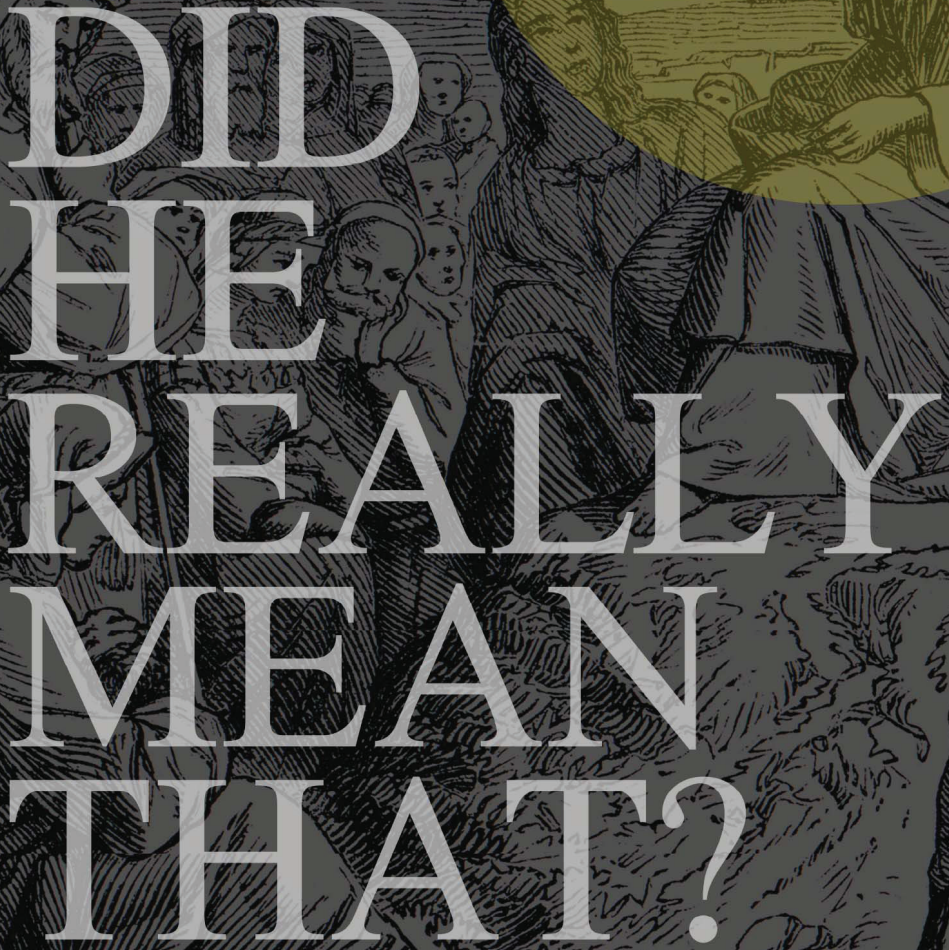


17
Proximity
and Planks



DID HE REALLY MEAN THAT?

A STUDY ON THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

I N T R O D U C T I O N

At Beaches Vineyard Church, our vision is to share the love and power of Christ's kingdom with everyone, everywhere, every day. Given the boldness of such a statement, we recognize that to do this there must be a transformative work that takes place in the depths of our lives.

What this booklet is intended to do is provide you with a suggested prayer path that will help nourish this level of transformation. In this booklet, we have offered set times of prayer and reflection around the vision and values of Beaches Vineyard Church. There are seven days of prayer content, with two prayer and reflection times each day, totaling fourteen crafted prayer times.

We hope that through the Holy Spirit, God will renew your heart and mind in each aspect of your time with Him.

**To listen to corresponding teachings visit us online at
beachesvineyard.net/vision_teaching**

MORNING

READ | Matthew 7: 1-6

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

- Matthew 7: 1-6

PRAY: Father God, I begin my week aware and open to your invitation to me to become free of my judgmentalism. Help me notice the ways the Holy Spirit will be coaching me in this and give me a heart willing to respond and remove my planks that harm and distance me from others. Thank you for your grace in the midst of my process.

EVENING

REFLECT: Make yourself aware of God's presence. Look back on your day with God. From God's perspective, what was significant about today?

MORNING

READ | Romans 2

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

- Romans 2

PRAY: Father God, thank you for the way you are relentlessly patient and kind with us in our failings and hypocrisy. Today, may I embrace your vast and deep loving kindness, and may I allow this to change my life, my thoughts, my actions and my treatment of others. May my life be a response to your kindness in all I do.

EVENING

REFLECT: Make yourself aware of God's presence. Look back on your day with God. From God's perspective, what was significant about today?

MORNING

READ | John 8: 2-11

At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

PRAY: Father God, speak to me through Jesus today, and his example of siding with victims of judgementalism and injustice. Help me become more Christ-like in the way I respond to people with different opinions and agendas to me. Teach me what a life free from condemnation can be like.

THURSDAY | December 2nd

MORNING

READ | John 12

Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. he one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. "If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.

- John 12

PRAY: Father God, I breathe in the truth of your own declaration through Jesus: "I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world". Jesus, I embrace your saving power and shake off the fears of judgement that weigh me down. Holy Spirit reveal this truth more and more to me today.

EVENING

REFLECT: Make yourself aware of God's presence. How did the Holy Spirit reveal more of Jesus' heart to save the world not judge the world get revealed to you today? Where did you reflect this heart of saving love towards others?

MORNING

READ | Matthew 7: 3-4

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?"

- Matthew 7: 3-4

PRAY: Father God, reveal to me my own blind spots and any planks you'd like to help me remove today. Holy Spirit, heal and free me from my damaging judgments that distance me from knowing and loving others. Jesus, help me walk in freedom today.

EVENING

REFLECT: Make yourself aware of God's presence. From God's perspective, what is he highlighting as being significant about today? Where was there an invitation to remove a plank from your eye?

SATURDAY | December 4th

MORNING

READ | Matthew 7:5

You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

- Matthew 7:5

PRAY: Father God, thank you for the grace available to us to have planks removed from our eyes. Thank you for the opportunity we can have to help brothers and sisters find more freedom and truth even as we receive the same. May I never point out a "speck" before accepting your refining healing in my life first.

EVENING

REFLECT: Make yourself aware of God's presence. From God's perspective, what is he highlighting as being significant about today? From the perspective of brothers and sisters in the faith around me, where did my life bless them?

MORNING

Look back at all the verses, prayers and meditations this week. Spend some additional time with whatever was most helpful.

PRAY: Holy Spirit speak to me once again through the words of Scripture that I might encounter Jesus and know the love of the Father better.

EVENING

REFLECT: Who can you connect with and close the proximity gap with? Spend some time messaging, speaking to or visiting with someone you feel led to show love to.



Beaches Vineyard
CHURCH

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