

Day 1

Dan Self - WCC

Read

Matthew 12:1-8 (read in your Bible/Bible app)

Verses 6-8 say, *"I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would have not condemned the innocent. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."*

Think

- How do you define rest?
- Do you leave your time of rest encouraged, or less motivated to do ministry?
- Where or what is your true source of rest?
- What would it look like to find rest in Jesus?

Reflect

This is a weird passage to read today, and it would have been a highly controversial statement for Jesus to make at the time. The Sabbath was a holy day, meant for God's people to rest. Maybe you've heard the word "sabbath" before. The problem is that "sabbath" quickly becomes about the absence of duty, not the activity of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus says he is "Lord of the Sabbath", that means that as Christians, the *only* way we experience true rest is in Him. Rest may seem weird now that we're home 24/7, but the only way we experience true rest and peace and comfort is in time spent with Jesus. Fight for that time in this season.

Pray

Jesus, thank you that in you I find true rest. I repent of making rest about me, and I repent of using rest as an excuse to unplug from active ministry. Your presence equips me and encourages me, and I ask that you send your Holy Spirit to guide me into activity.

Day 2

Dayne Scanlon - WCC

Read

Proverbs 3:3-4 *“Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.”*

Think

- **What does it look like to “bind love and faithfulness around your neck”?**
- **In what ways are you living in love today? In what ways are you living in faithfulness?**
- **What do you think the author means when we talk about winning favor of God and man? Why does that matter?**

Reflect

This is an interesting proverb, because love and faithfulness are something we tend to lack in our culture. Love is perhaps a little more difficult- it's way easier to roast someone than to show them love (even our closest friends). But what about faithfulness? Why would that be even related to love? See, faithfulness is the idea of trusting in something that you can't see to the point that it leads to action. When we have faith in God, and trust that he's going to move in mighty ways, we're moved to faithfulness.

- 1) Who's one person you need to love well today, and how are you going to show it.
- 2) What aspect of God are you going to trust in today, and what action will that lead you to?

Pray

Jesus, thank you for being my savior.

Thank you that because of what you did on the cross, I don't have to make a way to God on my own.

I pray that because of who you are, and because of what you've already done for me, I would love those you've put in my life, and that I would be moved to obedience to you today.

AMEN.

Day 3

Austie Eckley - HCC

Read

John 14:22-27 *"Then Judas said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who doesn't love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

Think

Who are you going to for your peace? Are you looking towards the world (news, social media, friends), or are you going to Jesus and his words in the bible?

Reflect

Jesus is telling Judas a couple profoundly important points in this conversation. First, he is expressing the weight of our obedience. That if we love love God we will obey what he says. Second, Jesus is explaining how vital the Holy Spirit is in our lives, that he will teach us all things and will remind us of Jesus's words that he spoke. This is crazy cool! Think about that for a second...when you memorize God's word and in a time of trouble or rejoicing and that scripture comes to your mind, that is literally the HOLY SPIRIT alive in you reminding you of God's living word.

When Jesus says Peace I leave with you: my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. Later in the text Jesus describes the enemy as the prince of the world. We are either going to look to the world for our peace or to Jesus for our peace. Jesus is describing peace as "my peace" meaning the very nature of Jesus is peace. Peace is not something we can make up or find looking to social media, the news, or people. Perfect unshakable peace is found only in Jesus. He says do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. This is a promise Jesus himself made to us. The God of the universe hears me and wants to speak to me, and give me his perfect peace which exceeds anything I can understand.

Pray

Heavenly Father, I pray that you would give me a hunger for your word. A radical desire for it that does not go away but just grows the more I read it. I pray that I would rely on you for everything so that I will experience a relationship with you where I hear your voice. I want to hear your words and I want to be comforted by you. Teach me to cry out to you for everything I need. I pray for perfect peace that comes from your son Jesus. I ask that you would light a fire of obedience in my heart and an understanding of the fear of the lord. Teach me your ways so that my life will be marked by you. Allow me to lead others to you because of the way that I live, trust and rely fully on you. Amen

Day 4

Whitney Webb - WCC

Read

Ecclesiastes 7:13-14 (NIV)

“Consider what God has done: Who can straighten what he has made crooked? When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, no one can discover anything about their future.”

Think

King Solomon points us to something really beautiful here, to consider God. To consider that all the seasons we go through are both made by our creator. When times are good we naturally feel joy but the challenge presented here is will we also experience joy in seasons that feel hard to us? How can we peacefully accept all the seasons Jesus gives to us? Will we place God as King over any and all seasons no matter our human emotions attached to them?

Reflect

Ecclesiastes has a similar tone all throughout it's book, but it makes a really important point - life without Jesus can never satisfy us. Even if we possess the whole world it doesn't matter without Jesus. His wisdom, love and peace mean something. They mean everything. Consider something you need to sacrifice this week in order to be more trusting and obedient to what Jesus would have for you in this season.

Pray

Jesus, you mean everything to me. You created everything just to know me. I pray that in this season I can know more of you. That I can find joy in a season that appears hard to me but I know you have already claimed victory over. Thank you for your wisdom, love and peace. I pray you would let those overflow within me this week. Amen.

Day 5

Garrett Carr - WCC

Read

Psalm 118:8-9, 24, ESV *“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”*

Think

It’s really easy for us to forget that the Lord is actually breathing life into each and every day. We believe that He is intimately involved in His creation. This Psalm wants to point us back to that. If you can, I encourage you to read the whole thing. There is a new joy found in remembering how close God is to us each and every day. In this time of being home so much, it can feel like joy is just being sucked out of us. The lack of activity can be exhausting. It can be a dark time for some of you where your thoughts and fears seem louder than ever. Especially in times like these, we have to look for simple ways to reflect on Jesus, allowing the joy of knowing Him to fill us up.

Reflect

Whenever you’re reading this, take a second to thank God for this day. It’s a phrase that we usually breeze through in our prayers, “Thank you for this day”, but actually meditate on it for a minute or two. Thank him for the rest that you got the night before or the food that you have/had to eat this morning. Each and every day is filled with so much unknown for us, but we can remember that God has formed this day and, therefore, is with us. By doing this, He will fill us with more joy. Secondly, look for one way to change up your routine. If you’ve been on your phone a ton, go for a walk around the neighborhood and listen to worship music. If you’ve been watching a ton of Netflix, maybe play a board game with your siblings. Instead of getting stuck in a routine to simply pass the day away, make one intentional choice to be with God or others around you.

Pray

Jesus, thank you that you have formed this day. Thank you for knowing my life in an intimate way. I know that you have given me each day to come close to you and to come close to the people around me. Help me today to feel comfort where I am feeling discouraged. Help me to feel energy where I am feeling lethargic or tired. I ask specifically for you to fill me with joy; that I would not take today for granted, but that I would have hope and trust in you.