



DAILY DEVOTIONS

THE 7 ARROWS OF BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?

DAY 01

ZEPH. 1:14-18

Zephaniah gives us a scary picture of the day of God's judgment on the earth. Out of all the imagery, one sentence stands out: "Their silver and their gold will be unable to rescue them on the day of the LORD's wrath" (v. 18). Money is useful. Material things can be helpful in life. But they are not saviors. No matter how successful you become, you will always need God's grace and salvation. Don't put your hope in a future career, money, or status. Whether rich or poor all must stand before God, and the only thing that will save us is Jesus.

DO YOU THINK YOU'RE MATERIALISTIC (OVERLY CONCERNED WITH POSSESSIONS)? WHY OR WHY NOT?

WHY CAN'T HAVING MORE THINGS SOLVE YOUR GREATEST PROBLEMS?

WHAT MIGHT IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO HOPE IN GOD AND NOT STATUS?

DAY 02

ZEPH. 2:1-3

HOW CAN YOU SEEK THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART?

WHAT MIGHT IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO DO WHAT GOD COMMANDS (SEE V. 3)?

HOW CAN YOU GROW IN HUMILITY?

Zephaniah calls each of us to “Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth, who carry out what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility” (v. 3). The number one priority in your life should be to seek the Lord. And what might that look like? It’s about doing what He commands, seeking after what is right and good, and becoming humble. There are many things you could pursue in life, but none of them would be greater than the Lord.

DAY 03

ZEPH. 3:9-11

God wants His people to “serve him with a single purpose” (v. 9). Our unity matters to the Lord and for the mission. Jesus prayed that we would be one just as He and the Father are one (see John 17:21-22). Satan wants us to be divided, competing, envious, and more. If we don’t intentionally seek unity, we will become divided. Commit to promoting unity and peace among believers. If we are divided, then we will not be able to accomplish the purpose God has given us.

WHAT BRINGS DIVISION IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS?

HOW CAN YOU PROMOTE UNITY?

WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD IT MAKE IF THE CHURCH WAS MORE UNITED?

ZEPH. 3:12-13

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH?

HOW DO LIES HARM OTHERS?

HOW COULD YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS?

Imagine a world where we never lie to each other or wrong each other. Imagine a place where no one needs to be afraid because they know they are safe from harm. The kingdom of God will be that kind of place. As citizens of that kingdom, we should seek to be those kinds of people even now. Jesus taught us to pray, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10). Strive to do God’s will on earth. Tell the truth, don’t wrong your neighbor, and have hope in knowing that one day that will be the norm.

ZEPH. 3:17-20

Living for God will often bring rejection from the world. Humbly serving and doing what is good is unlikely to lead to fame and praise. But God will see your faithfulness. He has promised that one day His people will have glory and honor throughout the world (see v. 20). Don’t seek the praise of man and the glory that fades. Seek to do what pleases God and trust that one day you will get the recognition from Him that will last forever. He will rejoice over you and delight in you forever (see v. 17).

HOW MIGHT YOU BE TEMPTED TO LIVE FOR THE PRAISE OF PEOPLE?

WHY IS IT HARD TO SERVE WHEN YOU AREN'T GETTING RECOGNITION?

HOW CAN YOU KEEP DOING WHAT IS GOOD EVEN WHEN YOU AREN'T BEING PRAISED FOR IT?