



WEEK 13

Monday, June 29 – Sunday, July 5

MONDAY, JUNE 29

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Matthew 22:1–22 (NLT) [1] Jesus also told them other parables. He said, [2] “The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding feast for his son. [3] When the banquet was ready, he sent his servants to notify those who were invited. But they all refused to come! [4] “So he sent other servants to tell them, ‘The feast has been prepared. The bulls and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the banquet!’ [5] But the guests he had invited ignored them and went their own way, one to his farm, another to his business. [6] Others seized his messengers and insulted them and killed them. [7] “The king was furious, and he sent out his army to destroy the murderers and burn their town. [8] And he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, and the guests I invited aren’t worthy of the honor. [9] Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.’ [10] So the servants brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike, and the banquet hall was filled with guests. [11] “But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn’t wearing the proper clothes for a wedding. [12] ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?’ But the man had no reply. [13] Then the king said to his aides, ‘Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ [14] “For many are called, but few are chosen.” [15] Then the Pharisees met together to plot how to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. [16] They sent some of their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to meet with him. “Teacher,” they said, “we know how honest you are. You teach the way of God truthfully. You are impartial and don’t play favorites. [17] Now tell us what you think about this: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” [18] But Jesus knew their evil motives. “You hypocrites!” he said. “Why are you trying to trap me? [19] Here, show me the coin used for the tax.” When they handed him a Roman coin, [20] he asked, “Whose picture and title are stamped on it?” [21] “Caesar’s,” they replied. “Well, then,” he said, “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.” [22] His reply amazed them, and they went away.

REFLECT:

1. What are the truths and/or principles that stood out to you from what you just read?
2. What did you learn about Jesus from this Scripture?
3. Is there any sin you need to confess to God and/or to others that God revealed to you through what you just read?
4. Is there anything you believe God would want you to do in response to today’s scripture reading?
5. How do these verses offer hope to you in this uncertain time?
6. Is there someone you can bless, serve, and encourage today?

PRAY:

- Tell God at least one thing you love and appreciate about who He is
- Thank God for something that happened in your life yesterday
- Pray for at least one other person
- Pray for yourself - Ask God to help you “live as Jesus lived.”

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Matthew 22:23–46 (NLT) [23] That same day Jesus was approached by some Sadducees—religious leaders who say there is no resurrection from the dead. They posed this question: [24] “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies without children, his brother should marry the widow and have a child who will carry on the brother’s name.’ [25] Well, suppose there were seven brothers. The oldest one married and then died without children, so his brother married the widow. [26] But the second brother also died, and the third brother married her. This continued with all seven of them. [27] Last of all, the woman also died. [28] So tell us, whose wife will she be in the resurrection? For all seven were married to her.” [29] Jesus replied, “Your mistake is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God. [30] For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven. [31] “But now, as to whether there will be a resurrection of the dead—haven’t you ever read about this in the Scriptures? Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said, [32] ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ So he is the God of the living, not the dead.” [33] When the crowds heard him, they were astounded at his teaching. [34] But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. [35] One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: [36] “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” [37] Jesus replied, “ ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ [38] This is the first and greatest commandment. [39] A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ [40] The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” [41] Then, surrounded by the Pharisees, Jesus asked them a question: [42] “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They replied, “He is the son of David.” [43] Jesus responded, “Then why does David, speaking under the inspiration of the Spirit, call the Messiah ‘my Lord’? For David said, [44] ‘The LORD said to my Lord, Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies beneath your feet.’ [45] Since David called the Messiah ‘my Lord,’ how can the Messiah be his son?” [46] No one could answer him. And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

REFLECT:

1. What are the truths and/or principles that stood out to you from what you just read?
2. What did you learn about Jesus from this Scripture?
3. Is there any sin you need to confess to God and/or to others that God revealed to you through what you just read?
4. Is there anything you believe God would want you to do in response to today’s scripture reading?
5. How do these verses offer hope to you in this uncertain time?
6. Is there someone you can bless, serve, and encourage today?

PRAY:

- Tell God at least one thing you love and appreciate about who He is
- Thank God for something that happened in your life yesterday
- Pray for at least one other person
- Pray for yourself - Ask God to help you “live as Jesus lived.”

