

SERMON JOURNAL

April 17 - September 24, 2017

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Dear Friend,

If we are "Helping Others Follow Jesus," then how does that happen? The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, gave us a great tip when he said: "I am a man of one book." Scripture was the governing authority for his life. A key part of the "method" of Methodism is developing the habit of reading, understanding and applying the Bible. If we don't read it, it has no value. If we don't understand what we read, it is irrelevant. James 1:22 tells us to apply it: "Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

This daily reading plan is to support a core habit and positive addiction for us. This journal is tied to our weekly sermon. The reading on Monday is the preaching text for the following Sunday. The daily texts support the main sermon theme.

If we are "Helping Others Follow Jesus," it makes sense to do this with others. There are groups which meet weekly to go through these verses. We benefit GREATLY from the insights of others!

Since the church is often seen as being against things and people, we wanted to proclaim what and who we are "FOR." After Easter, we will discuss how we are "FOR" the least of these, the family, the church, the city, the world and the kingdom of God.

Then we begin a four-month study on three words: WORSHIP – GROW – INFLUENCE.

Our "WORSHIP" series is called "Encountering God through _____." While we worship together as believers, our experiences with God aren't confined to an hour or two on Sunday mornings. We encounter God in all kinds of ways and places.

There are many different words to describe "GROW" (learn, develop, mature, flourish, expand, enlarge, increase, multiply, and strengthen). The New Testament refers to this aspect of the Christian faith as "sanctification." We grow spiritually when we align ourselves with God's will, and we truly pay attention to it.

We will study the first six chapters of the book of Daniel as we look at the topic of "INFLUENCE." Taken as a captive to a foreign land, Daniel did not compromise his faith. In the beginning, this young man withstood the indoctrination academy of the Babylonian king, and he stayed faithful and true to the end. In fact, he witnessed the overthrow of the Babylonians by the Medes and Persians. It is a fascinating book.

We pray the Holy Spirit will use these daily readings to help you follow Jesus so that you can help others follow Him, too.

In Christ,

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Tom

Scripture Reading

FOR GOOD	: For the Least of These	FOR GOOD: For the World			
	Matthew 25:31-40		Revelation 22:1-5		
4 /18	Isaiah 58	5/16	Genesis 12:1-3		
4/19	Jeremiah 22:1-5	5/17	Isaiah 42:1-7		
4/20	Luke 10:25-37	□ 5/18	Micah 4:1-5		
4/21	Luke 11:37-42	□ 5/19	John 15:18-25		
4/22	Luke 12:13-21	5/20	Acts 10:34-48		
4/23	Matthew 25:31-40	□ 5/21	Revelation 22:1-5		
FOR GOOD	: For the Family	FOR GOOD	: For the Kingdom of God		
4/24	Deuteronomy 6:1-9	5/22	Luke 12:22-34		
4/25	Job 1:1-5		Exodus 19:1-6		
4 /26	Psalm 78:1-8	□ 5/24	Psalm 103		
4 /27	Matthew 18:1-4	□ 5/25	Isaiah 9:1-7		
4 /28	Acts 10:1-2	□ 5/26	Matthew 13:31-35		
4 /29	•		Colossians 1:3-14		
4/30	Deuteronomy 6:1-9	□ 5/28	Luke 12:22-34		
FOR GOOD	: For the Church	ENCOUNT	ERING GOD: Through the Spirit		
<i>FOR GOOD</i> □ 5/1		ENCOUNT I □ 5/29	•		
	Ephesians 1:15-23		John 4:19-24		
□ 5/1 □ 5/2 □ 5/3	Ephesians 1:15-23 Galatians 1 1 Corinthians 1:1-9	5/29	John 4:19-24 Psalm 51:10-19		
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Scripture Reading

ENCOUNTE	RING GOD: Through Wisdom	MIRACLE GROW: Through God's Word			
4 6/12	Matthew 2:1-8	7/10	Psalm 119:9-16		
4 6/13	Proverbs 1:1-7	7/11	Joshua 1:6-9		
G 6/14	Proverbs 3:1-10	7/12	Psalm 119:97-120		
4 6/15	Proverbs 10	7/13	Proverbs 4		
4 6/16	Romans 1:14-23	7/14	John 15:1-4		
4 6/17	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	7/15	2 Timothy 3:10-17		
4 6/18	Matthew 2:1-8	7 /16	Psalm 119:9-16		
ENCOUNTE	RING GOD: Through	MIRACLE G	ROW: Through Pain		
Temptation	1	7/17	Psalm 119:25-32		
4 6/19	Matthew 4:1-11	7 /18	Psalm 22		
4 6/20	Genesis 39	7 /19	Psalm 44		
4 6/21	Matthew 6:9-15	7/20	Matthew 16:13-23		
4 6/22	Luke 22:39-46	7/21	Romans 7:21-25		
4 6/23	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	7/22	Romans 8:31-39		
G 6/24	1 Timothy 6:6-10	7/23	Psalm 119:25-32		
□ 6/25	Matthew 4:1-11	MIRACLE G	ROW: Through Discipline		
ENCOUNTE	RING GOD: Through Humility	□ 7/24	Hebrews 12:4-13		
G 6/26	2 Chronicles 7:11-22	7/25	Deuteronomy 8		
4 6/27	Deuteronomy 30	7 /26	Proverbs 5:7-14		
4 6/28	2 Chronicles 6:36-40	7/27	John 15:5-7		
4 6/29	2 Chronicles 33:10-20	7 /28	1 Corinthians 11:27-34		
G 6/30	Proverbs 28:12-16	7/29	Revelation 3:14-22		
7 /1	James 4:7-10	7/30	Hebrews 12:4-13		
7/2	2 Chronicles 7:11-22	MIRACLE G	ROW: Through Practice		
MIRACLE G	ROW: Through Participation	7/31	Matthew 7:24-27		
7 /3	Philippians 2:12-18	□ 8/1	Ezekiel 33:30-33		
7 /4	1 Corinthians 9:24-27	□ 8/2	Matthew 23:1-12		
7/5	1 Corinthians 10:14-22	□ 8/3	Romans 1:28-32		
7 /6	Philemon 4-7	□ 8/4	1 Timothy 5		
7/7	1 Peter 4:12-19	□ 8/5	James 3:13-16		
7 /8	2 Peter 1:1-4	□ 8/6	Matthew 7:24-27		
7/9	Philippians 2:12-18				

