

A Message from Guest Speaker Julian Adams – September 29 & 30, 2018
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: Numbers 24:1-14

- Set the scene for Balaam, a non-Israelite diviner (1-2). In chapter 22, the Holy Spirit came on Balaam's *donkey* (yes, his donkey), and now he was on Balaam himself. What do you think of this? Who or what today is most unlikely to be filled with the Spirit?
- Summarize Balaam's prophetic word to Balak, king of Moab (3-9). While the king wanted Balaam to curse the displaced Israelites, Balaam knew "it pleased the Lord to bless Israel." Recall times the Holy Spirit used you to bless others, especially when it took courage. May God do this even more in your life!
- Describe Balak's reaction to Balaam's prophetic word (10-11). And how did Balaam respond to Balak's anger (12-14)? Typical of his activity in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit *temporarily* came on Balaam. Today, the Spirit moves into our hearts to stay. How can you make him feel at home? Pray that in everything you do, it would be not of your own accord, but of the Spirit's.

Day Two: Isaiah 61

- Why does Isaiah sense the Holy Spirit is upon him (1-3)? In Luke, Jesus proclaims verses 1-2 about himself. What about you? Which of these anointings are you walking out? Meditate on this phrase: "the oil of joy instead of mourning." How is being one of God's children like an "oil of joy"? How do you display this joy – a fruit of the Holy Spirit – to the world?
- Describe the future identity of the grief-stricken (3-7). Despite life's hardships, what tastes do you have of this future identity? What makes this "steak on the plate while we wait" possible?
- Why is God faithful to do all these things (8-9)? How does his everlasting covenant and blessing impact your life now? There's always more to be had; tell God what you need more of today. What picture of joy – something more profound than an emotion – does the prophet then paint (10-11)? Paint your own word picture of Holy Spirit-given joy, and read it aloud to the Lord.

Day Three: Matthew 3:13-17

- Set the scene of this text (13). Describe Jesus and John's interaction (14-15). What do you think Jesus meant by "fulfill all righteousness"? Visualize John during this exchange: what facial expressions, body language, tone of voice, etc. do you observe?
- Describe what happened just after Jesus was baptized (16-17). Instead of water, wind or fire, why do you think the Holy Spirit appeared as a dove on this occasion? Close your eyes and imagine the Spirit resting on you like this. How does it feel?
- What did the "voice from heaven" say (17)? Notice God felt this way about Jesus *before* he unleashed his extraordinary ministry. Simply because of being his child, God loved and was pleased with Jesus. The Father feels the same way about you! Take a moment now to allow the Holy Spirit to kiss your soul with the truth that as God's child, you are loved and he takes pleasure in you.

Day Four: Mark 5:1-20

- What is the setting of this passage (1)? Describe the man Jesus met upon getting out of the boat (2-5). What is your immediate response to this man? Now, slow down a bit.

What is your emotional and spiritual response to him? Could you imagine spending time with him? What hope do you have for him?

- How did the man act around Jesus (6-7)? Why (8)? Describe Jesus' authority over the demons (9-13). What did the witnesses then do (14-17)? Instead of celebrating this breakthrough and welcoming more miracles, why do you think the people begged Jesus to leave? Consider your own responses to miracles and spiritual breakthroughs. Are you or are you not on God's side?
- What did the delivered man beg of Jesus (18)? What did Jesus tell him to do instead (19-20)? Consider the reaction to the man's testimony: people were *amazed*. May you always pursue the kindness and power of God and may it always amaze you.

Day Five: Luke 11:5-13

- Summarize the story Jesus tells in verses 5-8. Imagine yourself so desperate that you knock on a friend's door at midnight. For what reasons would you ever do such a thing? What response would you expect? What is Jesus trying to tell us about prayer? How can you be "shamelessly audacious" when you pray?
- Jesus then breaks down the symbolism of the story. What did he say (9-10)? Ask God to speak this truth to your heart: his kingdom is always increasing. Respond in faith by telling him what you need, what you want to find and what you hope will be opened.
- What did Jesus say about earthly fathers (11-13)? How does our Heavenly Father compare (13)? Press further into the above prompt: ask God to plant a "how much more will he give" expectation in your heart whenever you pray. Pray for more of the Spirit, more prophecy, more words of knowledge, more divine healing. Pray for more of it all! And don't stop!