

appnotes

DAY 1

READ MATTHEW 5:13-16

We see a lot of images every day—from magazine ads to TV commercials, movies to Facebook photos. Usually these images are edited and enhanced to highlight what's most desirable. How often do we do the same thing in our spiritual lives, editing out certain parts based on where we are or who we're with? In today's reading, Jesus shows us how to live our lives as influencers of the world around us. The bottom line is this: we will have an impact upon people as long as we don't edit God out of certain areas of our lives. In what areas, and around what people, are you tempted to downplay your faith and temporarily cover it up? Today, pray that God will give you the courage to live a bright and salty life.

DAY 2

READ EPHESIANS 2:1-10

Have you ever watched an antique lover lost in the art of remaking a masterpiece? That's a picture of today's reading. God takes the rough and discarded materials of our lives and entirely restores them. Even though we were broken instruments, God always planned to play a powerful song with our lives. After an awe-inspiring violin solo no one walks up to the violin where it lays in the case and asks it for an autograph. The artist gets the glory. That's the same thing that should happen when we allow God to use us to help others.

DAY 3

READ 1 PETER 2:12-15

With hundreds of channels on TV, thousands of movies available for instant streaming, and millions of websites just a click away, we are used to getting what we want when we want it. With all this power at our fingertips we can get it into our heads that we are the bosses of our lives—that is, until we go to work, school, or get pulled over by a police officer! The thing is, we all have authorities in our lives. In today's passage, Peter encourages us respond to others and the authorities in our lives in a way that makes them stop and say, "Wow! That's not how people usually respond. What's different about you?" Who can you surprise with a respectful response today?

DAY READ DANIEL 3:1-30

4

Sometimes you have to go against the flow to show others the greatness of God. When everyone else was bowing down to an image of King Nebuchadnezzar, three men— Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—refused. They knew could get into a lot of trouble for going against the flow but they simply chose to do what was right and put their lives in God's hands. With everyone watching they were thrown into a fire but God saved them from dying. Do not miss the effect this had on those who witnessed their faith: the enemies of God became the raving fans of God! Who in your life seems far from God today? Pray that your life would show the greatness of God to them.

DAY READ 1 PETER 3:15-16

5

Paul's challenge to us in this passage is clear: be prepared to gently and respectfully talk about Jesus when you're asked. Paul was writing this to a group of people who were being persecuted for their faith by a largely pagan culture. But within that persecution, Paul knew there would be opportunity for the Christians to share their love of Jesus with their persecutors. Two thousand years later, the situation isn't much different, and the challenge to us is still the same: be prepared to share the hope that we have. So how can we do that? One of the greatest ways we can prepare ourselves to answer the questions that will come is to know God's Word and to hide it in our hearts (Psalm 119:11).

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

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