

One Year Bible – Week 3

Reading Schedule:

Genesis = Ge / Matthew = Mt / Psalms = Ps / Proverbs = Pr



Jan 11 – Ge 24:52-26:16 / Mt 8:18-34 / Ps 10:1-15 / Pr 3:7-8
Jan 12 – Ge 26:17-27:46 / Mt 9:1-17 / Ps 10:16-18 / Pr 3:9-10
Jan 13 – Ge 28:1-29:35 / Mt 9:18-38 / Ps 11:1-7 / Pr 3:11-12
Jan 14 – Ge 30:1-31:16 / Mt 10:1-25 / Ps 12:1-8 / Pr 3:13-15
Jan 15 – Ge 31:17-32:12 / Mt 10:26-11:6 / Ps 13:1-6 / Pr 3:16-18
Jan 16 – Ge 32:13-34:31 / Mt 11:7-30 / Ps 14:1-7 / Pr 3:19-20
Jan 17 – Ge 35:1-36:43 / Mt 12:1-21 / Ps 15:1-5 / Pr 3:21-26

Summary: Genesis reading

The continuation of the Patriarchs Isaac and Jacob. Abraham's descendents start with Isaac and continue with Jacob as God's promise to Abraham is being fulfilled. With the story of Jacob comes a new picture of relationship with God; different than the intimacy seen with Adam; different than the righteousness acknowledged in Noah; different than the faithfulness shown in Abraham. Jacob struggles with God and God blesses him.

Summary: Matthew reading

Our reading in Matthew starts with a collection of episodes that provide a glimpse of Jesus' power and authority as he begins his earthly ministry. Following are the accounts of Jesus equipping and sending his disciples and John the Baptists inquiry into Jesus' true identity.

Things to Look For and Questions to Ponder as You Read:

- As you read the accounts of Jesus healing in Matthew this week, what do you observe about those who sought Jesus' healing? What do you observe about Jesus' response to those he healed? How do these observations relate to your relationship with God? Are there any in particular that challenge your current perceptions about God?
- The story of Jacob wrestling with God is curious to many (Ge 32:22-32). The wrestling match seems to come out of nowhere and Jacob's tenacity for a blessing leaves room for question. Why do you think God placed this story in his Word? What stands out to you about Jacob's interaction with God? Does any part of this story challenge you in the way you relate with God?

- This week's readings provide a number of examples of people responding to Jesus in his early earthly ministry. Are any of these examples similar to your own story when you were first approached about Jesus? How do these accounts inform the way you might tell someone about Jesus?

Small Group Questions:

- 1) In Mt 8:18-22 Jesus shows a seemingly harsh response to a potential disciple. In this passage, the man wanting to bury his father is not speaking of an immediate need to dig a grave; rather he is using a phrase which meant that he will wait for his father to pass away before he follows Jesus. Why when met by Jesus do some people respond with reluctance? How can we counter that reluctance either in our own lives or in the lives of those around us?
- 2) The story of the calling of Matthew (Mt 9:9-13) shows a group of Pharisees, a group with religious status and influence, smugly scrutinizing Jesus for socializing with people seen as "unacceptable." Share with the group if you have ever observed anyone be treated or described as hopeless or unacceptable? How do Jesus' words in this passage affect the way we respond in such situations?
- 3) Many non-Christians would likely say that Jesus came to show the world peace yet he clearly states that he came with the opposite in mind. (Mt 10:34) How would you explain this to a person who is not a Christian?
- 4) Jesus said anyone who loves his father or mother more than him is not worthy of him. (Mt 10:37) What do you think makes this person unworthy of Jesus and why do you suppose it is difficult for some people to make this choice?
- 5) What exactly does taking one's cross look like in today's society? (Mt 10:37-39) Give some examples.
- 6) The encounter with Jacob travelling to meet Esau is full of suspense until Jacob finally meets Esau. How are Jacob and Esau different in the way they relate to each other now than previously (Ge 32-33, see also Ge 27:36, 41). What do you think is the cause of this difference? Does the text reveal any information that would help explain this change?

Journal the Psalms this week:

Psalm 10 contrasts the wicked with God. Sometimes we fall victim to evil and easily forget God's character in the midst of trial. Pick one action or characteristic of God listed in this Psalm to reflect on and journal about as assurance despite the evil we might face.