



Through the Bible in a Year

a chronological study of the Bible for women

John 5
Mt. 5-8:13, 11-13
Mark 3
Luke 6-8,11

Week 41

Daily Reading Plan:

- __ John 5
- __ Matt. 12:1-21
- __ Mk. 3, Lk. 6
- __ Matt. 5-7
- __ Matt. 8:1-13, Lk. 7
- __ Matt. 11,12:22-50
- __ Lk. 11
- __ Matt. 13, Luke 8
- __ REST*

*Use this day to meditate on the week's Scripture reading. If needed, use it to catch up or read ahead.

Next week:
Mt. 8:14-10, 14-17
Mk. 4-9
Luke 9
John 6

MEMORY VERSE:

**“But store up for yourselves
treasures in heaven, where
moth and rust do not destroy,
and where thieves do not
break in and steal.”**
Matt. 6:20

“NICE” - JESUS STYLE Luke 6:20-36

Jesus challenges my definition of “love”. He explains how He expects us to do better than the sinners who love only those who love them back. He expects us to love even our enemies. He calls us to a difficult love of difficult people; those who have betrayed us and hurt us and respond to our love with indifference or even outright animosity. As Eugene Peterson puts it, we are to “live generously” – with everyone. We are to go the extra mile and turn the other cheek.

We do all this not because those people have any particular power over us, but because we CHOOSE to be like Christ and submit to them. We are, in fact, removing the power that they have had over us to make us behave in a way less than we really are in Christ. That’s because of what Jesus has just explained about where the real blessings are from.

“Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you....” Jesus instructs us to love our enemies, because He assumes that we are going to make some! In fact, He says “Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.” If everyone is always happy with me, then perhaps I’m not speaking enough truth, enough Jesus. Here is where the real challenge comes in for me. Think how many enemies Jesus made. A lot of people loved Him, but not everyone. He made some people so mad that they were ready to kill. That’s what the truth does, and what our “mild mannered” Jesus did. So as we read, let’s look closely at what He really said. Let’s pay special attention as we read this week to when He was sweet and kind, and also take note of when He was harsh or angry. If we are to know Jesus, we need to see all of Him. How do we follow Him?

Jesus was sweet and kind to: _____

Jesus was stern with: _____

DO YOU WANT TO GET WELL?

John 5:1-15

That is a surprisingly hard question for me. There are things I think I would really like to be zapped with healing from. Things like fear, or impatience.

But if fear no longer masters me, then I've lost a good excuse for not doing difficult things.

Patience has to be practiced through unpleasant longsuffering. Getting well means change and change isn't easy. Being set free from our infirmities and limitations calls us to bigger and better living, and frankly I don't always want that.

So when Jesus asks a man who has spent the last 38 years as an invalid if he **wants** to get well, it makes perfect sense to me. In this case, the healing was the easy part. But think what lay ahead for this man. He wouldn't be able to live by begging anymore. He would have to develop some skill and find some profession. He would have to tithe, pay taxes, and help others. He wouldn't be hanging out with all the other invalids anymore and all his relationships would change.

When Jesus heals us, it is only the beginning. Do you want to get well?

WEEPING AT HIS FEET

Luke 7:36-50

Where was Jesus eating when the woman brought an alabaster jar of perfume? _____

What did she do? _____

What was the response of the host? _____

What was the response of Jesus? _____

What reason did Jesus give for the woman's great love for Him? _____

How much would Jesus say you love Him? _____

How would He be able to tell? _____

What would you do in the presence of Jesus? _____



NOT SO SURE

John the Baptist is the last person we expect to see struggling with doubt about the identity of Jesus. Even while he was still in Elizabeth's womb he leapt in recognition at the presence of the still unborn Savior whose arrival he was to announce. He had spent his life preaching about Him and preparing the way for Him. He had baptized Jesus himself and presumably had been witness to the Spirit descending like a dove, and God speaking words of introduction and blessing to His Son.

But now John is in prison and things just aren't going the way that he expected them to. If Jesus is really the incarnate Son of God with all power and authority, then why would he leave John sitting in prison facing an uncertain and unpromising future? Sickening doubt begins to creep into the heart of one of the few people who has even come close to understanding who Jesus really is. What if all of this had been for nothing? What if his life work didn't even count? What if he had staked his eternity on this being the Messiah, and Jesus really wasn't the One?

Have you ever been there? Do you allow yourself to acknowledge the doubts so that you can honestly wrestle with them?

Who did John ask to help him with his doubt?

What message did he get in return? _____

How do you think Jesus felt about John the Baptist's doubts? _____

How do you think He feels about your doubts? _____

"Those who believe they believe in God but without passion in the heart, without anguish of the mind, without uncertainty, without doubt, and even at times without despair, believe only in the idea of God and not in God himself."

