

Soul Business - Reading Scripture

Introduction:

There is no greater book than the Holy Bible. It's actually sixty-six books written over the course of 1,500 years by more than forty authors. Some of these books are history, some poetry, others are prophetic, and a few are apocalyptic. And in all, it is the Word of God. It brings life to those who hear and believe in Jesus. When I read from this glorious collection of books that tell one over-arching story about God, I feel alive. I'm made alive by the God who breathed life into these words.

That's why I read it and encourage you to read it as well. Psalm 1 speaks to this truth about the one who finds delight in the law of the Lord and meditates on it day and night. The term, "law" specifically refers to the first five books of the Bible. All of Holy Scripture brings divine blessing, as all of scripture points to Jesus of Nazareth. He died for our sins, was raised by God, the Father, and gives us the Holy Spirit.

In the lesson from Matthew, Jesus is speaking to a crowd about his cousin John the Baptist. Jesus makes deep references to the Old Testament about who John is and who he is. In reading Matthew 11:1-6 it becomes clear that Jesus wants John, the crowd, and you to know that he is the Messiah prophesied, the savior of the world.

Read Your Bible

- Psalm 1
- Matthew 11:7-15

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. What are the two kinds of people in Psalm 1?

2. What behavior is the distinguishing difference between these two types of people?
3. How often do you read from the Bible? What kind of reading plan do you use?
4. Read Matthew 11:1-6. How did, and why did Jesus answer John's disciples?
5. What prophet from the Old Testament does Jesus compare John? Why does Jesus do this?
6. List two ways Jesus uses Holy Scripture speaking to the crowd.
7. How do you feel when you read the Bible? (alive? Forgiven? Confused? Convicted?)
8. How are you going to continue to learn God's word?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Father in Heaven, thank you for your Holy Word. Help us to learn it and grow in love toward you and usefulness for our neighbor. May we see Jesus more clearly every time we open your book. When your written word convicts us, may we repent. When it gives us hope, may we rejoice. When it challenges us, may we respond in faithful obedience to your voice. In Jesus' name. Amen.