



**COLLEGE HEIGHTS
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Leftovers

Daily Scripture Readings for
November 13-24

Leftovers are what you eat when you have extra food. We have leftover night at our house every so often, and the mix of food you eat for dinner can get a little odd. Tacos with a side of mac n cheese? Awesome. A little spaghetti with a side of lima beans? Absolutely. A piece of pizza and some soup? Yum.

What we are reading for the next couple of weeks are leftovers from 2019. While I'm on vacation, we will read various passages of the Bible from several books that are not regularly read. What this will do is allow us to read at least one passage from all 66 books of the Bible this year if you have been reading along all year.

Leftovers are not bad food. They just end up being an eclectic mix for dinner. Join me between now and Advent to enjoy our leftovers.

Wednesday, November 13 - Genesis 16

We are continuing through Genesis tonight by looking at the relationship between Abraham and Ishmael. It is very clear in these chapters of Genesis that God does not forget about Ishmael, so we shouldn't either. What is the relationship between Abraham and Ishmael? What becomes of Ishmael? See you tonight.

Thursday, November 14 - Leviticus 19:2

A simple definition many Christians use for holy is set apart. This is a good description of what it means to be holy. We are to be special. We are to be different. We are to be blameless. We are to be without blemish. Our verse today answers the question why. Why are Christians supposed to be holy? Because God is holy. Why does God want us to be set apart? Because God is set apart. Following God means we have made the decision to listen to him and do as he wills. We have decided that the best thing we can do is imitate him. God is most certainly holy. We are called to be like him. What areas of your life do you need to let God work? Where do you need to let him light up the darkness and be set apart, different, holy? Pray today that you allow God to light up the darkness in your life.

Friday, November 15 - Ezra 8:21-23

Do you believe in the power of prayer? I hope so. Ezra believed so much in the power of prayer that when it was time for him to lead a group of Israelites back home after exile, instead of soldiers to protect them, he and the people prayed and fasted. In what do you trust more: the things of this earth or the things of God? I not only hope that you confidently say God, but that your actions show that you trust more in God.

Why can you trust in God? Verse 23 makes it clear. God hears the prayers of his people. God will never leave you nor forsake you. On what journey in life are you embarking at the moment? As you start to worry about making sure you have everything taken care of, stop and pray. Stop to fast. Just stop to know that God is there with you. God will protect you along the way.

Saturday, November 16 - Galatians 3:26-29

I hope that you have been enjoying the video series, *Undivided*, that we have been watching on Sunday nights. Today is the first day we have been able to read a Bible passage about the series. A reminder of these famous verses is important. We are all children of God. There is no longer divisions among us because we are all equal under the lordship of Jesus. Michael will be leading the discussion tomorrow evening, so I hope you will join him.

Sunday, November 17 - Psalm 24

One of my favorite Psalms is Psalm 24. It is regularly my prayer for me to have clean hands, a pure heart, and let me be a person who regularly seeks God's face. I will miss you in worship today. Seek God's face this morning.

Monday, November 18 - Philemon

This week, our leftovers will consist of several small letters in the New Testament. We call them small but in actuality, these letters are normal lengths, while many of our New Testament letters are super sized.

The heart of the letter to Philemon from Paul is found in verses 8-10. Paul appeals to Philemon, the owner of a runaway slave, Onesimus, to accept Onesimus back with no punishment because of love. If indeed punishment is necessary, Paul requests that Philemon charge that punishment to Paul in verse 18. Paul is urging Philemon to accept Onesimus, not as a slave, but as a brother. While not forcing Philemon to free Onesimus, Paul encourages Philemon to emancipate the runaway slave.

One application I want you to see from this letter is the message of forgiveness. Paul implores Philemon to forgive Onesimus. While he doesn't state it this way, you can hear in the background "Forgive him as Christ has forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13). This is how we should forgive other people as well. Onesimus has no rights and Philemon can do whatever he wants to him according to the law. Paul says forgive him. Who doesn't deserve forgiveness or require forgiveness to whom you need to give forgiveness? Give that person a call today and forgive them.