Scripture Reading

□ 8/7	MIRACLE (FROW: Through Action	DIFFERENCE MAKERS: Through Conflict			
□ 8/9 Galatians 6:1-4 □ 9/6 Daniel 4:28-37 □ 8/10 Colossians 3:15-17 □ 9/7 Matthew 10:32-39 □ 8/11 1 John 2:3-6 □ 9/8 Galatians 2:1-14 □ 8/12 3 John 11 □ 9/9 Galatians 3:1-5 □ 8/13 James 1:22-25 □ 9/10 Daniel 4:19-27 DIFFERENCE MAKERS: Through Resolve □ 8/14 Daniel 1:8-21 Reputation □ 8/15 Daniel 1:1-7 □ 9/11 Daniel 5:7-12 □ 8/16 Psalm 17:1-3 □ 9/12 Daniel 5:1-6 □ 8/17 1 Kings 18 □ 9/13 Daniel 5:1-3-30 □ 8/18 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 □ 9/14 Genesis 41 □ 8/19 2 Timothy 4:1-8 □ 9/15 Acts 6:1-6 □ 8/20 Daniel 1:8-21 □ 9/16 1 Corinthians 15:33-34 □ DIFFERENCE MAKERS: Through Interpretation DIFFERENCE MAKERS: Through □ 8/21 Daniel 2:14-24 □ 9/18 Daniel 6:10-16 □ 8/23 Daniel 2:14-24 □ 9/20 Daniel 6:17-28 □ 8/25 1 Corinthians 14:26-28 □ 9/21 Matthew 24:45-51 <td>□ 8/7</td> <td>James 1:22-25</td> <td>9/4</td> <td>Daniel 4:19-27</td>	□ 8/7	James 1:22-25	9 /4	Daniel 4:19-27		
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Monday, April 17, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Matthew 25:31-40

For Good

Knowing what we are for, more than what we are against.

Jesus gave His followers two "greats"— the Great COMMANDMENT "Love the Lord with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself," and the Great COMMISSION, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" Sometimes our fulfillment of the former (loving our neighbor) gives us the opportunity to fulfill the latter (sharing the gospel). One of the great opportunities to show neighborly love today has to do with the care of refugees. Millions of Syrian refugees are living in tent settlements in places like Lebanon and Jordan, while a small minority have come to the U.S. or Europe (mostly women and children). This week we will study the biblical mandate to care for the widow, the orphan and the foreigner and demonstrate that followers of Jesus are for the least of these.

FOR THE LEAST OF THESE

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Isaiah 58

OBSERVE: What does this passage say?

EK: What do ACTICE: Ho	w does thi	s apply to	o my life?		

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Jeremiah 22:1-5

EK: What does this passage mean? RACTICE: How does this apply to my life?						

FOR THE LEAST OF THESE

Thursday, April 20, 2017 *Daily Bible Reading:* Luke 10:25-37

OBSERVE: What does this passage say?

EK: What do ACTICE: Ho	w does thi	s apply to	o my life?		

Friday, April 21, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Luke 11:37-42

EEK: What does this passage mean? RACTICE: How does this apply to my life?						

FOR THE LEAST OF THESE

Saturday, April 22, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Luke 12:13-21

OBSERVE: What does this passage say?

EK: What do ACTICE: Ho	w does thi	s apply to	o my life?		

Sunday, April 23, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: Matthew 25:31-40

Sermon Notes:		

FOR THE FAMILY

Monday, April 24, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

The creation of the institution of the family is recorded on the

first few pages of our Bibles. God created man and woman, commanding them to "be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth." God chose Abram's family as the one through whom He would bless all the families of the earth. And it was into a family that the Lord Jesus, the offspring of Abraham, was born to make those "blessings flow far as the curse is found." God has chosen the institution of the family as a means by which He rules and blesses and redeems the earth. This week we'll study God's discipleship purposes for the home and demonstrate that the people of God are passionately for the family.

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Job 1:1-5

RACTICE: Ha	w does thi	ssage me is apply to	o my life?		

FOR THE FAMILY

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Psalm 78:1-8

OBSERVE: What does this passage say?

EK: What do ACTICE: Ho	w does thi	s apply to	o my life?		

Thursday, April 27, 2017 *Daily Bible Reading*: Matthew 18:1-4

RACTICE: Ha	w does thi	ssage me is apply to	o my life?		

FOR THE FAMILY

Friday, April 28, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Acts 10:1-2

BSERVE: What	does this	passage	mean?		
RACTICE:	How does	this app	ly to my	lite?	

Saturday, April 29, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Ephesians 6:1-4

EK: What ACTICE: F	How does t	this appl	y to my l	ife?	

