

DAILY READING PLAN

Week of November 20, 2022

No Matter What: Focus

Philippians 4:2-7



Day #1 – Read 1 Peter 4:8 | Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

Think of a time when conflict damaged a relationship. How might love have minimized the damage?

Day #2 –Read Matthew 7:3-6 | And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye. Don’t waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don’t throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.

Why is it so much easier to spot the faults of others than to deal with our own? How might greater self-awareness empower you to value loving others over needing to be right?

Day #3 – Philippians 4:8-9 | And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Think back to your last argument or conflict. What were you focused on? How might a change of focus have impacted the situation? What will you focus on today?

Day #4 –Read 2 Timothy 2:23-24 | *Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.*

Consider the issue that caused your last conflict. Why did it seem so important in the moment? How important does it seem now? When is an argument “foolish” and when isn't it?

Day #5 –Reflect on the following quote | *“In any argument, anger never solves a problem nor wins a debate! If you are right, then there is no need to get angry. If you are wrong then you don't have the right to get angry.”*

How well are you living out this wisdom? What keeps you from living into it more fully?