

Starting Blocks

Spending Time With Jesus In His Word Every Day - Week 09

Day 1:

PREP: What did things seem like and feel like from the point of view of the disciples? How does that point of view compare to the truth of how things actually were?

READ: Matthew 8:23-27

SO WHAT: What do you think Jesus means by 'faith' when He says "you of little faith" in these verses? What are you supposed to do when things seem and feel like something impossible?

PRAY: Ask Jesus to help you squint through the feelings and see the invisible stuff He's doing.

Day 2:

PREP: How did the people in this scene treat Jesus? What was their disposition toward Him?

READ: Matthew 8:28-34

SO WHAT: Jesus came to help, but everyone was against Him. Is there any reason you want to avoid Jesus today? Do you feel threatened or protective when He is only trying to heal and restore? What are you afraid to lose? What are you afraid He'll take away?

PRAY: Ask the Lord to show you the truth about yourself and how He has something better.

Day 3:

PREP: What did all the people assume Jesus would do, and what did He do instead?

READ: Matthew 9:1-8

SO WHAT: What if your most obvious issue or problem isn't your most critical? Jesus sees the deepest and most urgent need. Have you asked Jesus what He wants to deal with first in your life? What if it isn't the thing that seems most obvious to you?

PRAY: Make a list of what needs work in your life. Take that list to Jesus and ask Him what He thinks about it. Does He prioritize it the way you do? Ask Him to guide you in that.

Day 4:

PREP: Jesus made a pick, went to a place and said a thing. What was the point of all that?

READ: Matthew 9:9-13

SO WHAT: Who did Jesus come for? Are you on that list? How do you see yourself? Do you basically have it together? Are you pretty much okay as you are? Jesus came for needy people, broken people and messy people. How are you the person Jesus came for?

PRAY: Ask Jesus to always keep you aware of the sickness that makes you need a doctor.

Day 5:

PREP: Paul had some people he cared about. What did they do for him and how did he feel about them?

READ: Philippians 1:1-11

SO WHAT: Who fills you with gratitude? Who do you pray with joy about? Whose partnership in ministry do you rejoice in? Who is in your heart? Who shares in God's grace with you?

PRAY: Thank Jesus for giving you those people specifically and lift them up to Him.

Day 6:

PREP: Paul was in prison. It was a difficult thing. How did he feel about it? What was his attitude?

READ: Philippians 1:12-18

SO WHAT: Some folks wanted to make problems for Paul and some supported him; but because of his attitude, people heard about Jesus either way. How can you live like that today? How can you have the kind of attitude that points people to Jesus no matter what?

PRAY: Ask Jesus specifically to help you see your difficulties with a great attitude today.

Day 7:

PREP: How does the Psalmist want God to treat Him? What does He want God to do for Him?

READ: Psalm 25

SO WHAT: What things in your life make you feel like you need both mercy and instruction from the Lord? How good is it to know that you can come to the Lord as a sinful mess who doesn't know anything? If you were to strip everything away to raw honesty, what would your prayer be?

PRAY: Ask the Lord to show you and help you learn what it means to hope only in Him today.