



SUMMER READING PLAN

DAY LUKE 23:44-24:12

26

What was it like to be there the day God died? The rough timbers. The nails. The blood. And crowds walking past, unconcerned and unmoved. Those who knew Him faced death as well. The death of every hope. When they mourned the death of a friend, they mourned the death of their faith too. Stunned and numb, they buried Him. Friday was the darkest day of their lives. On Sunday, the women went to pay their respects to the dead but stumbled into messengers instead. “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!” Their faith reignited, their hope exploded, and their joy skyrocketed. Sunday was the best day of their lives. The resurrection changes everything. Your God is not dead; He is alive.

DAY HEBREWS 10:1-25

27

The pictures we take are precious reminders of special times. We collect countless photos and fear losing them. But if a fire started in the house, no one would grab the photo collection and leave the child. We all know that the person is greater than the picture. That’s the point of today’s passage. The sacrifices required by law were important, but they pale in comparison to the sacrifice of Christ. The priests stood and endlessly offered sacrifices. Jesus did it once and sat down. The sacrifices could only cover past sins. The cross covers all our sin for all time. The sacrifices couldn’t change a single heart. The cross makes us holy. When Jesus died and rose again—we won. Completely and totally. Makes you marvel, doesn’t it?

DAY ACTS 2:14-41

28

Sometimes we scratch our heads at the things Jesus says. But then later we get what He means. That happened to the disciples too. Jesus told them it was good for them that He was going away because He would send a Helper to them (John 16:7). They couldn’t comprehend what could be better than having God with them all the time. But after Jesus left, the promised Helper came. It was the Holy Spirit. On the day the Spirit came to indwell every believer He convicted hearts, empowered the ministry, saved souls, and transformed lives. The Spirit is God with us all, all the time. He convicts, empowers, teaches, transforms, prays for us and sticks with us forever. What could be better?

DAY ROMANS 1:18-32

29

What injustice gets your blood boiling? Is it the physical and verbal abuse of children? When officials misuse their power? When the color of one's skin determines the quality of one's life? These horrors should anger you. So why shouldn't our wickedness raise God's wrath? The verdict in today's passage is grim. We will worship anything but our Creator. We sin in so many ways even though we know better. We even invent new ways to shake our fists in God's face! We might not be as bad as we could be—but our sin is bad enough to deserve punishment. And it would be right and just for God to pass our sentence and put us away for life. God isn't just angry at sin—He will judge it. But that's not the end of the story.

DAY ROMANS 3:9-26

30

You dream you are in a vast library. Countless worn volumes fill the shelves from floor to ceiling. You pull one out at random and flip it open. Your eyes scan the page. Then again. You feel sick to your stomach. The words describe the first time you told a lie. Flipping ahead you find a whole page catalogs your angry thoughts toward a classmate. You shove the book back and pull down another. It chronicles your high school exploits. You let it drop to the floor. Book after book details your every sinful thought and deed. A man enters. You beg him to let you buy or burn this record of wrongs. His reply: "What was done cannot be undone. But I can trade you my library for yours." With surprise, you agree. Immediately, the library is replaced. Every page is now white as snow. His record, for yours. It's not a dream. It's the gospel.

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