

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (2/17) — Galatians 2

Tuesday (2/18) — Matthew 13:24-26

- According to the Parable of the Weeds (13:24-30, 36-43) there are many lost people who look from the outside like saved people. How can you be certain that you are really a child of God?
- The one-verse parable found in 13:33 reminds us that true faith, like leaven (or yeast), will work into every part of a person's life. What parts of your life are still in need of being influenced by your faith in God and your relationship with Christ?
- We are reminded in the Parable of the Hidden Treasure (13:45-46) and the Parable of the Pearl of Great Value (13:45-46) that having a relationship with the Lord is the most wonderful and most valuable thing we can possess. Write your own one-sentence parable that teaches in a similar way the wonder and value of finding Christ.

Wednesday (2/19) — Matthew 14:1-36

- 14:1-12 show us a great contrast between John the Baptist and Herod. John took a stand on what was right even though it cost him greatly. Herod gave in to peer pressure and embarrassment and did what he knew was wrong. In what ways are you like John? In what ways are you like Herod?
- Re-read 14:16-18. What lesson do you think Jesus is teaching about prayer in those three verses?
- Peter sees the mighty power of God in 14:18-21 when Jesus feeds the thousands and then again in 14:28-29 with the walking on the water. But in 14:30, Peter's confidence and faith in Jesus failed. What caused Peter's faith to become weak? What weakens your faith?

Thursday (2/20) — Matthew 16:1-28

- In 16:4, Jesus says the most important evidence that validates his life and message is the resurrection (sign of Jonah). How does the resurrection validate the life and message of Jesus?
- The leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees (16:5-12) represents the sinful influence that these people had on others and how that sinful influence could easily work its way into the lives of the people Jesus was speaking to. We all have sinful influences around us that have the same capacity to work into our lives. What are some of the sources of evil or deceptive thinking around you?
- Jesus' question in 16:26 is one of the most important admonitions in the gospels. To better understand and remember Jesus' point, re-write the verse in your own contemporary words.

Friday (2/21) — Matthew 17:1 – 18:6

- In 17:19-21, Jesus teaches the disciples what the key to successful and effective spiritual service is. What is it? What should the disciples had done differently in 17:14-18 to have successfully accomplished their purpose?
- What qualities and characteristics of children is Jesus saying we should all possess in 18:1-4?
- Jesus gives a stern warning in 18:6. How do normal people "cause one of these little ones to sin?"