Tuesday, November 19 - 3 John

Third John is the shortest and potentially simplest book of the New Testament. It deals with one issue and that is the issue of hospitality. Diotrephes seems to not be participating in Christian hospitality, so the elder writes to another leader Gaius in order to correct this issue. Gaius is commended for his acts of hospitality. Hospitality was necessary for traveling preachers/teachers/messengers in the first century. It would have been expected for a church to provide accommodations for these itinerant speakers.

What should hospitality look like today? We should be ready to take care of others in whatever ways are necessary. Gaius is commended for showing love and taking care of the traveling teachers. Diotrephes is the villain of the letter and called selfish for denying hospitality to others. Are you hospitable to people? Pray for God to give you a spirit of hospitality.

Wednesday, November 20 - Genesis 22:1-19

Even though I will not be teaching tonight, the study through Genesis will continue. Last week, we focused on Abraham with his oldest son, Ishmael. This week you will spend time focusing on the relationship of Abraham and the chosen son, Isaac.

Thursday, November 21 - Jude

Hey, Jude! There's a lot going on in this letter which Jude assumes we already know. Verses 5-16 are filled with illustrations from the Old Testament, as well as extra illustrations from Old Testament times, but not found in the Old Testament. These non-Old Testament illustrations cause concern for many Protestant readers, so we avoid reading Jude regularly. However, focusing on these illustrations misses the point of Jude entirely. These illustrations provide support for Jude's main reason for writing, which is to warn the letter readers of false teachers who have "infiltrated" their congregation. The instructions for what to do come in verses 17-23. Essentially, what Jude implores his readers to do is to hold strong to the faith, continue growing in their faith with Christ, and ignore those who are trying to cause divisions.

That is a hard work to accomplish, but I believe that should be our task as well. The saying "the squeaky wheel gets the oil" is something we must guard against. Too often, in order to appease those with the loudest voices, we do what that person wants to do instead of doing what God wants the church to do. Verses 20-21 tell us what to do while invoking the name of all three persons of the Trinity. Instead of focusing on those causing divisions, let's focus on God and the faith we have in him. It is through

God who the church must put its trust in while the world tries to tear the church apart. Are you focused on a glorious God or the intruders who slander the saints?

Friday, November 22 - Song of Solomon 2:1-4

Here's what I will tell you about Song of Solomon: it reads more like a grocery store, checkout line, trashy novel than a book of the Bible. Frankly, when I read this book, I feel uncomfortable. The book is a song-poem, and while you can make connections of the love God has for us, it is more than likely written in the setting of a relationship between a man and a woman. The passage we read today has been used as a basis for at least two hymns, one in our Baptist Hymnal. We sing this love song to Jesus in our hymn *The Lily of the Valley*. A second hymn is traditionally seen more of a kids song when we sing about *His Banner Over Me is Love*.

What we can learn when we read through Song of Solomon is that relationships are intimate. Not just in a sexual way between husband and wife, but in a spiritual way in lots of close relationships. Love is shared and must be an intimate love for a relationship to flourish. For life to be meaningful, we need to share it with others. We are not created to be isolated. God says in Genesis 2:18 "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." Today, go join with somebody for lunch. Go visit each other. Go help each other shop or start cooking for Thanksgiving. Share with each other. Love each other as God has first loved you.

Saturday, November 23 - Acts 17:22-34

Once again, Michael will be leading you in the week 4 discussion of Undivided. I hope the first three weeks have been instructive, worshipful, and meaningful for you. I love this sermon that Paul gives in Athens. It is crafted specifically for these people. It has taken thought and planning, and Paul takes this work seriously. Paul is preaching to people unlike him and is finding a way to speak to them in their language to tell them about Jesus. That's what we need to do as well. We must be speaking to a culture that

we are not part of in a way that they can understand, in order to tell them the good news about Jesus. I hope you come tomorrow night to learn how you can intentionally cross the dividing lines in our society to tell others about Jesus.

Sunday, November 24 - Psalm 25:1-5

“To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame.” Let this be your prayer as you prepare yourself for worship this morning.