

EAT · BREATHE · & PRAY



JOURNAL

Prioritise your day around God's word and His presence



VOLUME 3

This Journal Belongs To....

'This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for Yahweh your God is with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1:8-9

Welcome

To your Thematic Journey Through The Bible In One Year
Journal!

I'm so excited to be bringing this Eat Breathe & Pray Journal to
you!

You are about to embark on an exciting journey into a much
greater understanding of, and familiarity with the Word of God,
and a deeper awareness of His presence, both with you and in
you.

I've designed this journal to help you prioritise the time You
spend in God's Word and in His presence, as you read through
God's Word in one year; and to help you keep a record of the
focus of your prayer life from day to day, and throughout the
year, so you can see how that focus changes as you spend
more time in His word and in His presence; and begin to co-
labour with Abba Father in prayer.

I love and appreciate you so much!
Be blessed, and be a blessing!

Jenner

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Undated Planner

This planner has been left undated so that you can start your Thematic Journey Through The Bible In One Year at any time. You can pick up wherever we're at with the live broadcasts, or start from the beginning, and listen along with the recordings.

The year is broken up into 4 quarters of 3 Journals: 31 days, 30 days and 30 days; Journal 12 will have 30 days +1 to make up 365 calendar days.

When starting at the beginning, the date that you start your journey on becomes Day 1 in your journal.

There are five **The Week Of** pages at the end of each journal; these give you the week-in-view on one side and an I Get To Do list on the other, and can be placed at the beginning of each calendar week throughout the journal.

Day 1 – Genesis 1-3

Daily Planner *Satur day: July 19*

You will need to fill in the **Year**-in View and **Month**-in-View based on the Year and month that you start.

Month *July* Year *2026*

Many of the journals will need to incorporate dates from two months, either starting with a few days from the previous month, or ending with days from the next month.

Start your thematic journey through the Bible whenever you are ready!

24-Hour Planner

The 24-Hour Day Planner is to help you prioritize your day around spending time in God's Word and in His presence; and to provide a place for you to record the times God calls you to pray with Him, no matter what the time, day or night.

Use your planner to schedule the journal elements you want to include in your day.

Start slowly with as many as you're comfortable with, and build from there.

The more time you spend in God's word and in His presence, the more elements you will want to incorporate into your day.

Prayer Focus

A Prayer Focus is the conversation that is going on throughout the day between your spirit and the Spirit of God. This conversation occurs in the background as we go about our day, but by intentionally bringing that conversation to the forefront of our attention, we start to actively co-labor with Yahweh to pray what is on His heart for that day.

There are two pages at the end of each day to record the focus of your prayers, so that over the year, as you spend more time in God's word and His presence, you can see how the focus of your prayers change from being needs/requests focused to praying from the heart of the Father God.

Bible Reading

This is a daily thematic journey through the Bible in one year. These readings are divided up into seven themed groups; the books of the Law, The books of History, the Psalms, The Books of Poetry, The books of Prophecy, the Gospels, and The Epistles. Read the daily passages from Scripture in your own time or join us online on the Eat Breathe & Pray Journal YouTube Channel, Facebook page, or Podcast.

Memory Verse

There is a memory verse provided for each day; You choose how many you want to memorize. One per week equals 52 verses by the end of the year; one per day will be 364 verses. You choose what works for you.

Bible Study

These Bible studies are not designed to spoon-feed you what we want you to know about the Word of God, but rather to stimulate a hunger for the Word, and encourage you to delve into the study of the Word for yourself. Each Bible study gives you the opportunity to delve deeper into the readings for that day. Please give yourself time to make notes of what Yahweh highlights to you, and to read the verses that are mentioned in each study, as well as researching and answering the questions for each day.

Daily Devotion

Make time for the Devotional when you can still yourself in God's presence and meditate on His word. There are scripture references in each devotion that you will need to look up and read for yourself; these are key verses for gaining understanding in each devotion.

