

appnotes

DAY 1 READ MATTHEW 5:1-12

1

Like it or not, kids copy us. What we model, they match. There is a lot we could look at from the introduction to Jesus' longest recorded teaching. But let's zero in on one verse today because it relates to our current series, "You Drive Me Crazy!" Verse nine says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." When we follow in Jesus' footsteps we find ourselves making peace. We help reconcile sinners to God, we encourage families ripped apart to forgive and reunite, and we go out of our way to make things right with those we have offended. We even seek peace with the people that drive us crazy! Harmony with others may not always be achievable, but believers should not be responsible for a lack of peace.

DAY 2 READ JAMES 3:13-18

2

An argument, like a forest fire, has a way of getting out of control fast. We only add fuel to the fire when we rally our arguments, cut each other off with accusations, and do whatever we can to win. In the end, we have wounded each other and we have both lost. James, the half-brother of Jesus, gives us some helpful clues to keep our conflicts from getting out of control. In today's passage, James writes about the qualities of heavenly wisdom versus earthly wisdom. Earthly wisdom is all about winning the fight—no matter the cost. Heavenly wisdom comes from pure motives and is peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy, unwavering, and without hypocrisy. So, the next time you get in a spat, ask yourself, "Does my solution match James' description?" If you want to be wise, what you do next will help you both win.

DAY 3 READ PSALM 55:1-23

3

We expect the people who hate us to try and hurt us. But what do we do when the people we trust betray us? In Psalm 55, David's enemies terrorized him. As a King, David faced threats all the time. This one was different because it came from a former friend (see verses 12-14). David now knew that no matter how nice his friend had appeared, it was all an act (see verses 20-21). The despair of losing a trusted friend can crush anyone. David found that the way to get through it was to trust God with it. Maybe you need to make verse 22 your action plan today, "Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken."

DAY READ PROVERBS 18:20-21

4

Have you ever said something you immediately wished you could take back? In the heat of the moment, our words can bring more fire than light. Proverbs 18:20-21 makes it clear that our words have the power to bring life or death. It's a mistake to let words fly without thought. Good words bring life to the speaker and the hearer. Negative words tear others down and leave us feeling pretty terrible too. Are your words bringing light (truth) and life (grace) to those around you? Do people look forward to your input or do they run the other way? Changing the way you speak is one of the biggest ways to change your relationships for the better!

DAY READ JAMES 4:1-12

5

We go to the doctor to find the source of our symptoms. In today's reading, James diagnoses the cause of the relational conflict in our lives. We start fighting when our selfish goals are blocked. It's a matter of the heart. We want something more than we love someone. A nasty fight reveals that our goals are not in line with God's plans. The remedy? Resist the devil and humble yourself before God. When you do, you'll bring joy instead of pain to the people around you. You don't need a spiritual doctor to tell you that you can be selfish. But did you catch that incredible truth in verse six? It says, "But He gives us more grace." Our sin has met its match in our Savior. The mess you have made is not greater than the price He paid.

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

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