

¹Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
²but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

³He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.

⁴The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish."

Sermon Discussion Questions

“Raking is easy, but all you get is leaves; digging is hard, but you might find diamonds”

Getting Started:

1. What was most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon?

Digging Deeper:

1. When was the last time you've read the Bible from cover to cover? What attitudes or circumstances can easily keep us from making Scripture reading and meditation a central aspect of our lives?
 - a. What expectations do you normally approach scripture reading with? See Psa 1:3-4. What expectations about the 'law' (God's word) makes reading and meditating a delight? Do you share in the psalmist's enthusiasm?
2. Someone new to the Christian faith asks you, “what is your process in having a fruitful time in God's word?” What advice would you give them in this lifelong discipline?
3. See Psalm 1:2 and discuss the following quote: “The reason we come away so cold from reading the word is because we do not warm ourselves at the fire of meditation...[meditation is] the missing link between Bible intake and prayer.” What does meditation look like in your day to day?
 - a. See Josh 1:6-9. What function did meditation play in God's calling of Joshua? How do you see effects of meditation in other areas of life?
4. See Matt 5:1-11. “I would expect Jesus to have said something about being blessed by reading scripture, did he forget?” How would you respond? See Psalm 19:7-11 for help.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit:

5. Pray for your life group to be a place where scripture reading and meditating is central.
 - a. For the Spirit to bless your discipline in reading and meditating in God's word this year. To change your heart from mere duty to full delight.
 - b. Confess any dryness, boredom, distrust, animosity, apathy, or other sinful motivations and reluctance in wanting to read and pray daily.