FOR THE FAMILY

Sunday, April 30, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Sermon Notes:	

Monday, May 1, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Church buildings and denominations exist, but the church is not about bricks and mortar – the church is about people. Jesus' "bride" isn't a building; it's us. The song, "I am the church – you are the church – we are the church together" has it right. With all our limitations and flaws, the church is doing many amazing things around the world. Paul wrote some letters to churches and people in his day. They had issues, too, because people always have problems. This week's readings reflect on some of the joys and concerns the Apostle Paul shared with the churches he pastored. He's furious with the Galatians (short time to say hello and a long time to say goodbye) and exuberant with the Philippians.

FOR THE CHURCH

Tuesday, May 2, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Galatians 1

BSERVE: W EEK: What	does this no	assaae m	ge suy: nean?		
RACTICE: /	How does th	his apply	to mv life	?	
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Wednesday, May 3, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

EK: What doe ACTICE: Hov	v does thi	s apply t	o my life?	•	

FOR THE CHURCH

Thursday, May 4, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Philippians 1:1-11

BSERVE: What	does this	passage	mean?		
RACTICE:	How does	this app	ly to my	lite?	

Friday, May 5, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1

EK: What	How does	this ap	e mean: ply to m	y life?		

FOR THE CHURCH

Saturday, May 6, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Titus 1

SSERVE: W EK: What a	loes this pa	issage m	ean?	_	
ACTICE: <i>H</i>	ow does th	is apply	to my life	??	

Sunday, May 7, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Sermon Notes:		

FOR THE CITY

Monday, May 8, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Matthew 5:14-16

JESUS is the light of the world (John 1:4-9; 8:12). Yet, Jesus tells His followers YOU are the light of the world. Which is it – Jesus or His church? The moon doesn't generate its own light, but merely reflects the light of the sun. Likewise, Christians only reflect the life of God's Son. We express that light and life through the places we live, learn, work, play and worship. The Gospel went to where the people were in the early church. 42 times "city" shows up in Acts. The city is a place where a vast multitude of people have an opportunity to do things God's way or their own way. Revelation speaks a lot about this struggle between two cities: the secular, "fallen Babylon" and the spiritual.	
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Tuesday, May 9, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Jonah 3

RACTICE:	t does this How doe	s passag s this ap	ply to n	: ny life?		

FOR THE CITY

Wednesday, May 10, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Jonah 4

OBSERVE: What does this passage say? SEEK: What does this passage mean? PRACTICE: How does this apply to my life?							
		cins dippi	.,,				
			-	-	-	-	

Thursday, May 11, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Acts 8:4-13

RACTICE:	t does this How doe	s passag s this ap	ply to n	: ny life?		

FOR THE CITY

Friday, May 12, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Hebrews 11:8-16

BSERVE: Wi E EK: What d	oes this p	assage n	nean?		
RACTICE: H	ow does ti	his apply	to my lif	e?	

Saturday, May 13, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Revelation 21

ACTICE: NOW	does this $a_{ m l}$	pply to my	/ life?	

FOR THE CITY

Sunday, May 14, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: Matthew 5:14-16

Sermon Notes:		

FOR GOOD

Monday, May 15, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Revelation 22:1-5

Note the end of verse 2, "And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." On the one hand, salvation is a personal thing; Jesus saves individuals. On the other hand, Jesus saves His church (the "Bride of Christ" in 22:17). Revelation 22 speaks of a national interest: the healing of the nations. John 3:16 isn't in this week's daily readings, but the concept of God loving all the world's people certainly is. Gentiles eventually get that blessing, too (Acts 10). "Nations" is found 560 times in the Bible and "nation" is found 155 times. Abraham was given the "original Great Commission" (Genesis 12). God wanted bless all the nations through him. Yet, Jesus warned us that not everyone would be a fan of His (John 15).

FOR THE WORLD

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 12:1-3

OBSERVE: What does this passage say?

EK: What do ACTICE: Ho	w does thi	s apply to	o my life?		

FOR GOOD

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Isaiah 42:1-7

ACTICE: How a	does this	age mea apply to	my life?	

FOR THE WORLD

Thursday, May 18, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Micah 4:1-5

BSERVE: EEK: Wha	t does this	s uns pu	o mean?	<i>y:</i>		
RACTICE:	Luces triis	s pussug oc thic an	e meam: nly to m	v lifo?		
NACTICE.	now doe.	s triis ap	piy to m	y ille:		

FOR GOOD

Friday, May 19, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: John 15:18-25

RACTICE: Ho	w does thi	ssage me is apply to	o my life?		

FOR THE WORLD

Saturday, May 20, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Acts 10:34-48

BSERVE: What	does this	passage	mean?		
RACTICE:	How does	this app	ly to my	lite?	

FOR GOOD

Sunday, May 21, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: Revelation 22:1-5

Sermon Notes:		

FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Monday, May 22, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Luke 12:22-34

What's a kingdom? At its most basic, a kingdom is a place, with people, governed by some form of law and under the rule of a king or leader. When Jesus came proclaiming "the kingdom of God is near," He was instituting an alternate kind of kingdom. His kingdom was located wherever He went, its citizens comprised of all who called Him "Lord," guided by His own teaching and His fulfillment of the Mosaic Law, with Him serving as its unique and eternal king. The kingdom of God, Jesus taught, was something to be sought after whole-heartedly among His followers. Even more than building the church (that's His job), we are to work to make known the reign and rule of God in all the earth. In this concluding week of the series, we affirm with full allegiance that we are for the
kingdom of God.

FOR GOOD

Tuesday, May 23, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Exodus 19:1-6

FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Wednesday, May 24, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Psalm 103

OBSERVE: What does this passage say? SEEK: What does this passage mean? PRACTICE: How does this apply to my life?	
PRACTICE: How does this apply to my life!	

