

THROWING SHADE

WEEK 3: TAKE A LICKIN' AND KEEP ON TICKIN'

DAY 1: READ PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

Last week, we learned about how our words stem from what's in our hearts. What does this passage suggest the attitude of our hearts should be in regard to other people? How will this affect how we behave or respond to people when they speak about/to us? Why is this important to sharing the love of Jesus? Is the attitude of our heart supposed to change if someone speaks about us in love vs. hate? In your own life, does yours change?

DAY 2: READ PROVERBS 27:6, EPHESIANS 4:1-16

Words can hurt us, but still be true, necessary or helpful. When has someone spoken a hard truth to you? In that moment, how did it feel? When did you realize it was different than someone only throwing shade to hurt you? Look closely at Ephesians 4:15-16. As Christians, we're called to speak the truth in love; this means we're bound to need to hear someone speak the truth in love to us. How can we discern what's spoken in love vs. anger, love vs. defamation, love vs. disrespect, etc.? How can we respond?

DAY 3: READ PROVERBS 26:4-5, PROVERBS 15:1, MATTHEW 5:21-24

Why is it important to not get caught up in the foolish words of others? Why is it important to speak the truth to someone who is wrongly convinced of something foolish? When have you experienced either one of these encounters? What happened? How does Proverbs 15:1 suggest we answer someone caught up in foolishness? As a Christian, why are these verses important in how we behave and respond to the words of others?

DAY 4: READ 1 PETER 3:9-17, MATTHEW 5:1-16

When people do use their words to hurt us, how are we to respond? Why is our response important to our testimony about Jesus' work in our lives? Have you experienced this kind of response when you hurts someone? What was that like? Have you given this kind response to people when they were trying to hurt you? How did they react?.



DAY 5: READ 1 JOHN 2:3-6, 3:16-17

As Christians, we have surrendered our wills and committed to life in Christ. Let's let our behavior be consistent with the Gospel - including in how we respond to the actions and words of people. 1 John 3:17 talks about not sharing the worldly goods we have with those in need. What about your perception of who needs to know life in Jesus? When you meet and interact with people, do you think of their need to know Christ first or not at all? When you find yourself on the receiving end of verbal attacks, how does their need for Christ change the nature of the situation and the response you should give?

DAY 6: READ MATTHEW 5:43-48

Time to reflect and pray! Who are people you think of as enemies? How can you actually love them like Christ commands you to do? Don't wait. Think of practical, tangible ways you can love these people like Jesus so you can start doing these things immediately! Christ also tells us to pray for those who persecute us. Pray for your enemies and pray for the ones who persecute you, regardless of what kind of torment it is. Pray for a heart to love these people. Pray for their blessing, that the Lord would extend His love in tangible, undeniable ways (including through your obedience!) that they would know His love and find His healing, reconciliation, joy and peace. Thank Him for hearing your prayers and loving them.

DAY 7: READ 1 PETER 1:13-25, 1 THESSALONIANS 2:13

The Bible paints an undeniably clear picture of what a lifestyle of Christ acts and sounds like. It's time to worship God and thank Him for the beautiful hope we have in Jesus. Thank Him for the imperishable, living and abiding Word of God, that we were able to receive the Good News with open hearts, ears and eyes. Rejoice in God's goodness and the great work He is doing in the world and in our hearts. Now, don't squander it! Go tell someone about the great hope we have in Jesus!