

Weekly Study Guide

August 26, 2012

Daily Readings

Monday	Read Ephesians 6:18-24. In this text, Paul calls himself an “Ambassador in chains” proclaiming true freedom even from his prison cell. In this situation, why might Paul have asked the church to pray for him to proclaim the Gospel fearlessly? What fears might have he been wrestling? Imagine how the prayers of the church surrounding him might help him act on a truth beyond his circumstance. What helps you in your ability to share the Gospel?
Tuesday	Paul prayed in Ephesians that he would be able to proclaim the Gospel fearlessly. One fear that often stops us from proclaiming the Gospel is a fear of what other people will think. Another fear is a fear of being inadequate to the task. Read the words of Jesus in Matthew 10—especially verses 7-8, 17-20, and 26. How does Jesus address our fears in verse 19? How does the new perspective Jesus gives in verse 26 help our fear?
Wednesday	One of the largest fears that hold us back in proclaiming our faith comes from self doubt. In the story of the call of Moses we see this clearly. Read Exodus 3:10-12 and 4:10-17. What is Moses’ reason for holding back? What is God’s answer? In the end, God just tells Moses to hold the stick, but he ends up doing a lot more than he ever imagined. What does this tell us about how God knows us, and how he leads us?
Thursday	Read Matthew 10:7-8. Jesus’ call to proclaim has 3 parts to it: He calls us to tell others that God has come near to us, to show others God’s power at work through us for their good, and to understand this proclamation as a natural part of giving back and growing in what God has given us. How do we practice these three things in our own faith lives: telling others that Jesus has come for them, showing others by our deeds God’s love, seeing our lives as an extension of God’s giving?
Friday	Read Matthew 10:17-20. Have you ever been in a situation where someone asked you about your faith and you didn’t know what to say? Looking back, how might God have been using you in that instance, even in what you saw as less than perfect?
Saturday	Read Ephesians 6:18-24. Paul writes that his desire is to “proclaim the mystery of the Gospel”. The Word Gospel means ‘good news’. The good news is that God so loved the world that he chose to save us even from ourselves, so that we can share in his life forever. How can he possibly love us like that, when he knows all our brokenness? It’s a mystery! A mystery of good news that we first claim, and then proclaim! When did you first claim that truth for yourself? How might you proclaim it this week?



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