FOR GOOD

Thursday, May 25, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

RACTICE: Ho	w does thi	ssage me is apply to	o my life?		

FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Friday, May 26, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Matthew 13:31-35

OBSERVE: What does this passage say? SEEK: What does this passage mean? PRACTICE: How does this apply to my life?	
The Tree Tree does als apply to my me.	

FOR GOOD

Saturday, May 27, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Colossians 1:3-14

OBSERVE: What does this passage say? **SEEK:** What does this passage mean? **PRACTICE:** How does this apply to my life?

FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Sunday, May 28, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Luke 12:22-34

Sermon Notes:	

Monday, May 29, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: John 4:19-24

Encountering God

What it means to worship God outside the pews.

The Holy Spirit is shown as active in the very beginning of Genesis. He is the third Person in the Trinity – the Father, Son and Spirit. The Holy Spirit's work is evident in David's life (Psalm 51). In John's Gospel, Jesus breathes on the disciples as a way for them to receive the Holy Spirit. After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the disciples wondered if this was the moment Israel would be politically restored. Jesus told them He had something else in store for them (another surprise). The fulfillment of the Old Testament Book of Joel (2:28-32) is seen in Acts 2, the "Day of Pentecost," the birthday of the church. The church celebrates Pentecost on Sunday, June 4.

THROUGH THE SPIRIT

Tuesday, May 30, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Psalm 51:10-19

OBSERVE: What does this passage say? SEEK: What does this passage mean? PRACTICE: How does this apply to my life?	DBSERVE: What does this passage say? SEEK: What does this passage mean? PRACTICE: How does this apply to my life?					
The received does and apply to my me.						

Wednesday, May 31, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: John 20:21-23

EEK: What does this passage mean? RACTICE: How does this apply to my life?						

THROUGH THE SPIRIT

Thursday, June 1, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Acts 1:1-8

SSERVE: W EK: What a	loes this pa	issage m	ean?	_	
ACTICE: <i>H</i>	ow does th	is apply	to my life	??	

Friday, June 2, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: Acts 2:1-28

EEK: What does	this passag	ne mean?	1:6.2	
RACTICE: How a	loes this ap	pply to my	lite!	

THROUGH THE SPIRIT

Saturday, June 3, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Acts 2:29-47

BSERVE: What	does this	passage	mean?		
RACTICE:	How does	this app	ly to my	lite?	

Sunday, June 4, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: John 4:19-24

Sermon Notes:	

THROUGH AFFLICTION

Monday, June 5, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Job 1:20-22

"Why do bad things happen to good people?" is a frequently asked

question. We could also ask, "Why do good things happen to bad people?" Sometimes we get what we deserve, but Job had done nothing wrong and still got smashed by life. Life isn't always fair. Live long enough, and life goes wrong for every human being (if for no other reason, we all die and so do those we love). There is a lot of pain in the Bible. But there are also some amazing stories of people meeting and trusting God in the midst of the storms of life Sometimes we have to reach our lowest point before we realize we must trust One greater than ourselves. Ironically, it's often at our weakest moments that we encounter God.

Tuesday, June 6, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 32

EK: What	How does	this ap	e mean: ply to m	y life?		

THROUGH AFFLICTION

Wednesday, June 7, 2017 *Daily Bible Reading:* Psalm 34

OBSERVE: What does this passage say?

EK: What does this passage mean? RACTICE: How does this apply to my life?						
						

Thursday, June 8, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Habakkuk 3:16-19

EK: What doe RACTICE: Hov	v does thi	is apply	to my life	??	

THROUGH AFFLICTION

Friday, June 9, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

	тэ аррту с	o my life?		

Saturday, June 10, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: James 5:7-11

OBSERVE: SEEK: Wha	t does this	passage	mean?			
PRACTICE:	How does	s this app	oly to my	life?		

THROUGH AFFLICTION

Sunday, June 11, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Job 1:20-22

Sermon Notes:	

Monday, June 12, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Matthew 2:1-8

Herod had everyone looking his way. He was living in the kingdom of Herod – or the kingdom of self – and wanted to exclude the true God. He was not wise but a fool. The Messiah was being born and everyone in Herod's court was preoccupied with Herod and not with the Messiah. The same thing happened with Pilate when he asked Jesus, "What is truth?" – when truth was standing right in front of him. Saul, who was ravaging the church, was headed to				
Damascus to persecute Christians when he met the resurrected				
Christ. The Magi got it right a lot more than did the "mighty and powerful" Herod, Pilate and Saul. Wise people still seek Him.				

THROUGH WISDOM

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Proverbs 1:1-7

BSERVE: What	does this	passage	mean?		
RACTICE:	How does	this app	ly to my	lite?	

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Proverbs 3:1-10

EK: What doe RACTICE: Hov	v does thi	is apply	to my life	??	

THROUGH WISDOM

Thursday, June 15, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Proverbs 10

BSERVE: What	does this	passage	mean?		
RACTICE:	How does	this app	ly to my	lite?	

Friday, June 16, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: Romans 1:14-23

ACTICE: How a	does this	age mea apply to	my life?	

THROUGH WISDOM

Saturday, June 17, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

EK: What do	w does this	s apply to	my life?		

