

NEW CITY DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WEEK OF 11/2/2020-11/6/2020

The following content is based on the message on 11/1/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

MONDAY // HONOR EVERYONE

Read 1 Peter 2:13-17. Over recent history, democrats and republicans have practically shared the same amount of time in power. Regardless of what happens in the next few days, God is still in control; and because God is in control, Peter tells Christians that they need to honor everyone. It is hard enough to honor people who are similar to us, but Peter's command doesn't stop at like-minded people. We are called to honor people who are different from us because God showed honor to us even though we were acting as an enemy of Him. In a political season, it's easy to see people who are different from you; yet, you are called to love those people differently.

Christians are called to attribute high honor and respect to all people.

- *Who is someone to whom you have a difficult time showing respect? What differences in them make them difficult for you to show honor to them?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Reflect on the image of God in someone who is different from you.*

TUESDAY // LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD

As we saw yesterday, we are called to honor everyone. But we are especially called to love those within the church. On the last night of Jesus' life, He prayed the following prayer over His followers. **Read John 17:22-23.** Jesus prayed that His church would be united as one. This unity should point to the glory of God. The love of Christians should be come from the example of Jesus' love for us. If you are having a difficult time loving others, it might be time to sit and reflect on how much Jesus loves you.

When we don't love each other, we don't honor the prayer of our Lord and Savior.

- *How should the love of Jesus change the way that you view people who are different from you today?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Reflect on how deeply Jesus loves you today.*

WEDNESDAY // WHAT DO WE FEAR?

1 Peter 2:17 tells us that we should "fear God." By fearing God, he means that we should give our utmost reverence to God. Yet most of us spend more time fearing other people instead of God. Instead of fear, we need to love one another. **Read 1 John 4:18.** The perfect love of Jesus should cast out the fear of others in our hearts. Instead, the love of God should motivate us to love others. Despite whether or not your political party was victorious, loving others must characterize the Christian.

When we live in fear of man and not in fear of God, we live in sin.

- *How should the perfect love of Jesus cast out the fear of others in your heart? At the end of the day, why is the love of Jesus the only thing that you need in your life?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Reflect on the never-ending well of love that comes through your heart from Jesus.*

THURSDAY // WE WILL SUFFER

Read 1 Peter 2:18-21. Peter continues on to talk about suffering after talking about government. He tells us that we should expect suffering as a Christian. Suffering comes from things outside of our control. As a church, we need to suffer well. But that means that even if we don't face suffering, we must realize that others are suffering when we are not. Don't try to explain it away, but empathize with that person. Just because you can't see someone suffering that doesn't mean that their suffering isn't real. We also have to remember that sometimes our actions cause other people to suffer. We need to be willing to listen and to change. Christians need to be willing to see where they fall short. We need to be willing to look at our own lives and change the way that we live.

Reaping the consequences of our own bad choices is called justice, not suffering.

- *When you have faced suffering in your life, what has been most helpful for you while in that season of your life?*
- *How has Jesus revealed more of himself to you in the middle of suffering?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Reflect on the goodness of God in the middle of suffering.*

FRIDAY // THE SUFFERING KING

Read 1 Peter 2:21-25. At some point, it is bound to happen that the church will face suffering and persecution. This shouldn't come as a surprise to you because Jesus has already set an example of suffering for us. It is by the wounds of Jesus that we all have been healed. Jesus himself suffered. This is why, when Christianity has suffered historically, it thrives. Christianity doesn't need power or money to thrive. It needs people walking in the footsteps of Jesus. It needs people who are reminded of the immeasurable grace that they have been given through the suffering of their Savior.

Suffering reminds us of the grace we have received in Jesus because He suffered so well for us.

- *You shouldn't go seek out suffering, but what does it mean to you to know that Jesus didn't try to escape suffering? He willingly suffered on our behalf in order to show us immeasurable grace.*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Reflect on how gracious Jesus has been to you.*