

# appnotes

## DAY READ JOHN 17:6-19

1

I love bubble wrap. Why is it so satisfying to pop those bubbles? Bubble wrap is ideal for packaging, but a poor philosophy for living. We all know of groups or individuals in our society that seclude themselves from the rest of society. Jesus did the exact opposite. He put Himself in the very midst of His society where all the sin was happening because that was where He was needed. And He called His disciples into this world too, including you and me. But He's not interested in feeding us to the wolves. He's sent His spirit to protect us. The only way to reach the world with the good news of Jesus is to be in it. Don't wrap yourself in bubble wrap. Trust God and engage the world He's placed you in.

## DAY READ MATTHEW 5:13-16

2

Ever install a light under a bed? Why not? Because the purpose of light is to shine. It wouldn't make sense to turn a light on, throw a blanket over it, and then sit down to try to read next to it. If a lamp isn't helping you see, it is useless. Jesus used the light to describe the role of Christians. We are meant to light up this world. We are supposed to be the light that guides people who don't know Jesus to Him. If we hide our light, if we hide what makes us different from the world, we are useless. As you run your errands or go to work today, shine your light. Make it easy for others to see the way to Jesus.

## DAY READ COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

3

Why do people avoid talking about religion? Is it because it's too personal? Is it because the subject doesn't bring the best out of people? The people around you should want to come to you to talk about faith. As Christians, we shouldn't be beating people up with the Bible. The world doesn't need to know everything we are against to know that we are all sinners in need of a rescuer and that Jesus is that rescuer. We will draw people to Jesus through the grace in our speech. If we are gentle with people, wise and clear in our communication, we don't risk pushing them away unnecessarily. Who do you need to speak more graciously to today?

## DAY READ ROMANS 12:9-21

4

What does it look like to love a broken world? We have the answer to its brokenness, but how do we share it with them in the most compassionate way? Romans 12:9-21 paints a practical portrait of what it means to love. It's not so much a checklist as a starting point or a springboard. Sometimes that's all we need, right? Sometimes all we need is a push in the right direction, some ideas of what to do next. Look through this list and pick one that you can do today. Can you be more patient in unfair situations at work? Can you be kind to someone that has hurt you or hates you? Can you find the outcast and befriend him? Can you bring peace to a chaotic environment? What can you do today to pour out real love on this hurting world?

## DAY READ 1 PETER 4:12-16

5

Have you ever been thrown in jail because of Jesus? The chances are that you haven't because of America's religious freedoms. But that's not the case everywhere. Many Christians in other countries are meeting secretly for fear of being taken from their homes and families because they love Jesus. When we think about what other Christians have to endure that we have never experienced, it makes our fears over sharing the gospel seem small. We need to step out with courage today, remembering our fellow Christians who are suffering, and not fear the mocking words we might receive for believing in Jesus.

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