

Study Guide for the Week of June 17, 2007

This study guide is designed to help you to become more familiar with the Bible. For 2007 the Study Guide is designed to help you read through the New Testament in a year. Study these passages on your own, with a friend, or with a group. If you or someone you know needs a Bible, please take one from under a chair in the Worship Center. They are there for you to take home and use! Sermon manuscripts are available at www.spwired.com.

Monday, June 18. Read Mark 4:1-20 in the New Testament. If there was one main point to this parable, what would it be? Why does Jesus say that the parables are to confuse (verses 11-12)? The secret of verse 11 may be that the Kingdom is revealed in Christ, and that it is only by faith in him that people can see or comprehend. At different times, we can be any of the types of soil in the story. Which one are you right now?

Tuesday, June 19. Read Mark 4:21-41 in the New Testament. Looking at verses 32-41, what do you make of Jesus being asleep during a storm? Physically exhausted (showing his humanity) or spiritually unworried (showing his divinity) or both? Clearly the disciples were freaked out by this miracle. Why?

Wednesday, June 20. Read Mark 5:1-20 in the New Testament. Jesus is in a gentile region in this scene. What do you notice about the evil spirit recognizing Jesus and submitting to him? One of the gods of this region was represented by an idol of a pig, so what does the destruction of a herd of swine mean? Why would the people plead with Jesus to leave? Why didn't Jesus let the healed man come with him?

Thursday, June 21. Read Mark 5:21-43 in the New Testament. One healing story is set inside of another. What role does faith have in both stories? Fear also plays a role in both stories. Which one are you living out of more...faith or fear?

Friday, June 22. Read Mark 6:1-29 in the New Testament. The sending out of the 12 is an important moment. It is the first time that they actually do what they see Jesus doing. How are you using your life to do what Jesus did?

Saturday, June 23. Read Mark 6:30-56 in the New Testament. The feeding of the 5000 shows us what Jesus can do when we just give him the little bit that we have. Don't hesitate to jump into ministry because you feel like there's not enough talent, time, etc. Give what you have and let Jesus take care of the rest!

Sunday, June 24. Read Mark 7:1-13 in the New Testament. Traditions and rituals can be tools that are very useful for keeping our lives centered on God. But, as in this story, they can also become replacements for God...we can begin to value and worship them more than our relationship with God or the original purpose behind the tradition. What traditions or rituals do you use to keep you connected to God? How will you know when keeping the tradition keeps you from being open to God's spirit?