

## Don't Go Looking

**Monday, 9/28/09 – Read Ephesians 1:3-10, 17-23**

My Observations \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: Is there some outcome to which God is leading the creation? What do we have to look forward to? ... We all want to know how it's all going to turn out. ... This week we're going to read through some of what the Bible (and especially Jesus!) has to say about all this. ... Today's reading begins with God's eternal plan (Ephesians 1:9-10) -- which is to unify all things in Christ. And then in 1:18 prays that we may know the hope to which we have been called. ... We live in a fractured and fragmented world. We all long for unification. What specifically would you like to see unified? A broken relationship? Conflict between nations? The rift between humans and the planet? ... Can you live by hope that God is working to re-unify all these things? Will you work for that?

**Tuesday, 9/29/09 – Read Revelation 7:1-17 and 21:1-5a**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: Today's reading is two visions of God's final consummation. They are not so much literal descriptions as they are spiritual pictures that portray God's ultimate goal - the unification of humanity in harmony. ... Read through these descriptions quickly; don't focus on the details as much as let yourself be touched by the feelings expressed. ... What feelings do you have when you read these passages? Do they inspire hope in you? Jot down your reactions.

**Wednesday, 9/30/09 – Read Luke 17:20- 21**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: Perhaps THE central idea in the teachings of Jesus is the Kingdom of God. During his lifetime, Jesus' contemporaries thought of the Kingdom as God's great culmination -- the end of the world and the establishment of God's final reign. Jesus consistently challenged their understanding, reinterpreting and redefining this notion of Kingdom of God. ... In today's verses, Jesus says that God's reign IS here now. It is **within** you and **among** you. ... In your own life, where do you see God's Kingdom? Where do you see God's good purposes happening? In your own life? In your relationships? In the world? Write them down.

**Thursday, 10/1/09 – Read Luke 17:22-25**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: Some people get fascinated with speculations about the end of the world. Over and over predictions have surfaced which have captured people's imagination, and some people have even gone to some special place to wait for "the end." ... Jesus' instructions, however, are very clear. Jesus said that, when you hear of such speculative predictions, **DON'T GO LOOK**. Why do you think Jesus gave this instruction? ... Do you find yourself getting caught up in speculations? Is Jesus' instruction helpful to you?

**Friday, 10/2/09 – Read Matthew 24:34-36**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: According to Jesus, speculations about the timing of the end of the world are utterly futile. They are futile because no one knows. The angels don't know. And Jesus says that even he doesn't know. Only God the Father

knows. ... Living faithfully in relationship to God is not a matter of knowing when the end will come. It is all about responding faithfully right now. What do you think God is asking you to do in your life right now? ... Write down one thing you can do today to live more faithfully.

---

---

---

---

**Saturday, 10/3/09 – Read Matthew 25:1-13**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: In Jesus' story about the bridesmaids, the bridegroom arrives at an unexpected moment. And it is those bridesmaids who were ready who got to go into the party. It's not a threat. It is the way God's Kingdom arrives. There are moments when God's good purposes suddenly become possible. The challenge is to be ready to respond -- so that we be part of God's great party here and now. ... When have you sensed God's Kingdom presenting itself to you, inviting you to participate in God's party? Were you ready to respond?

---

---

---

---

**Sunday, 10/4/09 – Read Matthew 25:31-46**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: The Bible is clear. What's most important is not idle and futile speculations. What's important is the way we respond to one another, especially to the vulnerable and the marginal persons among us. ... Think about it for a moment. Who are the vulnerable and the marginal persons who have a place in your heart? What is one thing that you will do to respond to their needs?

---

---

---

---

## *My Faith Journal*, September 27, 2009

You Asked for It, #4:

### ***Don't Go Looking***

**What do I hear God saying to me today?**

Luke 17:20-25

Matthew 24:36

Matthew 25:31-46

**What action do I intend to take this week?**

*Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.*