Year At

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

February

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March

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April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

A Glance

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

Month:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday

Year:

Thursday	Friday	Saturday

My Focus:

[illegible]

This Month

Personal Goals

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- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Health Goals

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Important Dates

To Do List

Day 62 – Matthew 23–25

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*Therefore holy brothers, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession - Jesus.
(Hebrews 3:1) Meditate on this.*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

And at that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will deceive many. And because lawlessness is multiplied, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

Matthew 24:10-13

Daily Devotion

"...but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps." Matthew 25:4

Are you a prepper? No, I'm not talking about having a bunker and armory in your back yard, and enough pemmican to last the Apocalypse. This is about preparing our hearts for the days that are coming, and are even now upon us. It's not global disaster we are to prepare for, but the coming of the Bridegroom.

The above verse comes as a part of Jesus' response to the disciples' question in Matthew 24:3b, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age"? Jesus thought the question important enough that His answer fills the next two chapters. And a part of that answer is this parable of the ten virgins, the five wise and the five foolish.

They were all waiting for the coming of the Bridegroom. They each had their lamps, with the wicks trimmed and filled with oil. That should have been enough, shouldn't it? Surely they didn't need to go overboard with this thing, did they? I mean, how much time and effort does the Bridegroom expect them to put in? They have lives to live after all, they can't be thinking about Him continually ...can they? Something I say frequently is, "The job isn't done until it's done."

We need to prepare our hearts and minds and souls to endure to the very end (Matthew 24:10-13). Only the five wise virgins had prepared themselves to wait until the end for the Bridegroom to arrive; to have enough fuel in the tank to keep on going. Are you filling your flask with extra oil and taking that into each day with you? So that your light will shine even in the darkness of the last hour, and moment, before His return? Are you prepared to stay the course to the end?

Prayer: Abba Father, I want to be filled to overflowing with You, and the fruit of Your Holy Spirit. To be prepared each day to see it through to the end; whether the end of my days, or the day of Your return. Lord, I choose to keep my love burning brightly for You until I see You face to face. Amen.

Bible Study

"Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of of Your coming and of the end of the age?" Matthew 24:3b

This is a great question and one that Jesus took so seriously that the next two chapters are needed for His answer, but despite His detailed answer, it is still being asked to this day. Why? Part of the reason is that we in the church tend to pick and choose the parts of Scripture that we focus on or teach from. The parables that come up in the next two chapters are a good example of this. We look at these parables, study them and teach from them, but forget that they are spoken as a part of the answer to the question, *"...when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?"* We don't look at them in the context of Jesus' whole response. We tend to think of them as being about access into heaven, and therefore we look at them in the light of 'salvation', the 'saved', and the 'unsaved'; rather than as Jesus said at the beginning of many of His parables, "The kingdom of heaven can be compared to..."

One of the reasons we keep asking this question is because we're looking at the Scriptures through the light of a misconception that has become so prevalent in the church that it is actually accepted as Scriptural truth — the concept of heaven as being a place "out there" where God dwells. This concept is one that does not appear in Hebrew thinking, but it has been superimposed on the Scriptures in recent history and because of it, we have our eyes focused on some place, way out there, beyond the earthly realm where we will one day go to be with God. Because of this thinking, we forget that Jesus said, *"...the kingdom of heaven is in your midst"* (Luke 17:21 NIV), and, *"...the kingdom of heaven is already among you"* (Luke 7:21 NLT), and, *"...heaven's kingdom realm is accessible, close enough to touch"* (Matthew 10:7-8 TPT), and, *"...the kingdom of heaven is at hand"* (Matthew 10:7-8 NASB95), and, *"...Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"* (Matthew 6:10 LSB).

Heaven is not a place "out there". Heaven is where God is, His presence. While we have our eyes and heart focused "out there", on a place that God will take us to at some future time, we fail to see the signs of God's kingdom, the kingdom of heaven, in the here and now. Search the Scriptures, ask the questions, recognise what is true and Scriptural in our thinking, and what are the traditions of man that can and will lead us astray.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. What other example can you think of where we have imposed the traditions of man onto Scripture?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

[illegible]

[illegible]

Day 63 – 1 Corinthians 1-2

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Get lost in the depths of the goodness and gentleness of God. float there for a moment and allow His love to wash over you.

