Jesus Never Said THAT: You'll Never Change

May 10, 2020

Week 3 Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: Luke 4:1-30; Hebrews 4:14-16

REFLECT: Plot the points of Jesus' early days of ministry in Luke 4. What did He experience? What did He do? What did He say? This is your Savior! Now read the Hebrews passage and meditate on who Jesus is and what He has done for you. How does the life Jesus lived on earthy strengthen your confidence in Him as the Son of God, as Savior, as the One who can change you from the inside out?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Praising Jesus never gets old! Write from your heart a prayer of praise to your Savior for all He has done and will do, for His words to us in scripture, for His work in your life. (Use <u>Revelation</u> 5:9-14 if you need help getting started.)

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH & LEARN: What does it mean that you are created in the image of God *and* being transformed into His image? Find out more in this Bible Project video, <u>Holiness</u>, from RightNow Media. [Need a *free* RNM account? Register at www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia.]

Day 2-

READ: 1 Timothy 1:12-17 (ESV); 1 Timothy 1:16 (multiple translations); Ephesians 2:10

REFLECT: What do you learn about the transformation of Paul from his letter to Timothy? To whom does he point as the ultimate change agent in his life? For what reason, to what end, was Paul transformed? Consider- God wants to do a remarkable work of change in your life for a purpose. For what or for whom have you been transformed?

PRAY: Ask Christ Jesus your Lord for strength as you commit to follow Him today into whatever circumstance, conversation, or situation you find yourself. "To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God... may my life bring you honor and glory forever and ever. Amen"

TAKE IT FURTHER!

PRACTICE: Accept the "we over me" challenge to Be the Church. Visit www.whoisgrace.com/bethechurch to find out more how you can serve.

Day 3-

READ: Psalm 51

REFLECT: King David wrote this Psalm when confronted by the ugliness of his own sin (2 Samuel 11-12). Read his prayer out loud. What posture do you imagine him in? Meditate on verse 6. God sees all of you, into the most secret places, but when you look closely, what still needs exposed to the Light of His truth and wisdom? Often these things leave us trapped in shame and guilt. Don't hang on to them any more!

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Use Psalm 51:7-12 to write your own prayer of confession and repentance to the Lord. Praise that the Lord! His steadfast love and abundant mercy are poured over you (verse 1) and you are free from your sin, free from shame. Go, walk in that freedom today!

TAKE IT FURTHER!

LISTEN & WORSHIP: "Here's My Heart" is a song of surrender by Lauren Daigle. Listen once with eyes closed. Then listen again, writing down the words used to describe yourself and describe the Lord.

Day 4-

READ: Galatians 5:16-26

REFLECT: There are two lists in this passage- the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit. The *flesh* refers to our sin nature, our passions and desires that are against God, against the Spirit who works in you. Make a list of the passions and desires that continue to tempt you- be honest with God! Write "I need You" below that list. Now list the fruit of the Spirit next to it. Write "I need You" below that list as well. The evidence of your surrender to Christ will be seen in the fruit the Spirit bears in your life.

PRAY/ PRACTICE: The changes God works in you are not meant for you alone, they're meant for the people around you and to bring glory to the Lord through your life. Choose one from the list of fruit and ask the Spirit to lead you and fill you today in your interactions with others. Consider setting an alarm to or two to remind you to pray for the Spirit's help. Remember, it isn't about you trying harder, it's about you surrendering to the saving power of Jesus and to the work of the Spirit in you!

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: Kyle Idleman, author and pastor, <u>discuss Galatians 5</u> on RightNow Media. "You have been set free to live free...a life plugged into the power of the Spirit."

<u>Day 5</u>-

READ: Ephesians 4:17-32

REFLECT: What changes does Paul describe here in a Christian putting off the old self and putting on the new? From yesterday's passage in Galatians, does the power to change come from you or from the Lord? Meditate on Ephesians 4:23. What can you do that will renew your mind? Meditate on Ephesians 4:26-27. How can you deny Satan an opportunity to tempt you to sin?

PRAY: Use <u>Philippians 1:6</u> to praise God for the work He has begun in you and to confidently ask Him to continue to change you more and more into His likeness.

PRACTICE: If you are harboring anger against someone, take it to the Lord today and ask for His wisdom and guidance and courage to process your emotion and deal with the situation. Let the light of Jesus shine in and through you.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "What is Sanctification" from The Gospel Coalition.

WATCH: "Sanctification in Layers" from RightNow Media.