

SUNDAY—APRIL 19

2 Samuel 6-8; Luke 15:1-10

Old Testament New Testament _____

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

Peter had been an unstable leader during Jesus' ministry, letting his pride and self-confidence be his downfall, even to the point where he denied that he knew who Jesus was. But Christ had forgiven and restored him. This was a new Peter, humble but bold. His confidence came from the Holy Spirit, who made him a powerful and dynamic speaker. Have you ever felt as if you had made such bad mistakes that God could never forgive or use you? No matter what sins you've committed, God can make you useful again for the work of the ministry. If you have fallen, allow Him to have your life and use you to make a difference for His cause and glory.

What did I learn from my Bible Reading? _____

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15 *Your*
DAILY
DIRECTI  **N**
 HERITAGE
 BAPTIST CHURCH



Name _____

15 *Your*
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DIRECTI  **N**
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Name _____

MONDAY—APRIL 13

1 Samuel 22-24; Luke 12:1-31

Old Testament New Testament _____

Luke 24:13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

The followers returning to Emmaus at first missed the significance of history's greatest event because they were too focused on their disappointments and problems. In fact, they didn't recognize Jesus when He was walking beside them. To compound the problem, they were walking in the wrong direction—away from the fellowship of believers in Jerusalem. We are likely to miss Jesus and withdraw from the strength of believers when we become preoccupied with our dashed hopes and frustrated plans. Only when we are looking for Jesus in our midst will we experience the power and help He can bring.

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SATURDAY—APRIL 18

2 Samuel 3-5; Luke 14:25-35

Old Testament New Testament _____

Ac 1:12 ¶ Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey. 13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

After Christ was taken up into Heaven, the disciples immediately returned to Jerusalem and had a prayer meeting. Jesus had said that they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit in the near future, so they waited and prayed. When you face a difficult task, an important decision, or a baffling dilemma, don't rush into the work and just hope it comes out the way it should. Instead, make your first step prayer for the Holy Spirit's power and guidance. We are so quick to be active and doing, yet we fail to realize the importance of giving God control and authority in the situation. He is all-powerful and all-wise! Trust in Him and lean upon His power.

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FRIDAY—APRIL 17

2 Samuel 1-2; Luke 14:1-24

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Acts 1:16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. 17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

How could someone who had been with Jesus daily betray Him? Judas had received the same calling and teaching as everyone else, but he had chosen to reject Christ. Judas hardened his heart and joined in the plot with Jesus' enemies to put Him to death. Judas remained unrepentant to the end, and he finally committed suicide. Although Jesus predicted this would happen, it was Judas' choice. Those privileged to be close to the truth are not necessarily committed to the truth itself. In betraying Jesus, Judas made the greatest mistake in history. Judas didn't lose his relationship with Jesus, he never had one to begin with. Are you one of Christ's faithful followers or an uncommitted pretender?

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What did I learn from my Bible Reading? _____

TUESDAY—APRIL 14

1 Samuel 25-26; Luke 12:32-59

Old Testament New Testament _____

Luke 24:25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

Even though these Jewish men knew the biblical prophecies well, they failed to understand that Christ's suffering was His path to glory. They could not understand why God had not intervened to save Jesus from the cross. They were so caught up in the world's admiration of political power and military might that they were blind to God's kingdom values—that the last shall be first, and that life grows from death. The world has not changed its values. The suffering servant is no more popular today than he was 2,000 years ago. We must learn to confront the values of our culture and put our faith in the ways of Jesus.

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WEDNESDAY—APRIL 15

1 Samuel 27-29; Luke 13:1-22

Old Testament New Testament _____

Mt 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

When someone is dying or leaving us, last words are very important. Jesus left the disciples with these last words of instruction: they were under His authority; they were to make more disciples; they were to baptize and teach these new disciples to obey Christ. Christ would be with them always. In previous missions Jesus had sent his disciples only to the Jews (Matt 10:5-6), but their mission from now on would be worldwide. Jesus is the Lord of the earth, and He died for the sins of the people of all nations. All of us are equipped to fulfill the Great Commission. Use the gifts that God has given you to fulfill this calling. Preach the Gospel to all!

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What did I learn from my Bible Reading? _____

THURSDAY—APRIL 16

1 Samuel 30-31; Luke 13:23-35

Old Testament New Testament _____

Mark 16:20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Mark's Gospel emphasizes Christ's power as well as His servanthood. Jesus life and teaching turned the world upside down and continues to do so. The world sees power as a way to gain control over others. But Jesus, with all authority and power in heaven and earth, chose to serve others. He held children in His arms, healed the sick, washed the disciples' feet, and died for the sin of the world. He allowed Himself to moved with compassion for those who were as sheep with no shepherd. Jesus' followers today receive this same power to serve. As believers, we are called to be servants of Christ. As Christ served, so are we to serve.

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