

Resisting a Leftover Faith | October 11 | Week 5 Reading Plan

Day 1

READ: Matthew 6:19-21

REFLECT: Remember, this passage is from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), where Jesus describes life God's Kingdom on earth. What do you think Jesus means when he's talking about treasures in Heaven? Do another quick heart assessment today- are your treasures part of this earth or part of His eternal Kingdom? As you begin this week, take out a piece of paper and write "I'm holding onto..." and make a list of *things* you're holding onto instead of placing trust in Jesus.

PRAY: Look at the list you made and confess what you're holding onto and offer it up to Jesus. Ask Him to move your heart away from things and toward Him.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

LISTEN: Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

REFLECT: Trusting Jesus is one of the foundations of the Christian life. It IS sweet to trust in Him!

PRACTICE: Take time to "rest upon His promise" this week. Life is moving fast and often we get caught up in what isn't going right or in what feels hard. Don't let that be the story of this week. Let this week's story be about the goodness and faithfulness of Jesus!

Day 2-

READ: 2 Kings 4:1-7; Mark 12:41-44

REFLECT: In these passages, we read the stories of two widows. Though they would have taken places hundreds of years apart, widows were hardly better off in Jesus' day than in Elisha's. Compare their stories- How do the women respond to their desperate situations? How do their desperate situations lead them to trust the Lord?

PRAY: What is your situation? Are you trusting the Lord to be your Provider? Open your hands as you pray a prayer of gratitude for His provision. Ask God to show you where your generosity is needed and let Him guide you there.

PRACITCE: Make a generosity decision! Consider what you have been giving (tithing) to the church and determine not to give just the leftovers but your *first fruits*. What percentage are you giving at currently? Will you move that up by 1%, 2%, 3%?? Consider online giving- visit www.whoisgrace.com/give to learn more.



Day 3-

READ: 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

REFLECT: God calls us to obedience, even when it feels difficult. Being generous and the giving of our finances is one of those ways we are called to be obedient. What does this passage say about giving? How should you decide how much to give? What is the result of a cheerful giver?

PRAY: As you pray today, ask God to show you how to trust Him more and be more obedient to his promptings when it comes to your money. Is your heart open to whatever that might be?

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: What's Your Theology of Money? from The Gospel Coalition.

Day 4-

READ: Hebrews 13:1-6

REFLECT: A theme throughout the story of scripture is that as believers, we need to lay down our earthly desires to follow Jesus. In verse 5, what is the author warning the readers about? How do you know it's okay to trust Jesus? What might your day-to-day relationship with money look like if you decided to trust God even more?

PRAY: In your prayer time today, pray this truth from Philippians 4:19 over your life (and your family and friends), "And my God will supply ALL my needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Believe that today and everyday!

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "How You Honor Your Maker with Your Wallet", an article from the Gospel Coalition

REFLECT: According to this article, what are some ways you can honor God with money? Which idea resonated with you the most?

PRACTICE: What is something you can implement right now to honor God better with your money?



Day 5-

READ: Psalm 13:5-6

REFLECT: When we fully surrender our lives to God and trust in his care and provision over our lives, we begin to see how good He is. When He provides for us, he also calls us to live generously so that He gets all the glory. How do you see that play out in this scripture? How does this passage encourage you to take a step toward being more generous?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Write out/type out the scripture in a journal or on your phone and put it somewhere that you can refer back to often. Use it as a reminder of God's love for you so that you can continue to point back all of the good things in your life to Him.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "Four Truths About God's Provision", an article from Desiring God.

REFLECT: How does this article connect trust and provision? What was the most encouraging thing you read?

PRACTICE: Praise God that he always provides, even if it looks different than you expect. Ask him to give you eyes to see Him in those moments.