

Volume 16

*"Agree with God,
and be at peace;
thereby good will
come to you.
Receive instruction
from his mouth,
and lay up his words
in your heart."*

THE DAILY READING BIBLE

LUKE 16-19

JOB 1-26

1 CORINTHIANS 8-16

62 daily readings with full Bible text

THE DAILY READING BIBLE

An all-in-one, take-anywhere package to help you feed regularly from God's word.

Time to get back into regular Bible reading? *The Daily Reading Bible* has everything you need to get started, and in one compact, portable package.

This volume contains 62 readings on Luke 16-19, Job 1-26 and 1 Corinthians 8-16. Each reading is designed to take around 15-20 minutes and contains:

- *the full text of the Bible passage for that reading*
- *some questions to get you thinking*
- *some 'points to ponder'*
- *some ideas to get you started in prayer.*

It's all here in one booklet that you can take with you anywhere—on the train, on the bus, to the park at lunchtime, or to your favourite armchair.

THE DAILY READING BIBLE

Volume 16

LUKE 16-19

JOB 1-26

1 CORINTHIANS 8-16

The Daily Reading Bible (Volume 16)

© Matthias Media 2008

Matthias Media

(St Matthias Press Ltd ACN 067 558 365)

PO Box 225

Kingsford NSW 2032

Australia

Ph: (02) 9663 1478; Int. +61-2-9663-1478

Fax: (02) 9663 3265; Int. +61-2-9663-3265

Email: info@matthiasmedia.com.au

Internet: www.matthiasmedia.com.au

Matthias Media (USA)

Ph: 724 964 8152; Int. +1-724-964-8152

Fax: 724 964 8166; Int. +1-724-964-8166

Email: sales@matthiasmedia.com

Internet: www.matthiasmedia.com

All Scripture is taken from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

ISBN 978 1 921441 19 6

All rights reserved. Except as may be permitted by the Copyright Act, no part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without prior permission from the publisher.

Cover design and typesetting by Matthias Media.

Series concept design by www.madebydesign.com.au

CONTENTS

Introduction	Page 5
Luke 16-19	Page 7
Job 1-26	Page 25
1 Corinthians 8-16	Page 51
Appendix	Page 69

INTRODUCTION

Readng our Bibles regularly is getting harder. That, at least, seems to be the common experience of many Christians. We could waste lots of ink speculating on the reasons for this: is it the frenetic pace of life these days? Is it spiritual laziness? Is it the impact of postmodernism on our culture and the lack of certainty when it comes to interpreting the written word?

But a better option than speculating on the reasons, we thought, was to provide a new resource for Christians to help them get back into a more regular habit of reflecting daily on God's word. So back in June 2001, we decided to start including a section called 'Bible Brief' in our monthly magazine, *The Briefing* (see www.matthiasmedia.com.au for more information about *The Briefing*). The 'Bible Brief' provided 20 short readings each month—acknowledging that there will be days we miss or days when we want to do something a bit different—with questions, thoughts to ponder, and suggestions to get started in prayer.

Now, several years later, we have a good collection of 'Bible Briefs', and it's time to offer them to a wider audience in a format that will, we hope, be even more convenient and useful.

This sixteenth volume contains 62 readings, all designed to be done in 15–20 minutes. These daily Bible readings are designed to

help you feed regularly from God's word. They won't cover every issue in each passage, nor even every passage from each Bible book. In other words, *they are no substitute for the in-depth study of the Scriptures* that you may undertake personally, in small groups or through listening to sermons.

With the kind permission of our friends at Crossway Bibles, we've been able to make this a complete package to take with you—we've included the English Standard Version Bible text with each daily study. So you can take this one book with you and have everything you need—on the train, on the bus, or to the park at lunchtime—wherever and whenever you can get 20 minutes to yourself.

