

MONDAY 1.6.25- Matthew 12:33-34

³³ “Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. ³⁴ You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

The Pharisees had just spoken against the Holy Spirit and had accused Christ of working with Satan to cast out demons. He now turns the tables on them referring to them as a “Brood of Vipers,” just as John the Baptist had done. The analogy of the fruit tree shows the relationship between a man’s heart and his words. The Pharisee’s words are evil because their hearts are evil, for the tree is known by its fruit.

The lesson for us is, “Words reveal the heart to our glory or shame.” We don’t make the tree better by trying to improve the bad fruit. If we desire good fruit, we have to make the tree better. In order to speak good words, the heart must be made good. For that to happen, we must desire and rely on the workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we pray and study God’s Word.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 1.7.25 - Colossians 1:9-10

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.

If you look closely at today’s scripture you will see that Paul is praying that the Colossian believers will have knowledge of God’s will, but not for knowledge sack. Paul is praying that they may have knowledge that will lead to a life worthy of the Lord and pleasing to Him. If you worship and are actively involved at Shiloh Bible Church, you probably have a good knowledge of the Bible. The real question is, has your knowledge been a

transforming knowledge that has led to a life worthy of the Lord and pleasing to Him?

We do not know what 2025 will bring our way. No matter what comes your way, or where you are in your spiritual life, pray that the Holy Spirit will be at work in you, using the knowledge you have to transform you into the person God wants you to be.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 1.8.25 - John 15:17-16:4

Jesus warns His disciples in advance that if He, God in the flesh, experiences the world’s hatred, we as His representatives, will encounter this response as well. Therefore, the issue is not whether we will receive rejection and persecution in evangelism. The issue is how we react to it. When non-believers reject us, we have an incredible opportunity to show them the love of Christ.

Heavenly Father, we ask that You make us ever mindful of our brothers and sisters around the world who need us to stand with them as they suffer in Your name. Teach us what it means to overcome by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony; we pray that we would not love our lives so much as to shrink from death. We ask this in the name of the One who died and rose again for us. Amen.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 1.9.25- Isaiah 43 :1-3

FEAR NOT!

Have you ever looked at that for what it is – a COMMAND? We usually see it as a comfort: a suggestion, an exhortation, even. Not a COMMAND!

And who is it that gives the command? The LORD who created us, who formed us, who knows us by name. He who owns us! It is He who has the right, the authority to command his people! Why are we called, then, to obey? “Fear not for I have redeemed you!” What more in this life can be more critical than our redemption? And if we have that, what is there to fear? Anything this world throws at us is countered with these five words – “I will be with you.”

He is the Lord our God! He is our Savior!

Brother, sister – our Heavenly Father commands us; “Fear not, I will be with you!”

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 1.10.25 - Psalm 63

Persecution versus the Promise. The word persecution doesn’t come up much in modern America. We tend to relegate the use of that word to people suffering for political or religious beliefs in hostile, non-Christian countries. Yet we do suffer. Anxiety, financial hardships, depression, physical infirmities, relationship problems, and perhaps some harassment are our persecutions. How should we deal with these issues? David provided answers in Psalm 63. He turned to the Lord. He thirsted for the Lord and sought Him. He beheld the Lord’s power and glory and knew the Lord’s love was better than life. He determined to praise the Lord as long as he lived, clinging and singing to Him through restless, tormented nights. He set the model for us as we sometimes struggle to make it through each day, recognizing long before Paul that “ Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39). That is our forever promise.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN’S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** **WINTER QUARTER** - began December 1st
LOCATION: B8-10 - Gene Steinruck - began Dec.1st.
EXPLORE THE BIBLE - Exodus and Leviticus
remind us that imperfect people can depend on a perfect God to lead them through whatever wilderness they face.

LOCATION: B11 - Teacher: TBA - began Dec.1st.
BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE
Looking Forward to Christmas Be reminded that Christmas is, first and foremost, a celebration of Christ’s coming to earth.

LOCATION: B11 - Shawn Devlin - begins Jan. 19th
THE HEART OF WORSHIP - Learn how Scripture tells us God is the One we are to worship, and it shows us the ways we are to engage in worship, so we are drawn into a deeper walk with Him.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

WINTER E2 SMALL GROUPS

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS: Join us for 11 weeks of food, fellowship, and Bible Study! Titled End Times & Spiritual Warfare, this group will study What Happens Next? By Max Lucado and Spiritual Warfare is Real by Jim Cymbala. Study begins Wednesday January 15th. The meal begins at 6:00pm followed by the study at 7:00 pm. Sign up at the information table, connect card, or call the office!

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES, USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

John 15:1-16
Secrets of the Vine (part 2)

Only in the Gospel of John does Jesus say ...

- “I am the bread of life”–6:35
- “I am the light of the world”–8:12
- “I am the gate”–10:7
- “I am the good shepherd”–10:11
- “I am the resurrection and the life”–11:25
- “I am the way, the truth, and the life”–14:6
- “I am the true vine”–15:1

In John chapter 15, Jesus shares with His followers the five secrets of the vine.

1. The Secret of _____ is _____
(vv 1-3)
2. The Secret of _____ is _____
(vv 4-10)
3. The Secret of _____ is _____
(vv 7-8, 10, 14)
4. The Secret of _____ is _____
(vv 9-13)

Three levels of motivation:

- _____
- _____
- _____

5. The Secret of _____ is _____
(v 15)

Two ways to know Jesus better:

- _____
- _____

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



January 6 – January 10

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday’s and Tuesday’s readings will be a follow up on Sunday’s message from January 5th, “Secrets of the Vine”, with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday’s through Friday’s devotions will help prepare us for the message on January 12th, “Hatred for No Cause”, with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
John 15:12