



NO SERMON NOTES THIS WEEK

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE ON THE NEXT PAGE

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *June 5-10, 2023*

INTRODUCTION

"Nothing lasts forever."

Surely you've heard that famous adage. For the most part it's true; and if you have been on this earth long enough, you can give a number of examples to prove it. But there is one thing that will last forever: the Church. Just as Jesus predicted over 2000 years ago, the Church is still around today. But what does it mean to become part of the Church?

Monday: Matthew 16:13-18

Jesus makes a bold prediction about the formation of the church and that nothing will be able to stand in its way. This is one of the most significant prophecies in the entire Bible, because we are in some way a fulfillment of it. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of church?

Tuesday: Acts 1:6-8

Just before Jesus leaves the planet, he gathers with about 100 to 120 of his followers. Among the people with him are the 11 apostles (they replace Judas later), his mother Mary, and his brothers and sisters. He gathers them on a hillside and gives them final instructions (in Matthew we call it the great commission). Based on these instructions, what do you think is the mission of the church?

Wednesday: John 20:21-22

We are to continue the ministry that Jesus began and to represent Jesus in the world. Jesus devoted much of his time ministering to the poor, the marginalized, those forgotten by society. How are you continuing Jesus' ministry today?

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 12:27-30, Ephesians 4:11-13, Romans 12:6-8

Are you clear about which of these gifts the Spirit has given you? If not, ask one or more people who know you well what gifts they see in you or take a Spiritual Gift Assessment online. Once you have a sense of what your gifts are, how are you using those gifts to serve and build up the body of Christ?

Friday: Matthew 5:13-16

Have you ever flown over a city at night? Or driven along a highway from the dark countryside into the light of a city? Think about what it felt like to go from darkness to light. What are the dark corners of your neighborhood, city, and world that need to experience God's light? What can you do to help shine God's light into these dark corners?

MOVING FORWARD

As you reflect on last week's message and the role of the church in society, how might you work to show those in your influence what it looks like to be a follower of Christ? How do you think your actions might change others' perceptions of the church? What do you believe your role is to help the church to endure as Jesus said it will?