



ROCK BRIDGE

Week of 9/27/20-10/3/20

Day 1

Read Galatians 5

It's a little scary, being set free in Christ. We have nothing to stand on of our own making. Only the blood of Jesus and the mercy of God says we're redeemed. Some people Paul wrote to in this chapter were tempted to say it's Jesus plus the old ritual of circumcision. Paul said if salvation has to be Jesus plus something, then what's the point of Jesus? Instead, we live and draw breath by the Spirit of God, so we must also walk by the guidance of the Spirit of God.

1) What does walking by the Holy Spirit look like for you?

2) How do your friends experience you? Do they see the Spirit of God when they look at you?

3) What practices of your own nature need to be replaced with the fruit or result of God's presence in your life?

Prayer: Father, work Your Spirit's fruit in me.

Day 2

Read Galatians 6

"You who are spiritual..." We automatically start making a mental list when we hear those words. What do spiritual people do? They seem to have some wisdom or insight the rest of us can only hope to attain. But no. In these verses, "you who are spiritual" means all of us. And it tells us our job as spiritual people is to help restore people caught in sin, and to do so gently. This will definitely

be a work that takes care, insight, and wisdom... but also the gentle, patient love of God.

1) What is the danger of comparing each other?

2) How does your family experience you? What do they experience from you when they've hurt and offended you?

3) How do you handle the burden of your own shortcomings? How do you handle relationships with other flawed people?

Prayer: Father, this work is too great for me to do without Your Spirit guiding and filling me.

Day 3

Read Isaiah 1:1-20

God is not here for tokens of devotion. If we're over here living life our way, getting by, not seeking justice for the oppressed, defending the fatherless, or pleading for the marginalized, He knows. And His desire is to see His kingdom come on Earth as it is in Heaven, not to have people give God the trappings of worship but not take courage to bring light in dark places.

1) What does God want from His children?

2) How do your enemies experience you? Do they see the Spirit of God in you despite your opposition to their goals?

3) What has God burdened you to do to spread His love and bring His kingdom?

Prayer: Father, I want my soul to be clean. I want my heart to be courageous and my hands to be filled with purpose as I serve and love.

Day 4

Read John 13

The love of Jesus went out equally to the friends who were true, and the ones who were either lost or enemies about to betray Him that very night. The care of Jesus wasn't just for the people who hung on His every word—it was also the ones who sold Him out for pocket change. The kindness of Jesus wasn't just for the people who He could count on—it was equally for the ones He couldn't trust to come through for Him when He needed them most. Do we love like Jesus?

1) Did Jesus not wash someone's feet? Whose feet would you be tempted to not wash?

2) What relationship do you need to work to restore? What broke it?

3) Are you a different person to those who love you back than you are to those who don't? How can you love someone hard to love this week?

Prayer: Father, teach me Jesus-level love.

Day 5

Read Psalm 32

One of the hardest pills to swallow in Christianity is also one of the most beautiful truths of it: that we're in the same boat. The thief on the cross who

Jesus forgave moments before he died, who heard "today you'll be with Me in paradise" is in the same boat as Billy Graham or Mother Teresa. You're in that boat, too, the blessed whose transgressions are forgiven and whose sin is covered. None of us is better than the rest, and none of us gets less of God.

1) Who is blessed, in these verses?

2) Who has God burdened you for? What vision has He given you for their restoration?

3) What reason do you have for joy and rejoicing right now? How can you share that with someone this week?

Prayer: Father, You are my hiding place. You surround me with songs and shouts of deliverance.

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