Sunday, June 18, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Matthew 2:1-8

Sermon Notes:	

THROUGH TEMPTATION

Monday, June 19, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

Temptation is part of life. However, Ben Franklin said it well, "I can't stop the birds of the air from flying over my head but I can stop them from building a nest in my hair." We don't have to give in when we are tempted. Joseph refused to partake of Mrs. Potiphar's seduction (Genesis 39). Jesus prayed in "The Lord's Prayer" for us not to give into temptation. He showed it's possible to resist the power of evil when He was tempted. He always quoted scripture to confront the attack of the devil. Paul said that with every temptation, God always provides a way of escape. Money and sex are two major stumbling blocks for us. When tempted, we must learn to run toward God, not away from Him.

earn to run toward God, not away from Him.

ENCOUNTERING GOD

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 39

RACTICE: Ha	w does thi	ssage me is apply to	o my life?		

THROUGH TEMPTATION

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Matthew 6:9-15

OBSERVE: What does this passage say?

EK: What does this passage mean? ACTICE: How does this apply to my life?						

ENCOUNTERING GOD

Thursday, June 22, 2017 *Daily Bible Reading:* Luke 22:39-46

EK: What does this passage mean? ACTICE: How does this apply to my life?							

THROUGH TEMPTATION

Friday, June 23, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

EK: What a ACTICE: H	low does tl	his apply	to my life	?	

ENCOUNTERING GOD

Saturday, June 24, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-10

K: What does this passage mean? ACTICE: How does this apply to my life?						

THROUGH TEMPTATION

Sunday, June 25, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon Notes:	

ENCOUNTERING GOD

Monday, June 26, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: 2 Chronicles 7:11-22

As we prepare for America's annual Independence Day celebration we are aware of the providential way in which our nation has been created and only have to leave and go elsewhere to realize how many benefits and blessings we have been given. Even the poores among us would be considered wealthy by many in the world. Having clean water, food, shelter and clothing are unbelievable benefits to millions and millions. Yet, we can easily become proud and self-righteous. We can forget God. We can forget to pray. We can serve the almighty dollar instead of the Almighty God. Humility is the essential virtue; pride is the essential vice. Our readings remind us to be humble and to pray.

THROUGH HUMILITY

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 30

OBSERVE: What does this passage say?

EK: What do ACTICE: Ho	w does thi	s apply to	o my life?		

ENCOUNTERING GOD

Wednesday, June 28, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 2 Chronicles 6:36-40

THROUGH HUMILITY

Thursday, June 29, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 2 Chronicles 33:10-20

EEK: What	BSERVE: What does this passage say? EEK: What does this passage mean? RACTICE: How does this apply to my life?						
RACTICE:	How does	this app	ly to my	lite?			

ENCOUNTERING GOD

Friday, June 30, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: Proverbs 28:12-16

EEK: What does	this passag	ne mean?	1:6.2	
RACTICE: How a	loes this ap	pply to my	lite!	

THROUGH HUMILITY

Saturday, July 1, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: James 4:7-10

ACTICE: How	does this	apply to	o my life?	,	

ENCOUNTERING GOD

Sunday, July 2, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: 2 Chronicles 7:11-22

Sermon Notes:		

THROUGH PARTICIPATION

Monday, July 3, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Philippians 2:12-18

Miracle Grow

When we align with God's will, we can bloom where we're planted.

Communion is our active participation in Jesus. As we are "in Him"

through faith, and as He is "in us" through the Holy Spirit, so we are bound together as the Body of Christ and united to believers all over the world. But this bond is conditional – we must believe (trust) in Christ. Then we "work out" our salvation. We must get this right—we don't work FOR our free gift of salvation—but we live it out. God's plan is that Christians cooperate and participate with one another for the purpose of reaching the world for Christ. One of the greatest joys of the Christian life is growing through participation in the ministry of Jesus. We grow in faith by participation or we grow in boredom when we don't make the effort.	
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Tuesday, July 4, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

EK: What	How does	this ap	e mean: ply to m	y life?		

THROUGH PARTICIPATION

Wednesday, July 5, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

OBSERVE: What does this passage say? **SEEK:** What does this passage mean? **PRACTICE:** How does this apply to my life?

Thursday, July 6, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Philemon 4-7

RACTICE: Ha	w does thi	ssage me is apply to	o my life?		

THROUGH PARTICIPATION

Friday, July 7, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-19

BSERVE: What	does this	passage	mean?		
RACTICE:	How does	this app	ly to my	lite?	

Saturday, July 8, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:1-4

EK: What	How does	this ap	e mean: ply to m	y life?		

THROUGH PARTICIPATION

Sunday, July 9, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Philippians 2:12-18

Sermon Notes:	

Monday, July 10, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Psalm 119:9-16

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was emphatic: "I am a man of one book." This 18th century Englishman was extremely well-read, but the Bible was the authority for his life. Something or someone will be the authority for us, too. The "kingdom of self" is our default. The "kingdom of God" dethrones our natural selfcenteredness to create a completely different worldview than our own limited biases. Just as children must be instructed that "mine!" isn't going to cut it in life, so followers of Jesus must learn a new path. THE authority of our lives must shift from ME to God. We don't worship the Bible, but this is the book which shows us WHY we worship, WHO we worship and HOW to live.

THROUGH GOD'S WORD

Tuesday, July 11, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Joshua 1:6-9

K: What does this passage mean? ACTICE: How does this apply to my life?						

Wednesday, July 12, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Psalm 119:97-120

EK: What	How does	this ap	e mean: ply to m	y life?		

THROUGH GOD'S WORD

Thursday, July 13, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Proverbs 4

BSERVE: What does this passage say? EEK: What does this passage mean?							
RACTICE: /	How does	this app	oly to my	life?			

Friday, July 14, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: John 15:1-4

RACTICE: Ha	w does thi	ssage me is apply to	o my life?		