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Mark 12:1–17 (NLT) [1] Then Jesus began teaching them with stories: “A man planted a vineyard. He built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and built a lookout tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenant farmers and moved to another country. [2] At the time of the grape harvest, he sent one of his servants to collect his share of the crop. [3] But the farmers grabbed the servant, beat him up, and sent him back empty-handed. [4] The owner then sent another servant, but they insulted him and beat him over the head. [5] The next servant he sent was killed. Others he sent were either beaten or killed, [6] until there was only one left—his son whom he loved dearly. The owner finally sent him, thinking, ‘Surely they will respect my son.’ [7] “But the tenant farmers said to one another, ‘Here comes the heir to this estate. Let’s kill him and get the estate for ourselves!’ [8] So they grabbed him and murdered him and threw his body out of the vineyard. [9] “What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do?” Jesus asked. “I’ll tell you—he will come and kill those farmers and lease the vineyard to others. [10] Didn’t you ever read this in the Scriptures? ‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. [11] This is the LORD’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.’” [12] The religious leaders wanted to arrest Jesus because they realized he was telling the story against them—they were the wicked farmers. But they were afraid of the crowd, so they left him and went away. [13] Later the leaders sent some Pharisees and supporters of Herod to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. [14] “Teacher,” they said, “we know how honest you are. You are impartial and don’t play favorites. You teach the way of God truthfully. Now tell us—is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? [15] Should we pay them, or shouldn’t we?” Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, “Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a Roman coin, and I’ll tell you.” [16] When they handed it to him, he asked, “Whose picture and title are stamped on it?” “Caesar’s,” they replied. [17] “Well, then,” Jesus said, “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.” His reply completely amazed them.

REFLECT:

1. What are the truths and/or principles that stood out to you from what you just read?
2. What did you learn about Jesus from this Scripture?
3. Is there any sin you need to confess to God and/or to others that God revealed to you through what you just read?
4. Is there anything you believe God would want you to do in response to today’s scripture reading?
5. How do these verses offer hope to you in this uncertain time?
6. Is there someone you can bless, serve, and encourage today?

PRAY:

- Tell God at least one thing you love and appreciate about who He is
- Thank God for something that happened in your life yesterday
- Pray for at least one other person
- Pray for yourself - Ask God to help you “live as Jesus lived.”

THURSDAY, JULY 2

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Mark 12:18–34 (NLT) [18] Then Jesus was approached by some Sadducees—religious leaders who say there is no resurrection from the dead. They posed this question: [19] “Teacher, Moses gave us a law that if a man dies, leaving a wife without children, his brother should marry the widow and have a child who will carry on the brother’s name. [20] Well, suppose there were seven brothers. The oldest one married and then died without children. [21] So the second brother married the widow, but he also died without children. Then the third brother married her. [22] This continued with all seven of them, and still there were no children. Last of all, the woman also died. [23] So tell us, whose wife will she be in the resurrection? For all seven were married to her.” [24] Jesus replied, “Your mistake is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God. [25] For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven. [26] “But now, as to whether the dead will be raised—haven’t you ever read about this in the writings of Moses, in the story of the burning bush? Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said to Moses, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ [27] So he is the God of the living, not the dead. You have made a serious error.” [28] One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” [29] Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. [30] And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ [31] The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.” [32] The teacher of religious law replied, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. [33] And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law.” [34] Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

REFLECT:

1. What are the truths and/or principles that stood out to you from what you just read?
2. What did you learn about Jesus from this Scripture?
3. Is there any sin you need to confess to God and/or to others that God revealed to you through what you just read?
4. Is there anything you believe God would want you to do in response to today’s scripture reading?
5. How do these verses offer hope to you in this uncertain time?
6. Is there someone you can bless, serve, and encourage today?

PRAY:

- Tell God at least one thing you love and appreciate about who He is
- Thank God for something that happened in your life yesterday
- Pray for at least one other person
- Pray for yourself - Ask God to help you “live as Jesus lived.”

FRIDAY, JULY 3

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Mark 12:35–44 (NLT) [35] Later, as Jesus was teaching the people in the Temple, he asked, “Why do the teachers of religious law claim that the Messiah is the son of David? [36] For David himself, speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, said, ‘The LORD said to my Lord, Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies beneath your feet.’ [37] Since David himself called the Messiah ‘my Lord,’ how can the Messiah be his son?” The large crowd listened to him with great delight. [38] Jesus also taught: “Beware of these teachers of religious law! For they like to parade around in flowing robes and receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces. [39] And how they love the seats of honor in the synagogues and the head table at banquets. [40] Yet they shamelessly cheat widows out of their property and then pretend to be pious by making long prayers in public. Because of this, they will be more severely punished.” [41] Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. [42] Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. [43] Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. [44] For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on.”

