

### **Week 9 Day 1**

**Readings:** Matthew 16:21-28; Acts 20:17-38; Psalm 51; Proverbs 12:23-28; Leviticus 21-22.

**Focus Verse:** "The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray." (Proverbs 12:26)

**Key Concept:** Peter's Interference (Matthew 16:21-23). This incident is a clear contrast to the preceding section, which we considered yesterday. Here, Peter becomes a temptation to Jesus because he doesn't understand the necessity of Christ's death. Notice the clear contrast between verse 23 and verse 17. This time, Peter was "not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." He was not following the will of God, but was pursuing the course that made sense to him from a human perspective. Whenever we exalt human reason above Divine revelation, we set ourselves on a collision course with spiritual disaster. When human reason rules, we fail!

**Action:** Test your beliefs, words and actions. Follow the things of God.

### **Week 9 Day 2**

**Readings:** Matthew 17:1-13; Acts 21:1-14; Psalm 52; Proverbs 13:1-6; Leviticus 23-24.

**Focus Verse:** "And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only." (Matthew 17:8)

**Key Concept:** They Saw Jesus Only (Matthew 17:1-9). Peter, James and John enjoyed a privilege here that would have thrilled most Jews of their day. They actually got to sit at the feet of Moses, the Lawgiver, and Elijah, the Prophet. Peter probably intended to honor Jesus by putting His tabernacle right along with the tents of these O.T. heroes, but God intended another message. Moses disappeared. Elijah disappeared. Jesus remains. "Hear Him."

**Action:** Listen reverently to the words of Jesus. Obey Him.

### **Week 9 Day 3**

**Readings:** Matthew 17:14-21; Acts 21:15-25; Psalm 53; Proverbs 13:7-12; Leviticus 25.

**Focus Verse:** "By pride comes only contention, but with the well advised is wisdom." (Proverbs 13:10)

**Key Concept:** Foolishness of Denying God (Psalm 53:1). It is a short-sighted and foolish approach to life to deny the evidence of God's existence. Such a philosophy leads to an empty life on earth, and to the eternal misery of separation from the good and holy God of all. We must remember, however, that atheists are not the only ones who deny God. When we live selfishly, unconcerned about our accountability before God, we are just as foolish and shortsighted.

**Action:** Take each step today as if God is watching. He is!

### **Week 9 Day 4**

**Readings:** Matthew 17:22-27; Acts 21:26-40; Psalm 54; Proverbs 13:13-19; Leviticus 26.

**Focus Verse:** "He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded." (Proverbs 13:13)

**Key Concept:** God Walks Among His People (Leviticus 26). This chapter records promises and warnings delivered by Jehovah to the Israelites. If they would observe His instructions, He would walk among them in harmony. If they would disobey, He would walk contrary to them and allow them to be overrun by their enemies. Their relationship with God was conditional upon their conduct.

**Action:** Obey God and enjoy His fellowship.

### **Week 9 Day 5**

**Readings:** Matthew 18:1-9; Acts 22:1-11; Psalm 55; Proverbs 13:20-25; Leviticus 27.

**Focus Verse:** "Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice." (Psalm 55:17)

**Key Concept:** "Why Are You Waiting?" (Acts 22:16). In this passage, Paul recounts the events surrounding his conversion to the Lord, including the appeal of Ananias that Paul obey without delay. Yet many since Paul have delayed--sometimes until it was too late. Preparing for eternity is a serious matter. Delay is a gamble with an eternal soul. Those stakes are too high to be careless!

**Action:** If you are not prepared to meet God in judgment, why are you waiting? Follow Ananias' instructions: "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins."

## **Week 9 Day 6**

**Readings:** Matthew 18:10-20; Acts 22:12-21; Psalm 56; Proverbs 14:1-8; Numbers 1.

**Focus Verse:** "A faithful witness does not lie, but a false witness will utter lies." (Proverbs 14:5)

**Key Concept:** "If Your Brother Sins Against You" (Matthew 18:15-17). Jesus gives clear instructions in handling personal conflicts. When a brother sins against me, I do not have the liberty to tell everyone else in the world. I have no right to seek vengeance. I cannot "let time heal all wounds." I must go to that brother as prescribed here by Jesus. If I don't, I sin. It is that simple!

**Action:** Has a brother sinned against you? Make it a point today to go to him and settle the problem as Christians should.

## **Week 9 Day 7**

**Readings:** Matthew 18:21-35; Acts 22:22-30; Psalm 57; Proverbs 14:9-14; Numbers 2.

**Focus Verse:** "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." (Proverbs 14:12)

**Key Concept:** Forgiving a Brother (Matthew 18:21-35). This teaching is neglected almost as often as the section we considered yesterday. When a brother who has sinned against me repents, I must forgive him. I am not to keep count of his blunders, as if to prove his insincerity. Just as I expect God's forgiveness though I have sinned many times, my brother should be assured of my repeated forgiveness when he sins against me. If we won't forgive, we will not be forgiven!

**Action:** Is someone seeking your forgiveness? Forgive him!