THROUGH GOD'S WORD

Saturday, July 15, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10-17

ACTICE: How	does this	apply to	my lite?		

Sunday, July 16, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Psalm 119:9-16

Sermon Notes:	

THROUGH PAIN

Monday, July 17, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Psalm 119:25-32

Pain is part of life. Christians aren't immune to it. Jesus quoted Psalm 22:1 from the cross. Psalm 44 is another depressing text. When Jesus asks Peter THE question, the response morphs from, way to go, to, I'm going to die, to, "Get behind me Satan." What should have been a triumphant moment in the oft-stumbling Peter, becomes one of his biggest embarrassments. It was a painful moment. Paul, in full self-disclosure, reveals his struggle with not being the person he wants to be in Romans 7. Yet, when it's all said and done, pain doesn't prevail. As Romans 8:31-39 anticipates, "We are more than conquerors through him who loved us." As the classic hymn goes: "O Victory in Jesus!"

Tuesday, July 18, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Psalm 22

RACTICE:	t does this How doe	s passag s this ap	ply to n	ny life?		

THROUGH PAIN

Wednesday, July 19, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Psalm 44

OBSERVE: What does this passage say? SEEK: What does this passage mean? PRACTICE: How does this apply to my life?	
PRACTICE: How does this apply to my line?	

Thursday, July 20, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Matthew 16:13-23

BEEK: Wh	E: What do nat does th	es tnis pa is passaa	issage sa e mean?	y?		
RACTIC	E: How doe	es this ap	ply to my	/ life?		

THROUGH PAIN

Friday, July 21, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Romans 7:21-25

OBSERVE: What does this passage say? SEEK: What does this passage mean? PRACTICE: How does this apply to my life?				
PRACTICE: now does this apply to my line:				

Saturday, July 22, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Romans 8:31-39

RACTICE:	t does this How doe	s passag s this ap	ply to n	ny life?		

THROUGH PAIN

Sunday, July 23, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Psalm 119:25-32

Sermon Notes:	

Monday, July 24, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Hebrews 12:4-13

Most of us resist discipline. For many, the disciplined life is not our bias. We prefer a "Lazy-Boy recliner" (not a "Worker Boy" – that chair wouldn't sell). Yet if we don't exercise discipline, we find discipline exercising us. Unfortunately, sometimes we don't seem to learn until we have suffered. Discipline is hard, but being disciplined may be even harder. Cooperating with God's way pays far better dividends than sloth, which is one of the major spiritual inhibitors to growth. Richard Foster's classic book, "Celebration of Discipline," is helpful with specific applications on this topic. Jesus used an analogy about pruning the vine to stress discipline. When we discipline one area of life, other areas seem to follow naturally, too.

THROUGH DISCIPLINE

Tuesday, July 25, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 8

OBSERVE: What does this passage say? SEEK: What does this passage mean? PRACTICE: How does this apply to my life?	
PRACTICE: How does this apply to my line?	

Wednesday, July 26, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Proverbs 5:7-14

EK: What	How does	this ap	e mean: ply to m	y life?		

THROUGH DISCIPLINE

Thursday, July 27, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: John 15:5-7

BSERVE: What does this passage say? EEK: What does this passage mean? RACTICE: How does this apply to my life?						
KACTICE:	How doe	es tnis ap	piy to my	lite!		

Friday, July 28, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:27-34

THROUGH DISCIPLINE

Saturday, July 29, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: Revelation 3:14-22

OBSERVE: What does this passage say?

EK: What do ACTICE: Ho	w does thi	s apply to	o my life?		

Sunday, July 30, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Hebrews 12:4-13

sermon Notes:		

THROUGH PRACTICE

Monday, July 31, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Matthew 7:24-27

perfect," Some practices aren't helpful and some are downright destructive. Jesus emphasized the value of practice. Sometimes beople are called "non-practicing Christians." That's a biblical paymoron. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, believed in habitual action, not just being an occasional "Christmas and Easter" Christian. The "method" of Methodism is participating through
small groups and giving an account of your soul. Three questions were asked: "Have you availed yourself of the means of grace? Have you done good deeds? Have you avoided harm?" Methodists have doctrine, but equally, we consistently practice what we profess.

Tuesday, August 1, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Ezekiel 33:30-33

RACTICE: Ho	w does thi	ssage me is apply to	o my life?		

THROUGH PRACTICE

Wednesday, August 2, 2017 *Daily Bible Reading:* Matthew 23:1-12

OBSERVE: What does this passage say? SEEK: What does this passage mean?	DBSERVE: What does this passage say? EEK: What does this passage mean? RACTICE: How does this apply to my life?					
PRACTICE: How does this apply to my life!						

Thursday, August 3, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Romans 1:28-32

OBSERVE: What does this passage say? **SEEK:** What does this passage mean? **PRACTICE:** How does this apply to my life?

THROUGH PRACTICE

Friday, August 4, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 5

BSERVE: W EEK: What	does this no	assaae m	ge suy: nean?		
RACTICE: /	How does th	his apply	to mv life	?	
			,	.•	

Saturday, August 5, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: James 3:13-16

EK: What	How does	this ap	e mean: ply to m	y life?		

THROUGH PRACTICE

Sunday, August 6, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Matthew 7:24-27

Sermon Notes:	

Monday, August 7, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: James 1:22-25

It is one thing to be a spectator but something entirely different when we actually get into the game. The Book of James insists upon action. The book in the New Testament following the four Gospels is "The Actions of the Apostles." Some doctrines and beliefs are noteworthy in "Acts," but most of the book tells the story of how God acted and the responses that followed. Actions are very important. We are what we do. James insists that believers don't just hear the Word, but we are to obey it. As Bob Goff wrote, "Love Does." We also must affirm nobody will be perfect in their actions. We all sin, even after conversion. Yet, our failures do not negate the importance of staying in the game.