Madeleine L'Engle

BLESSINGS Matt. 5:3-12, Luke 6:20-23

We don't use the word blessed quite the same as the Bible does. It was a common phrase in Jesus' day to be congratulated for gaining God's favor. We may not say it in quite the same way, but we do have ideas in our culture about who is favored. We could write....

Blessed are the well educated, for _____

Blessed are the young, for _____

Blessed are the beautiful, for _____

Blessed are the _____, for they will _____

But what Jesus had to say about who are the favored ones is counter cultural. Instead of those proud of their achievements, it is the humble to whom the kingdom of heaven will belong. Those who allow their heart to be broken do not have the appearance of being blessed, but Jesus says that it is they who will be comforted. Demonstrations of self-control and submission, or meekness are not really seen as the way to get ahead, yet Jesus says they will inherit the earth. Obedience, or a thirst for righteousness, is ridiculed in the world's eyes, but Jesus says it will satisfy. Compassion is a little more in vogue, but perhaps not to the extreme that Jesus says will bring ourselves mercy. Holiness, or a purity of heart, is a rare commodity, but those are the ones who will get to see God. SEE GOD? Wow. Peacemaking is a good idea for the United Nations or the leaders of nations, but what about reconciliation with that oh so difficult family member? They are the ones that will be called God's children. And persecution? Who wants that? Do we have that kind of commitment and loyalty to our God? Do we want the kingdom of heaven that bad? As if the first mention isn't enough, do we have the patience to **keep** being insulted and persecuted?

"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matt. 5:48

WHAT!?

The Greek word for "perfect" is teleios which means mature or complete, or even being initiated. We have started toward perfection! (Patterson 41)

"BUT I TELL YOU" Matt. 5

How much do you like someone messing with the way you have always done things?

Jesus doesn't change the Law, that isn't what He came for, but He does turn them inside out and that was not very comfortable. He took things that God had instructed and the people had always known, the rules that they had always lived by, and explained the heart of them. What had dealt only with outward behavior now went much deeper, to the very inner motives of the matter. It was a seismic shift, and it must have felt like their world just turned upside down.

In Matthew 5, He gives His listeners some examples of this "new" look:

v. 21,22

You've heard it said _____

But I tell you _____

v. 27,28

You've heard it said _____

But I tell you _____

v. 31,32

You've heard it said _____

But I tell you _____

v. 33,34

You've heard it said _____

But I tell you _____

v. 38,39

You've heard it said _____

But I tell you _____

v. 43,44

You've heard it said _____

But I tell you _____

These make me wonder what "commands" we hold to without understanding the real intent of God's words to us. Can you think of any examples? _____



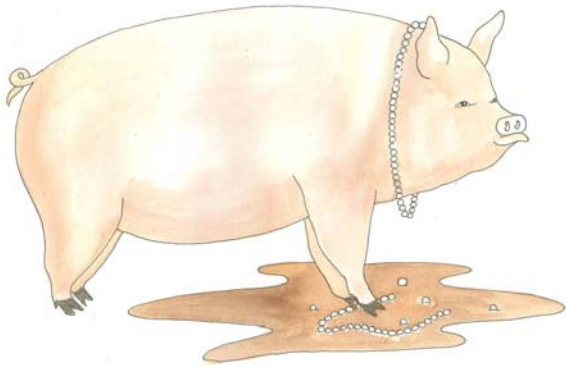
PARABLE OF THE SOILS

How can we make sure we have good, soft, and receptive and weed free soil? _____

PUZZLE CLUES (taken from the NIV translation)

Across

1. what Jesus came to fulfill Matt. 5:17
5. Jesus is greater than this Matt. 12:6
6. what a wise man builds his house on Matt. 7:24
9. what the Son has been given authority to do Jn. 5:27
10. worries about other people's specks Matt. 7:5
13. pool near the sheep gate Jn. 5:2
17. thought Jesus was out of His mind Mk. 3:21
19. what God gives Matt. 11:28
20. wrote about Jesus Jn. 5:46
21. where Jesus sat Matt. 5:1
23. run after what they will eat, drink, and wear Matt. 6:31,32
25. who we are to love Matt. 5:44
27. wife of Cuza Lk. 8:3
28. don't store up treasures here Matt. 6:19
31. things revealed to them Matt. 11:25
34. what Jesus called God Jn. 5:18
36. what the Pharisees wanted to do with Jesus Matt. 12:14
37. what our giving should be Matt. 6:4



