

# appnotes

## DAY **READ 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7**

1

Have you ever wondered why you can go to church without being persecuted while so many people in the world cannot? It's no accident that we have this freedom; it is an act of God. We should never take this freedom for granted. Along with our freedom, there comes a responsibility to use it to reach others. The apostle Paul realized that our ability to live quiet and peaceful (free lives) is conducive to the spread of the gospel. Paul says, in effect, "I urge you first of all (primarily, or most importantly) to pray for your leaders that they might lead well so that you might be able to spread the gospel to all freely... because Christ died for all men." Prayer is the indispensable foundation of the successful Christian life and to the success of the church.

## DAY **READ MATTHEW 14:13-21**

2

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Words are important, but the true message is Jesus Himself. If people are going to trust our message, it will be because they see that Jesus cares about them through us. When Jesus looks at us, even in our worst times, He cares. He cares about our spiritual poverty, our physical pains, our struggles, and our emotional isolation from God. There is no anguish that escapes Him. Jesus died for us because He cares for us. He must always be the centerpiece of our message. When we share Christ, we show Him by being models of His love. Jesus was never afraid of getting His hands dirty. He showed his love for others in very open and personal ways. How can you show the love of Christ to others?

## DAY **READ 1 PETER 3:13-18**

3

Have you ever done something good for someone, only to have them turn on you, or betray you? The undeserved backlash can surprise us. Have you ever had someone respond to your negativity with negativity? No surprise there! Love compels us to share what God has done in our lives, but we cannot control how people respond. Sometimes they respect us because they can see our concern, other times they do not. No matter how they might respond, we are to share with gentleness and respect. Many times that will win some respect. But if we suffer, we know that it is for the One who suffered for us.

## DAY READ ACTS 3:1-10

4

We never know when we will be given the opportunity to help another person. Recently, I was sitting in an unfamiliar city. I saw from a distance a young man and woman walking my way. Something told me that they were going to ask me for money, and I determined that if they did, I would give them some. Sure enough, they approached me and politely explained why they needed money. And I gave them some. But, what if I had no money to share that day? Would I have taken the time to give them something else? Could I have prayed with them? Told them about Jesus? When we can, let's give them something that will take them further than a few bucks: let's give them Jesus.

## DAY READ JOHN 1:45-51

5

Do people look at you funny when you tell them how much you enjoy going to church? Their first reaction is a lot like Nathanael's, "Church! Can anything good come from there?" Philip's response is simply to invite Nathanael to decide for himself, "Come and see." As you walk with Jesus, He will change you. Others will see that change. And you will have opportunities to talk about your faith. When someone shows interest, turn it into an invitation; an invitation to talk more, to hang out, to read a book or blog, or to come to church. You don't have to change people; your job is to tell people. When they come with you to church, they can see for themselves what a difference Jesus makes!

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

**[facebook.com/parkerhill.org](https://facebook.com/parkerhill.org)**