THROUGH ACTION

Tuesday, August 8, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Matthew 12:48-50

BSERVE: EEK: Wha	t does this	s uns pu	o mean?	<i>y:</i>		
RACTICE:	Luces triis	s pussug oc thic an	e IIIeuii: nlu to m	v lifo?		
NACTICE.	now doe.	s triis ap	piy to m	y ille:		

Wednesday, August 9, 2017 *Daily Bible Reading:* Galatians 6:1-4

EK: What does this passage mean? RACTICE: How does this apply to my life?							

THROUGH ACTION

Thursday, August 10, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Colossians 3:15-17

EK: What a ACTICE: H	low does tl	his apply	to my life	?	

Friday, August 11, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 1 John 2:3-6

EK: What does this passage mean? RACTICE: How does this apply to my life?							

THROUGH ACTION

Saturday, August 12, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 3 John 11

BSERVE: W EEK: What	does this no	assaae m	ge suy: nean?		
RACTICE: /	How does th	his apply	to mv life	?	
			,	.•	

Sunday, August 13, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: James 1:22-25

Sermon Notes:		

THROUGH RESOLVE

Monday, August 14, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 1:8-21

Difference Makers

Having a positive influence in challenging situations.

"Resolve" is "a resolution, determination, steadfastness, grit,

tenacity, doggedness, firmness and/or persistence." Resolve makes a decision or takes a stand. As we study Daniel and his Jewish friends living in exile in Babylon, we see what a difference taking a godly stand can make. They had impeccable credentials, while many others in the Bible showed resolve but had some serious lapses: Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Hezekiah, Elijah, John the Baptist and Peter. We love the uncompromising resolve of: Joseph, Ruth, Hannah, Mordecai and Esther, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Nehemiah, Paul and Jesus. Whether we have lapses or stay true to the end, we all have influence. Let's make ours count.

Tuesday, August 15, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 1:1-7

ACTICE: How a	does this	age mea apply to	my life?	

THROUGH RESOLVE

Wednesday, August 16, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Psalm 17:1-3

OBSERVE: What does this passage say?

EK: What do ACTICE: Ho	w does thi	s apply to	o my life?		

Thursday, August 17, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 1 Kings 18

EK: What	How does	this ap	e mean: ply to m	y life?		

THROUGH RESOLVE

Friday, August 18, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

OBSERVE: What does this passage say? SEEK: What does this passage mean? PRACTICE: How does this apply to my life?							
PRACTICE: How does this apply to my life!							

Saturday, August 19, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 2 Timothy 4:1-8

OBSERVE: SEEK: Wha	t does this	passage	mean?			
PRACTICE:	How does	s this app	oly to my	life?		

THROUGH RESOLVE

Sunday, August 20, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 1:8-21

bermon Notes:		

Monday, August 21, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 2:14-24

"Interpretation" helps analyze, clarify and explain what is baffling, mysterious, unsolved, inexplicable, perplexing, secret, puzzling, confusing or strange. I marvel at those who speak multiple languages. My Israeli friend, David Assael, speaks Hebrew, Portuguese, Spanish, English and Italian. A good interpreter is essential to explain meanings. Daniel was the right guy in the palace of "the king of the world." Likewise, believers are to interpret to a babbling world God's activity through Jesus Christ. It is indeed, confusing. One of my favorite stories is Bruchko, the story of our friend Bruce Olson, who interpreted the gospel to the Motilone Indians in Columbia: the gospel made a huge difference in their lives.

THROUGH INTERPRETATION

Tuesday, August 22, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 2:1-13

	тэ аррту с	o my life?		

Wednesday, August 23, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 2:25-49

ACTICE: Ho	w aces in	із ирріу (.o my me:		

THROUGH INTERPRETATION

Thursday, August 24, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 40

ACTICE: How	does this	apply to	my lite?		

Friday, August 25, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 14:26-28

DBSERVE: What does this passage say? SEEK: What does this passage mean?	
PRACTICE: How does this apply to my life?	

THROUGH INTERPRETATION

Saturday, August 26, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:19-21

OBSERVE: What does this passage say?

EK: What do ACTICE: Ho	w does thi	is apply t	o my life?	•	

Sunday, August 27, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 2:14-24

sermon Notes:		

THROUGH CONFIDENCE

Monday, August 28, 2017 *Daily Bible Reading:* Daniel 3:16-18

"My Tribute", "Through it All", "Bless His Holy Name," and "To God Bothe Glory" are just a few of Andrae Crouch's songs. Another goes: "I've Got Confidence – God is going to see me through. No matter what the case may be, I know He's gonna fix it for me." Believers are not triumphalist (thinking everything always goes our way – it doesn't!). On the other hand, we are not fatalists. God IS in control We can trust Him. This text reminds me of Oral Robert's annual sermon describing who "the fourth man" was in every book of the Bible. The witness of Daniel 3:17-18, "but even if He does not" [save us] reminds me of Job's trust in God, even if He slays me (Job 13:15). Our confidence is in Christ: 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 = pure gold	t l.
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Tuesday, August 29, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 3:1-15

OBSERVE: What does this passage say? **SEEK:** What does this passage mean? **PRACTICE:** How does this apply to my life?