Notes:

Memory Verse:

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased, through the foolishness of the message preached, to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." 1 Corinthians 1:21-24

Daily Devotion

"But to us God revealed them through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God." 1 Corinthians 2:10

I want you to read that verse again, sit with it for a moment and let it sink in... What is it that God's Spirit reveals to us? *"Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him."* (1 Corinthians 2:9b, Isaiah 54:4). Now, read that verse again... and let it sink in again, ever deeper... To us are being revealed the wisdom and wonder, and depths of God Himself (1 Corinthians 2:6-16).

How hungry are you to know more of Him? Do not feel presumptuous in seeking out the wisdom and depths of God. *"For it is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings to search out a matter"* (Proverbs 25:2), and God delights in our pursuit of Him (Hebrews 11:6, Jeremiah 29:13-14a).

Prayer: Abba Father, I just want to thank You for Your mind-blowing generosity toward me. It would have been enough for me to know Your salvation in Christ Jesus, but You went so much further and gave me Your Spirit, the Spirit of the living God, who raised Jesus from the dead. And with Your Spirit, the revelation of the depths and riches of who You are, and the mind of Christ. Help me Abba, to comprehend the fullness of the riches that You have poured out to me and in me, so that I may avail myself of all that You have given me, so that Your name may be glorified. Amen.

Bible Study

"so that no man may boast before God. " 1 Corinthians 1:29

In 1 Corinthians 1:23 Paul says, *"but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness"*, and in 1 Corinthians 2:2, *"For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified"*, and again, *"so that, just as it is written, 'Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord'"* (1 Corinthians 1:31, Jeremiah 9:23-24).

Jesus referred to Himself as, *"the way, and the truth, and the life"* (John 14:6, emphasis added); also, *"I am the light of the world"* (John 8:12, 9:5, emphasis added). John also refers to Jesus as the Word (the Word is truth), and the Light (John 1:1-13). Jesus is the Truth and the Light. If what we are preaching and teaching is Jesus, and Him crucified, then we are preaching Truth and Light - Truth and Light that is a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Greeks (Gentiles).

How is He a stumbling block to the Jews? Because light casts shadows and the brighter the light, the darker the shadow. The Jews had put the Law between them and God, hoping to attain righteousness by their own works and adding to the Law a burden of commands, traditions of man, that God had not spoken. When Jesus, the Light of the world came, His Light cast them into darkness, and they stumbled.

How is He foolishness to the Greeks? Because the Truth of God is beyond the comprehension of the wisdom of mankind, and therefore appears to be foolishness.

So how do we attain the Truth? We find the answer to this question in 1 Corinthians 2:16, *"For who has known the mind of the Lord, that He will direct them? But we have the mind of Christ"*.

So to those who have turned their face towards God, they find Light and Truth, but to those who have turned their face away from God to other things, they find the darkness of their own shadow, and foolishness because they cannot comprehend the Truth.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. What do we have to boast in, before the LORD?
2. Where do we see truth and light referred to in Psalms?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

[illegible]

Prayer Focus

date: _____

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Day 64 – Genesis 36–39

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Try lying on your back, body relaxed, and allow yourself to focus on God. But do not close your eyes; be awake and aware as you allow yourself to relax, and your heart and mind to seek God.

Notes:

Memory Verse

"Then Esau took his wives and his sons and his daughters and all his household, and his livestock and all his cattle and all his acquired goods, which he had accumulated in the land of Canaan, and he went to a land away from his brother Jacob. For their possessions had become too great for them to live together, and the land where they sojourned could not sustain them because of their livestock." Genesis 36:6-7

Daily Devotion

"Then let us see what will become of his dreams!" Genesis 37:20b

I have been asked several times recently why there is so much anti-Israel sentiment in the world today.