REFLECT:

1. What are the truths and/or principles that stood out to you from what you just read?
2. What did you learn about Jesus from this Scripture?
3. Is there any sin you need to confess to God and/or to others that God revealed to you through what you just read?
4. Is there anything you believe God would want you to do in response to today’s scripture reading?
5. How do these verses offer hope to you in this uncertain time?
6. Is there someone you can bless, serve, and encourage today?

PRAY:

- Tell God at least one thing you love and appreciate about who He is
- Thank God for something that happened in your life yesterday
- Pray for at least one other person
- Pray for yourself - Ask God to help you “live as Jesus lived.”

SATURDAY, JULY 4

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Matthew 23:1–12 (NLT) [1] Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, [2] “The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses. [3] So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don’t follow their example. For they don’t practice what they teach. [4] They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden. [5] “Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels. [6] And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honor in the synagogues. [7] They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi.’ [8] “Don’t let anyone call you ‘Rabbi,’ for you have only one teacher, and all of you are equal as brothers and sisters. [9] And don’t address anyone here on earth as ‘Father,’ for only God in heaven is your Father. [10] And don’t let anyone call you ‘Teacher,’ for you have only one teacher, the Messiah. [11] The greatest among you must be a servant. [12] But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

REFLECT:

1. What are the truths and/or principles that stood out to you from what you just read?
2. What did you learn about Jesus from this Scripture?
3. Is there any sin you need to confess to God and/or to others that God revealed to you through what you just read?
4. Is there anything you believe God would want you to do in response to today’s scripture reading?
5. How do these verses offer hope to you in this uncertain time?
6. Is there someone you can bless, serve, and encourage today?

PRAY:

- Tell God at least one thing you love and appreciate about who He is
- Thank God for something that happened in your life yesterday
- Pray for at least one other person
- Pray for yourself - Ask God to help you “live as Jesus lived.”

SUNDAY, JULY 5

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Matthew 23:13–39 (NLT) [13] “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you shut the door of the Kingdom of Heaven in people’s faces. You won’t go in yourselves, and you don’t let others enter either. [15] “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then you turn that person into twice the child of hell you yourselves are! [16] “Blind guides! What sorrow awaits you! For you say that it means nothing to swear ‘by God’s Temple,’ but that it is binding to swear ‘by the gold in the Temple.’ [17] Blind fools! Which is more important—the gold or the Temple that makes the gold sacred? [18] And you say that to swear ‘by the altar’ is not binding, but to swear ‘by the gifts on the altar’ is binding. [19] How blind! For which is more important—the gift on the altar or the altar that makes the gift sacred? [20] When you swear ‘by the altar,’ you are swearing by it and by everything on it. [21] And when you swear ‘by the Temple,’ you are swearing by it and by God, who lives in it. [22] And when you swear ‘by heaven,’ you are swearing by the throne of God and by God, who sits on the throne. [23] “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things. [24] Blind guides! You strain your water so you won’t accidentally swallow a gnat, but you swallow a camel! [25] “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence! [26] You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too. [27] “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity. [28] Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness. [29] “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you build tombs for the prophets your ancestors killed, and you decorate the monuments of the godly people your ancestors destroyed. [30] Then you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would never have joined them in killing the prophets.’ [31] “But in saying that, you testify against yourselves that you are indeed the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. [32] Go ahead and finish what your ancestors started. [33] Snakes! Sons of vipers! How will you escape the judgment of hell? [34] “Therefore, I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers of religious law. But you will kill some by crucifixion, and you will flog others with whips in your synagogues, chasing them from city to city. [35] As a result, you will be held responsible for the murder of all godly people of all time—from the murder of righteous Abel to the murder of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you killed in the Temple between the sanctuary and the altar. [36] I tell you the truth, this judgment will fall on this very generation. [37] “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me. [38] And now, look, your house is abandoned and desolate. [39] For I tell you this, you will never see me again until you say, ‘Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!’”

REFLECT:

1. What are the truths and/or principles that stood out to you from what you just read?
2. What did you learn about Jesus from this Scripture?
3. Is there any sin you need to confess to God and/or to others that God revealed to you through what you just read?
4. Is there anything you believe God would want you to do in response to today’s scripture reading?
5. How do these verses offer hope to you in this uncertain time?
6. Is there someone you can bless, serve, and encourage today?

PRAY:

- Tell God at least one thing you love and appreciate about who He is
- Thank God for something that happened in your life yesterday
- Pray for at least one other person
- Pray for yourself - Ask God to help you “live as Jesus lived.”