

DAILY READING PLAN

Week of February 26, 2023

Reframe: What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world yet forfeit their soul?

Luke 8:34-37



Day One: Read Mark 8:31-38 | *He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”*

Imagine that you are in your final week of life. As you look back on your life, what do you imagine will have given it richness and meaning? How might that vision help make more sense of Jesus’ words?

Day Two: Read Luke 12:13-21 | *Then someone called from the crowd, “Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father’s estate with me.” Jesus replied, “Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?” Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.” Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!”’ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’ “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”*

Where are you in this story? What is your “grain”? What are your “barns”? What changes might this story call you to make in your life?

Day Three: Read Psalm 90:12 | *Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.*

What wisdom might you gain if you regularly embraced the reality of life's brevity? How might that wisdom call you to live?

Day Four: Read John 10:10 | *The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*

What do you think Jesus means when he says that his purpose is to give us a "rich and satisfying life"? What would make your life richer and more satisfying today? Pray about it!

Day Five: Read Revelation 21:1-5 | *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."*

All week long we've been considering Jesus' promise of a rich and satisfying life here and now. Today's passage looks ahead to a vision of the life to come. What do you imagine or hope that life will be like?