

Jesus Never Said THAT: Do Whatever Makes You Happy

April 26, 2020

Week 2 Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Matthew 7:24-27](#); [Psalm 18:31](#)

REFLECT: Matthew chapters 5-7 are called the Sermon on the Mount, the greatest sermon given by the greatest Teacher, Jesus. These verses come at the end of His sermon. Sketch or use words to create a picture of the two houses: What are their foundations? What is in the storm? What is the aftermath? What is your “house” standing on today?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: As you pray, ask God to bring to your mind the “sandy” things you have tried to build your life upon. Ask the Lord to begin a new work in you- to rebuild your “house” on Jesus and His good news, rather than the temporary things of this world.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: [Matthew 5:1-12](#)

REFLECT: *Blessed* = “deeply satisfied”. Make a list of the characteristics of those who will find deep satisfaction in this life. In what will they rejoice and be glad?

Day 2-

READ: [Ephesians 1:17-23](#); [Philippians 2:5-11](#) ; [1 Timothy 6:13-16](#); [Hebrews 1:1-4](#)

REFLECT: Yesterday you determined that you would build your life on Jesus. So who is He? Make a list of His attributes and accomplishments from these passages. Looking at this list, glance back at your picture from yesterday. Do you believe that Jesus is big enough to be your rock, your foundation, through every storm? Is any part of your life resting/depending on someone or something other than your Savior?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Worship Jesus! Come to Him with a prayer and a song of praise. Choose one of the options below and then write your own prayer of praise in response:

-Read [Psalm 145](#) aloud, remembering that Jesus is the exact imprint of God.

-Sing and worship with [Revelation Song](#) by Kari Jobe.

-Let the words of spoken-word artist, Amena Brown lead you to worship Jesus: “[In the Beginning](#)” from RightNow Media.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

REFLECT: “God is most glorified in us, when we are most satisfied in Him.” -John Piper

READ/WATCH: For more on Christian Hedonism check out John Piper’s [sermon](#) from DesiringGod.org.

Day 3-

READ: [Jeremiah 17:5-10](#); [Psalm 1](#)

REFLECT: How is a person cursed or blessed depending on their foundation? Read Jeremiah 17:9 again. Our hearts long for pleasure, to feel good- how can that desire lead us away from Jesus? We've been talking about Jesus as a rock. What new picture is painted for us by Jeremiah and in Psalm 1?

PRAY/PRACTICE: What will you choose to do today that will lead you to Jesus as the source of life and joy rather than toward something that offers only fleeting happiness? Share with a trusted friend and ask them for encouragement and accountability.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: Check out this Bible Project video on RightNow Media, "[How to Read Ecclesiastes](#)" before you read chapter 1. [If you need a *free* RNM account, visit www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia to sign up!]

READ: [Ecclesiastes 1](#)

REFLECT: Chasing after anything but God is meaningless.

Day 4-

READ: [James 1:1-4](#) and [Philippians 4:4-9](#)

REFLECT: Both James and Paul have something to say about joy. What does James instruct us to count as joy and why does he suggest we do that? Paul tells us to rejoice and then goes on to suggest a pattern of prayer and meditation. Underline each of the eight attributes in verse 8. Spend time reflecting on the things in your life that reflect those attributes.

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Use Paul's prayer prompt to lead your prayer time. Use your reflection above to guide your thanksgiving and prayer as you bring your requests to Jesus.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: Explore the Biblical theme of [JOY](#) with the Bible Project.

REFLECT: "The joy of God's people is not determined by their struggles, but by their future destiny."

Day 5-

READ: [Psalm 16](#)

REFLECT: Read Psalm 16 two or three times. Reflect on all that you have learned this week about making Jesus your foundation, about the joy found in Jesus, about trusting Jesus. How is God increasing your faith? How will you walk through next week differently than last week?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Consider memorizing [Psalm 16:2](#) or Psalm [16:11](#) as sentence prayers to take with you throughout the days ahead. Share with a friend or coworker or family member something God has taught you this week.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

STUDY: Learn more about joy. Check out John Piper's study of Philippians, "[Jesus and the Journey to Joy](#)" from RightNow Media. Or download the YouVersion Bible app and choose a study of Philippians. Invite someone to read along with you!