

*And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him, but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words.*

# THE DAILY READING BIBLE

LUKE 19-24

JOB 27-42

CHURCH

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 from Luke 19-24, Job 27-42 and topical passages about the theology of church. 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 17**

**LUKE 19-24**

**JOB 27-42**

**CHURCH**

*The Daily Reading Bible (Volume 17)*  
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# INTRODUCTION

**R**eadng 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](http://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 seventeenth 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](http://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 seventeenth volume includes:

- studies on Luke 19–24 (written by Philip Percival, Director of Emu Music and Music Director at St Ebbe's Church, Oxford, UK)
- studies on Job 27–42 (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 the theology of church (written by Peter Hughes, Sydney Regional Director of the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students).

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**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 19-24

## INTRODUCTION

After Peter's declaration of Jesus' identity ("The Christ of God" in Luke 9:20), Jesus sets out for Jerusalem and the cross (9:51'). These readings follow on from volume 16 of *The Daily Reading Bible*, which looked at Jesus' journey to Jerusalem (Luke 16-19:44). Now Jesus enters the city in which he knows he will suffer, be rejected and killed, and then rise on the third day (9:22,<sup>2</sup> 18:31-33<sup>3</sup>).

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

*Dear God,*

*Thank you that Jesus suffered, died and rose for me. Thank you that Luke's Gospel reveals Jesus' authority to rule and his power to forgive sins. Help me to feel the tension, sadness and remorse that Jesus' death evokes, as well as the life-changing joy that his resurrection brings. Amen.*

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

### READING 1

LUKE 19:45-20:8

And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold,<sup>46</sup> saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."

<sup>47</sup> And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him,<sup>48</sup> but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words.

**20:1** One day, as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders came up<sup>2</sup> and said to him, "Tell

us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority."

<sup>3</sup> He answered them, "I also will ask you a question. Now tell me, <sup>4</sup> was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?" <sup>5</sup> And they discussed it with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why did you not believe him?'" <sup>6</sup> But if we say, 'From man,' all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet."

<sup>7</sup> So they answered that they did not know where it came from. <sup>8</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

1. When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

2. ... saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

3. And taking the twelve, he said to them, "See, we are going

up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. <sup>32</sup> For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. <sup>33</sup> And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise."



1. *What do Jesus' words and actions suggest about his attitude towards the temple?*

*elders) wield? What is the problem they have with Jesus?*

2. *Read Isaiah 56:1-8 in the appendix (p. 71). What is the bigger picture of the temple Jesus is alluding to when he quotes this passage in Luke 19:46?*

**PONDER** This passage begins a long section in Luke where Jesus and the Jewish leaders are in conflict. What is it about Jesus that causes such hostile reactions in certain people?

3. *What sort of authority did the Jewish leaders (the chief priests, scribes and*

**PRAYER IDEAS** Ask God to help you to treat Jesus' authority with the respect it deserves. If you are not Jewish, thank God for graciously welcoming you into his house as a 'foreigner' (see Isaiah 56:3-5 in the appendix, p. 71).

## READING 2

## LUKE 20:9-18

And he began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. <sup>10</sup> When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>11</sup> And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>12</sup> And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. <sup>13</sup> Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.' <sup>14</sup> But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.' <sup>15</sup> And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? <sup>16</sup> He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Surely not!" <sup>17</sup> But he looked directly at them and said, "What then is this that is written:

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'?"

<sup>18</sup> Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

1. *Who do the owner, tenants, servants and son represent in Jesus' parable?*

2. *Who is Jesus addressing this parable to?*

3. *Jesus' listeners respond to his parable by saying, "Surely not!" (v. 16). Why did they find it hard to accept the point of this story?*

**PONDER** Jesus is a dangerous person to know. Even the nation which had been blessed by God for centuries (Israel) was at risk of being destroyed because of the way they were reacting to Jesus. Examine your response to Jesus. What would you like to change?

**PRAYER IDEAS** Ask God to help you to respect his son, instead of claiming the right to rule your life. Thank him for giving you the stone the builders rejected as your cornerstone.

### READING 3

LUKE 20:19-26

The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people.<sup>20</sup> So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.<sup>21</sup> So they asked him, "Teacher, we know that you speak and teach rightly, and show no partiality, but truly teach the way of God."<sup>22</sup> Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?"<sup>23</sup> But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them,<sup>24</sup> "Show me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's."<sup>25</sup> He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."<sup>26</sup> And they were not able in the presence of the people to catch him in what he said, but marveling at his answer they became silent.

1. *What tactics do the Jewish leaders employ to trap Jesus? Why do they want to trap him?*

2. *What does Jesus mean by "the things that are Caesar's" and "the things that are God's" (v. 25)?*

3. *What does Jesus tell them to do?*

4. *How do his questioners respond? Why do you think they respond in this way?*

**PONDER** Ironically, the spies in verse 21 sum up Jesus fairly accurately. How well do you stand firm in the 'ways of God' when you are under pressure from the world? Which things in your life are 'Caesar's' and which are God's?

**PRAYER IDEAS** Thank God for sending Jesus to teach his word with truth. Ask him to help you give to him all that is rightfully his.

### READING 4

LUKE 20:27-40

There came to him some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection,<sup>28</sup> and they asked him a question, saying,

"Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the widow and raise up