THROUGH CONFIDENCE

Wednesday, August 30, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 3:19-30

BSERVE: What does this passage say? EEK: What does this passage mean?		
RACTICE: How does this apply to my life?	?	
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Thursday, August 31, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Psalm 71

EK: What	How does	this ap	e mean: ply to m	y life?		

THROUGH CONFIDENCE

Friday, September 1, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

OBSERVE: What does this passage say?

EK: What do	es this pa w does th	assage m nis apply	ean? to my life	?	

Saturday, September 2, 2017 *Daily Bible Reading:* Ephesians 3:7-13

EK: What	How does	this ap	e mean: ply to m	y life?		

THROUGH CONFIDENCE

Sunday, September 3, 2017 *Daily Bible Reading:* Daniel 3:16-18

Sermon Notes:	

Monday, September 4, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 4:19-27

Daniel showed tremendous courage by speaking the truth to the king, who of course, had absolute control over Daniel's life. As you read the impact Daniel eventually had upon the king, it reminds us that seldom will people change unless there is conflict. Jesus caused enormous conflict. Telling people they are sinners isn't a popular thing to do. We not only have conflicts with others, but we also have internal struggles and contradictions. We have conflicts about doing what God wants us to do, too. Jesus had a conflict in Gethsemane with drinking the cup of crucifixion. A Jesus-follower is often at odds with our culture and its kingdom, with our own kingdom of self, and with the kingdom of darkness.

THROUGH CONFLICT

Tuesday, September 5, 2017 *Daily Bible Reading:* Daniel 4:1-18

BSERVE: W EEK: What	does this no	assaae m	ge suy: nean?		
RACTICE: /	How does th	his apply	to mv life	?	
			,	.•	

Wednesday, September 6, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 4:28-37

	EK: What do	es this pas w does this	sage me s apply to	an? o my life?		

THROUGH CONFLICT

Thursday, September 7, 2017 *Daily Bible Reading:* Matthew 10:32-39

OBSERVE: What does this passage say?

EK: What do ACTICE: Ho	w does thi	s apply to	o my life?		

Friday, September 8, 2017 *Daily Bible Reading:* Galatians 2:1-14

EK: What doe RACTICE: Hov	v does thi	is apply	to my life	??	

THROUGH CONFLICT

Saturday, September 9, 2017 *Daily Bible Reading:* Galatians 3:1-5

OBSERVE: What does this passage say? **SEEK:** What does this passage mean? **PRACTICE:** How does this apply to my life?

Sunday, September 10, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 4:19-27

Sermon Notes:			

THROUGH REPUTATION

Monday, September 11, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 5:7-12

Daniel and Joseph both had sterling reputations and very similar career paths. Both were placed in harm's way through no fault of their own. In fact, sometimes we suffer not because we do wrong but because we insist upon not compromising our character. There were several people in the Bible who had good reputations: Mordecai in Esther 9, the seven deacons chosen in Acts 6, Cornelius in Acts 10.

There is a certain tension between keeping a good reputation and hanging out with the wrong crowd. Jesus pulled this off.

someone needs to interpret the gospel to people who are lost, but we get lost in the translation, too. It's a balancing act. To lose our eputation is ultimately to forfeit our influence.

Tuesday, September 12, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 5:1-6

EK: What	How does	this ap	e mean: ply to m	y life?		

THROUGH REPUTATION

Wednesday, September 13, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 5:13-30

OBSERVE: What does this passage say?

EEK: What does this passage mean? RACTICE: How does this apply to my life?						

Thursday, September 14, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 41

ACTICE: How a	does this	age mea apply to	my life?	

THROUGH REPUTATION

Friday, September 15, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Acts 6:1-6

DBSERVE: What does this passage say? SEEK: What does this passage mean? PRACTICE: How does this apply to my life?						
RACTICE:	How does	this app	ly to my	lite?		

Saturday, September 16, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:33-34

EEK: What does this passage mean? RACTICE: How does this apply to my life?					

THROUGH REPUTATION

Sunday, September 17, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 5:7-12

Sermon Notes:		

Monday, September 18, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 6:10-16

God is faithful to us. Consistency, reliability, dependability, steadiness, evenness and regularity may not be the flashiest personality types, but people who display loyalty, fidelity, devotion, allegiance, trustworthiness, and faithfulness are the best friends, companions and leaders. Daniel must have been the first Methodist! Daniel 6:10 says, "just as he had done before." He was methodically a man of prayer – a model of consistency. We see this at the core of Jesus' life, too. It seemed He was always trying to withdraw to pray. Jesus' prayer life is one of the most consistent aspects of His personality in the Gospels. Consistency in prayer leads to an influential life. Failure to pray is a great risk.

THROUGH CONSISTENCY

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 6:1-9

OBSERVE: What does this passage say?

EK: What do ACTICE: Ho	w does thi	s apply to	o my life?		

Wednesday, September 20, 2017 Daily Bible Reading: Daniel 6:17-28

EK: What does this passage mean? RACTICE: How does this apply to my life?						

THROUGH CONSISTENCY

Thursday, September 21, 2017 *Daily Bible Reading:* Matthew 24:45-51

DBSERVE: What does this passage say? SEEK: What does this passage mean?						
PRACTICE: How d	loes this app	oly to my li	fe?			

Friday, September 22, 2017 *Daily Bible Reading:* Luke 5:15-16

EK: What	How does	this ap	e mean: ply to m	y life?		

THROUGH CONSISTENCY

Saturday, September 23, 2017

Daily Bible Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

EK: What a ACTICE: H	low does tl	his apply	to my life	?	

Sunday, September 24, 2017 *Daily Bible Reading:* Daniel 6:10-16

sermon Notes:		