How to use these readings

- *With a penitent heart*, the true prerequisite for all Bible reading. Open with prayer (perhaps using the prayer suggested at the beginning of each set of studies).
- *With 15–20 minutes* of peace and quiet. If you can take longer, and want to read and pray further—great! But we have designed the readings to be done in a fairly short space of time.
- *With an accurate modern translation*. We recommend and have included the new ESV translation. The writers of the studies refer to this translation. Contact us for further details about the ESV or visit www.matthiasmedia.com.au/ESV

- *With a pen.* Even if you only jot down brief ideas, writing focuses the mind.
- *As a guide and help, not a straitjacket.* Feel free to dig further into the passage, to notice and ponder things that the questions don't point to.
- *As a launch-pad for prayer.* Use the prayer ideas at the end of each reading as a starting point for your daily prayer. Many of the points that will arise from the readings will be things you can pray for yourself, and also for others (family, friends, neighbours, etc.). Why not compile a list of people you want to pray for (you can write them in the blank space below), and use the prayer ideas from each reading to pray for the next person on your list?

This sixteenth volume includes:

- studies on Luke 16–19 (written by Simon Roberts, assistant minister at St George North Anglican Church in Sydney)
- studies on Job 1–26 (written by Ken and

Naomi Noakes. Ken works with Ministry Training and Development for the Sydney Anglican Diocese and is also an assistant minister at St Andrew's Cathedral. He is married to Naomi who is an experienced trainer of women in ministry and a full-time mum to Jeremy and Edison)

- studies on 1 Corinthians 8–16 (written by Neil Atwood, associate pastor at Springwood Anglican Church in Springwood).

Matthias Media

October 2008

Please note: the main section of Scripture for each study is reproduced before the questions. Other Scripture references are reproduced as footnotes at the bottom of the page, or, where the passages are too long to be included as footnotes, in the appendix.

PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR:

LUKE 16-19

INTRODUCTION

After Peter's declaration of Jesus' identity (he calls him "The Christ of God" in Luke 9:20), Jesus sets out for Jerusalem and the cross (Luke 9:51). These readings follow on from volume 15 of *The Daily Reading Bible*, and focus on the second half of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem.

You might like to use this prayer (or your own variation of it) before each of the next 20 studies:

*Father,
Please help me to see Jesus for who he really is. Please help me to respond to him properly.
Amen.*

NB: Tick the box when you've completed each study ✓

READING 1

LUKE 16:1-13



He also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ² And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' ³ And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' ⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' ⁷ Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' ⁸ The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world

are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰ "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³ No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

1. *What is the goal of the unrighteous manager (v. 4)?*

2. *What goal should drive your use of "unrighteous wealth" (v. 9)?*

3. *What is Jesus' argument in verses 10-12? What is his conclusion?*

PONDER No-one can serve two masters. Does your devotion to God control your use of money? Or does your devotion to money control your service to God?

PRAYER IDEAS Ask God to help you to be devoted exclusively to him. Thank him that, through the Lord Jesus, you can be certain that you will be received into an eternal home.

READING 2

LUKE 16:14-18

The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

¹⁶ "The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it. ¹⁷ But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.

¹⁸ "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery."

1. *"No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Luke 16:13). What did*

the Pharisees love (v. 14)? Who did they therefore despise?

2. *Who knows where your true loyalty lies (v. 15)?*

3. *Your use of money is one test of your loyalty to God. What other test is mentioned in verse 18?*

PONDER Do you ever try to 'justify yourself' before men—or, worse, before God?

PRAYER IDEAS Ask God to rescue you from self-deceit and worldly, false values.

READING 3

LUKE 16:19-31

"There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the

dogs came and licked his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ And he called out,

'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.'²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.'²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.'²⁷ And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—²⁸ for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.'²⁹ But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'³⁰ And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'³¹ He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

1. *When the rich man lived in comfort and*

had an abundance, how did he treat Lazarus?

2. *When the rich man was in need and wanted comfort, how did he treat Lazarus?*

3. *What is the warning that Jesus gives in this parable (vv. 25-31)?*

PONDER How do you think this passage relates to the rest of chapter 16? (Look back over Readings 1-2.)

PRAYER IDEAS Ask God to give you ears to hear the good news of the kingdom of God.

READING 4

LUKE 17:1-4

And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come!² It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin.³ Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him,⁴ and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

1. *What must you never do?*

2. *What must you always do?*

3. *Why should you do this (v. 1)?*

PONDER Is there anyone you need to forgive? Is there anyone who might need rebuking? Is it you?

PRAYER IDEAS Ask God to help you to forgive as you have been forgiven. In addition, ask him to guard you from temptation.