Down

1. let yours shine Matt. 5:16
2. if you do this you will be forgiven Lk. 6:37
3. what the Lord desires more than sacrifice Matt. 12:7
4. we will have to give an account for every careless one Matt. 12:36
7. sought the healing of his servant Lk. 7:2,3
8. in an alabaster jar Lk. 7:37
10. this kingdom has been forcefully advancing Matt. 11:12
11. John's brother Mk. 3:17
12. whoever does this against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven Mk. 3:29
14. number designated as apostles Mk. 3:14
15. Peter's original name Mk. 3:16
16. a good tree doesn't bear bad _____ Lk. 6:43
18. don't throw your pearls to them Matt. 7:6
22. day of healing Jn. 5:9
24. take this out of your own eye first Lk. 6:42
26. Jesus spent one praying Lk. 6:12
27. brother of Jesus Matt. 13:55
29. hand that was shriveled Lk. 6:6
30. what the woman wiped Jesus feet with Lk. 7:38
32. better to lose a body part than go here Matt. 5:29
33. Simon's brother Lk. 6:14
35. what Jesus felt about the centurion's faith

For comments or questions, contact me at victoryrd@hotmail.com, or for more studies visit my website at www.downvictoryrd.co

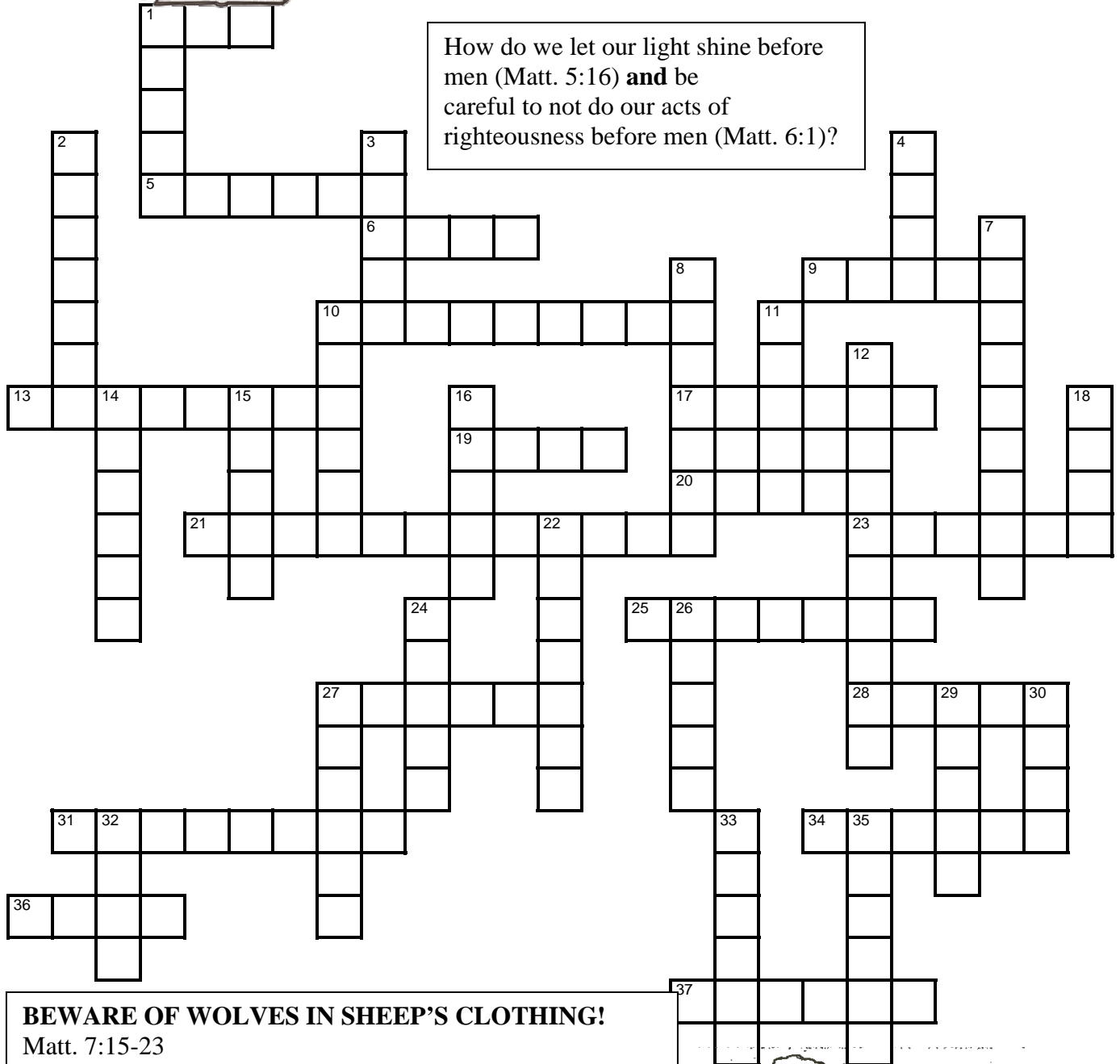




PUZZLE PAGE

WEEK 41

How do we let our light shine before men (Matt. 5:16) **and** be careful to not do our acts of righteousness before men (Matt. 6:1)?



