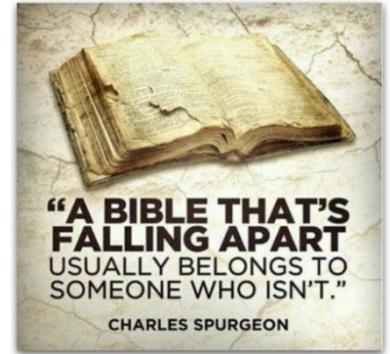




Beaches Baptist Church

Mar.4-10, 2019



A WORD for the Journey

These are short daily Bible readings that have been chosen to reinforce a particular teaching that is important to help us live successfully as disciples of Jesus. They can be used individually, with your spouse, friend or used as family readings. Each week's readings correspond to the previous Sunday's sermon preached at Beaches Baptist Church. You can download the sermon from <https://beachesbaptist.com/> . If you would like to receive these readings via email, please email me on beachesbaptist@gmail.com with "A Word for the Journey" in the subject title.

JESUS- THE BREAD OF LIFE *Fullness for the fair-dinkum*

The Feeding of the 5000 is the only one of two of Jesus' miracles which is recorded in all four of the Gospels. The miracle itself and then Jesus' discourse that comes as a result arrives at the heart of what a living faith in Jesus is all about. I pray that as you meditate on these passages you will discover Jesus in all His fullness.

Monday

John 6:16-21 (NLT)

¹⁶That evening Jesus' disciples went down to the shore to wait for him. ¹⁷But as darkness fell and Jesus still hadn't come back, they got into the boat and headed across the lake toward Capernaum. ¹⁸Soon a gale swept down upon them, and the sea grew very rough. ¹⁹They had rowed three or four miles when suddenly they saw Jesus walking on the water toward the boat. They were terrified, ²⁰but he called out to them, "Don't be afraid. I am here!" ²¹Then they were eager to let him in the boat, and immediately they arrived at their destination!

Reflect: When life gets rough and it seems like there's still so far to row until we reach our destination, it's essential to remember that Jesus who stands above the waves is here with us. Note that after Jesus boarded the boat they immediately arrived. He made the journey much easier than anticipated.

Tuesday

Psalm 107:23-30 (ESV)

- ²³ Some went down to the sea in ships,
doing business on the great waters;
²⁴ they saw the deeds of the Lord,
his wondrous works in the deep.
²⁵ For he commanded and raised the stormy wind,
which lifted up the waves of the sea.
²⁶ They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths;
their courage melted away in their evil plight;
²⁷ they reeled and staggered like drunken men
and were at their wits' end.
²⁸ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
²⁹ He made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.
³⁰ Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,
and he brought them to their desired haven.

Reflect: When life seems out of control it feels like we are staggering around on the deck of a ship in the midst of a storm. If Jesus is with us on the ship, He will still the storm and get us to His desired destination.

Wednesday

John 6:22-27 (NLT)

- ²² The next day the crowd that had stayed on the far shore saw that the disciples had taken the only boat, and they realized Jesus had not gone with them. ²³ Several boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the Lord had blessed the bread and the people had eaten. ²⁴ So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went across to Capernaum to look for him. ²⁵ They found him on the other side of the lake and asked, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"
²⁶ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. ²⁷ But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval."

Reflect: Jesus discerned the crowd's motives for seeking Him. They were interested with the material blessings that came with being a part of the Jesus' community but not interested in connecting with Him spiritually. What are my motives for connecting with the Jesus' community?

Thursday

John 6:28-29 (ESV)

- ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Reflect: The worldly way is to ask, "What do I need to do to earn merit with God?" The bad news for the self-made-man or woman- is that we can do nothing and even if we tried, we could do nothing. None of us can earn merit with God. The work has already been done in Jesus. Only by relying on His work- His perfect life, His substitutionary death and His life-giving resurrection can we have merit with God.

Friday

John 6:30-34 (NLT)

³⁰They answered, “Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do? ³¹After all, our ancestors ate manna while they journeyed through the wilderness! The Scriptures say, ‘Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

³²Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, Moses didn’t give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. ³³The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴“Sir,” they said, “give us that bread every day.”

1 Corinthians 10:1-6 (NIV)

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.

Reflect: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...” (James 1:17). Christ is the source of all nourishment and life.

Saturday

John 6:35-40 (NLT)

³⁵Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶But you haven’t believed in me even though you have seen me. ³⁷However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. ³⁹And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰For it is my Father’s will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day.”

Reflect: So many people see Jesus as ‘a friend with benefits’ and treat Him that way. Jesus isn’t the source of benefits—He is the benefit. Deep and intimate relationship with Him is the definition of real spiritual life.

Sunday

Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

Reflect: How will I walk with Jesus today?