember, do not charge interest on money you lend him or make a profit on food you sell him. ³⁸ I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.

Reflect: God’s people were expected to run their businesses with the poor in mind. They were in the blessed position they were in because of God’s grace and his deliverance of them from slavery in Egypt. We should never forget that all we are and have is dependent on God’s grace.

Thursday

Amos 8:4-6 (ESV)

Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end,

⁵*saying, “When will the new moon be over,*

that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath,

that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great

and deal deceitfully with false balances,

⁶*that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?”*

Reflect: Israel's worship of God had become a religious ritual. They couldn't wait to get it over with, so they could cheat their neighbour in business. DO OUR SUNDAY'S TRANSLATE TO HOW WE BEHAVE ON MONDAYS?

Friday

Matthew 6:2, 19-24 (NIV)

² "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Reflect: Giving is an expectation (V2). It is an investment in the Heavenly Bank where the interest is out of this world! A person with a generous spirit sees the world through a different lens and shows by their attitude a profound trust in God.

Saturday

Matthew 6:25-34 (NIV)

²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^[a]?

²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Reflect: A carefree attitude towards monetary needs displays a deep trust that God is sovereign and even has the 'little' things of this life under control.

Sunday

2 Corinthians 9:6-12 (ESV)

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully^[a] will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency^[b] in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written,

"He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹² For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

Reflect: Paul tells us how we should give:

1. Generously (v6)
2. Willingly (v7) *as he has decided in his heart*
3. Cheerfully (v7). The Greek could be translated *hilariously*
4. At every opportunity (v11)