BEWARE OF WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING!

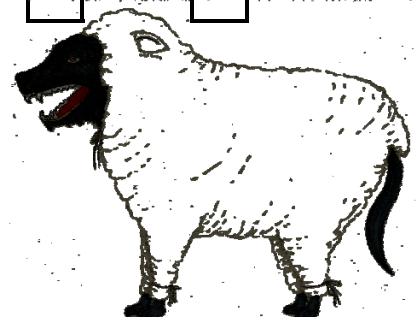
Matt. 7:15-23

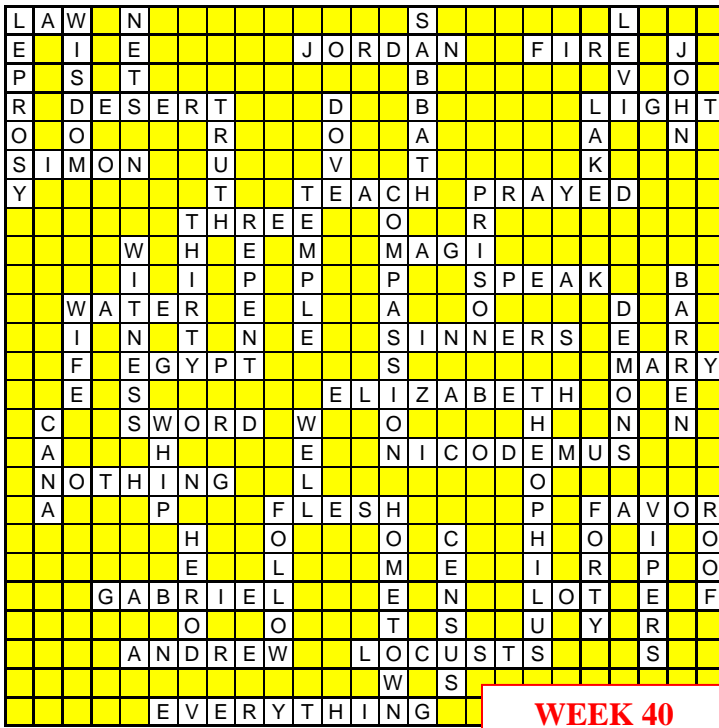
How are we told to recognize a false prophet? _____

What is their danger? _____

Will everything done in the Lord's name be honored by God? _____

How can we know that we are doing His will? _____





**WEEK 40
PUZZLE
ANSWERS**

UNREPENTANT CITIES

Matt. 11:20-24, 41,42

What was Jesus' view of the cities that had not repented? _____

How did they compare with Sodom? _____

What about us? We have the testimony of all creation. We have a record of miracles done. We can read God's promises. We can worship and learn freely. How accountable will we be held for what we have seen?

Why do the wise and learned have a hard time seeing these things? _____

A HOUSE SWEEP CLEAN

Matt. 12:43-45

Ever notice that when you have one room all picked up, that seems to be exactly where everyone wants to go to make their messes? Apparently it works the same way with evil spirits. They seek a hospitable environment free from good. So what is the best way to combat evil? Immerse yourself in so much good stuff that there is just no room for anything else.

NAME THE APOSTLES

Name some of the women who supported Jesus and His followers: _____

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How will the dead hear the voice of Jesus? (John 5:25)

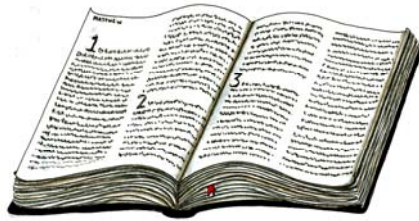
How can our righteousness surpass that of the Pharisees? (Matt. 5:20)

Does Matt. 5:32 mean that divorced women should not remarry?

Why did Jesus pray that the Father would not lead them into temptation (Matt. 6:13) when the Spirit had just done that to Him?

What if your father did give you a stone or a snake? (Matt. 7:9-11)

What does it mean to blaspheme against the Holy Spirit? (Mk.3:29)



What does study of Scripture without believing in Christ gain? (John 5:37-39) _____

Who was guilty of doing that? _____

How does his word dwell in us? _____

How can Jesus tell who has the love of God in their hearts? _____