



Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

# THE DAILY READING BIBLE

JOHN 13-21

ISAIAH 1-12

PHILIPPIANS

60 daily readings with full Bible text

# THE DAILY READING BIBLE

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

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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 60 readings on John 13-21, Isaiah 1-12 and Philippians. 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 9**

**JOHN 13-21**

**ISAIAH 1-12**

**PHILIPPIANS**

*The Daily Reading Bible (Volume 9)*

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# INTRODUCTION

**R**eading 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 ninth volume contains 60 readings, all designed to be done in 15–20 minutes. These short 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 ninth volume includes:

- studies on John 13-21 (written by Peter Lin, senior minister at St Barnabas Anglican Church, Fairfield);
- studies on Isaiah 1-12 (written by Dave Starling, lecturer in theology and New Testament studies at Morling College); and
- studies on Philippians (written by Tim Thorburn, AFES senior staffworker at the University of Western Australia).

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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:**

# JOHN 13-21

## INTRODUCTION

Continuing on from volume 8 of *The Daily Reading Bible*, we pick up where we left off in John's Gospel at the end of the so-called 'Book of Signs'. In the 'Book of Signs', Jesus performed seven miracles (or 'signs'), all of which point to his identity. Now, in chapters 13-21 (the 'Book of Glory'), the focus is on his cross and resurrection.

We have set aside the first four readings as special Easter readings, one for each day from Thursday to Sunday. We invite you to make use of these studies to focus your mind over Easter. However, you may choose to do them at another time. The rest of the readings work through John 13-21 systematically.

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

*Father God,*

*I thank you for revealing your glory in the death of your Son. Help me today to receive your word, and to know your glory through him.*

*Amen.*

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

### READING 1

### JOHN 13:1-35 (EASTER THURSDAY)

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, <sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, <sup>4</sup> rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "What I am

doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." <sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup> When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup> If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your



feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. <sup>18</sup> I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' <sup>19</sup> I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. <sup>20</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

<sup>21</sup> After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." <sup>22</sup> The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. <sup>23</sup> One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table close to Jesus, <sup>24</sup> so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. <sup>25</sup> So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. <sup>27</sup> Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." <sup>28</sup> Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. <sup>29</sup> Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. <sup>30</sup> So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, yet a little while

I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

*John's account of the events of Easter Thursday is found in chapters 13-17. This means that nearly one quarter of John's Gospel is given over to this one meal on the night before Good Friday. Read the passage through and then look at the questions, which are based on verses 1-5 and 31-35.*

1. What did Jesus know (vv. 1, 3)?
2. What did Jesus do?
3. Why did Jesus do this?
4. Read verses 31-35. What is the command, and how is it related to the events of Thursday night?

**PONDER** Re-read verse 31. How is the Son of Man glorified "now"? When is "now"?

**PRAYER IDEAS** Think about a situation in which you could love a brother or sister *just as Christ has loved you*. Pray for the strength and humility to do so.

## Psalm 22

To the choirmaster: according to The Doe of the Dawn. A Psalm of David.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from saving me,  
from the words of my groaning?

<sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,  
and by night, but I find no rest.

<sup>3</sup> Yet you are holy,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> In you our fathers trusted;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.

<sup>5</sup> To you they cried and were rescued;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

<sup>6</sup> But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

<sup>7</sup> All who see me mock me;  
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

<sup>8</sup> "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;  
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

<sup>9</sup> Yet you are he who took me from the womb;  
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

<sup>10</sup> On you was I cast from my birth,  
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

<sup>11</sup> Be not far from me,  
for trouble is near,  
and there is none to help.

<sup>12</sup> Many bulls encompass me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

<sup>13</sup> they open wide their mouths at me,  
like a ravening and roaring lion.

<sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax;  
it is melted within my breast;

<sup>15</sup> my strength is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.

<sup>16</sup> For dogs encompass me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me;  
they have pierced my hands and feet—

<sup>17</sup> I can count all my bones—  
they stare and gloat over me;

<sup>18</sup> they divide my garments among them,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.

<sup>19</sup> But you, O LORD, do not be far off!  
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

<sup>20</sup> Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of the dog!

<sup>21</sup> Save me from the mouth of the lion!  
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

<sup>22</sup> I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

<sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,  
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

<sup>24</sup> For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted,  
and he has not hidden his face from him,  
but has heard, when he cried to him.

<sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

<sup>26</sup> The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!  
May your hearts live forever!