This passage may help to bring some light to that question:

1. Israel used Joseph to check on his brothers (Genesis 37:2, 12-15). Israel would send Joseph out into the field to check on his brothers, and Joseph would report back to Israel whatever he saw. The report was not good. God uses the nation and descendants of Israel as the 'touchstone' for how the nations of the world will be judged (Genesis 12:3, 28:14, Matthew 25:31-46, Psalm 9:17-20).
2. Israel loved Joseph more than his brothers (Genesis 37:3-4, 34-35). The land of Israel is the apple of God's eye. And the people of Israel are His chosen people (Isaiah 5:7, 41:8-10, 62:1-4, Zechariah 2:8 Leviticus 25:23, Deuteronomy 32:43) .
3. Joseph had dreams of grandeur (Genesis 37:5-11, 18-20). Joseph had prophetic dreams from God, telling him what was to come, that he would rule over his parents and his brothers. The people of Israel's claim to the land is based on the prophetic promises of God, the words He spoke to their forefathers (Genesis 12:1-3, 15:5-7, 17:1-8, 26:1-5, 27:10-15, 35:9-12).

Although Joseph's brothers were not friendly toward him, captured him and sold him into slavery, God's words and promises to him sustained Joseph. In fact, the actions of his brothers, though they thought they were bringing an end to Joseph's dreams, actually brought Joseph to exactly where God wanted him. Joseph's life was a prophetic "type" of the people of Israel, and of the Messiah.

Prayer: Abba Father, I thank you that it is Your word, and Your will that comes to pass in the life of Your children, and in the nations. That no matter how the enemy tries to stop Your word from being fulfilled, it will only serve to bring Your will to pass. That though the nations rage against You and Your anointed, You will establish Your King in Israel. Thank You that Your promises and words to me will come to pass so that I can walk out Your purpose for my life. Amen.

Bible Study

"But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of YHWH were prophets, that YHWH would put His Spirit upon them!'"
Numbers 11:29

The people of Israel are weeping and complaining because all they have to eat is manna, and are saying how much better things were in Egypt. Moses has had enough, and asks YHWH to take his life rather than allow him to suffer these people any longer. The response that Moses gets is to gather together seventy men whom he knows to be elders of the people and bring them to the tent of meeting, and YHWH will take some of His Spirit from Moses and place it upon the seventy men (Numbers 11:16-17).

There are some who would have gotten upset at the thought of their power and authority being shared with others, but Moses was glad to have others to help share the burden (Numbers 11:24-28). And this is where we came in: Moses' response to Joshua's concern shows just why he was called more humble than any man (Numbers 12:3). "Would that all the people of YHWH were prophets, that YHWH would put His Spirit upon them!" Here Moses is speaking prophetically about the time of the pouring out of the Spirit of YHWH upon Jesus' disciples in the upper room, and the subsequent baptism in the Holy Spirit that spread throughout the church and was seen as a sign of being a disciple of Jesus (Acts 1:5, 2:1-4, 38, 8:15-18, 10:44-45).

It is also a prophecy that would be restated by the prophet Joel, speaking of the end times, "...before the great and awesome day of YHWH comes" (Joel 2:28-32).

Discuss:

Questions:

1. What is a Scripture in the New Testament that says something similar to the principle we are seeing here?
2. Do you recognise this principle at work in your own life?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

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Day 65 – Ruth

Daily Planner day:

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Before you do or say anything, check in with Abba Father: enter the place of His presence and hear His heart on the matter; then speak or act in obedience with what you see and hear in His presence.

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"May YHWH fully repay your work, and may your wages be full from YHWH, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge." Ruth 2:12

Daily Devotion

"The name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife, Naomi; and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem in Judah. " Ruth 1:2a

The names of the characters and places in this account are interesting, because in a way they tell their story.

"My God is King" and "My delight", from the "House of Bread" in the land of "Praise", left because there was a famine in the land and settled in the land of "Who is your father?" with their two sons "Sickness" and "Wasting". While they were there, "My God is king" died. And "My delight" was left with her two sons who took wives for themselves: "The drooping of the neck" and "Companion and friend". And then "Sickness" and "Wasting" both died. So "My delight" decided to return to the "House of Bread" in the land of "Praise" because she had heard that YHWH had provided food for His people. "The drooping of the Neck" turned back and returned to her fathers house, but "Companion and friend" said, 'Do not press me to forsake you in turning back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may YHWH do to me, and more, if anything but death separates you and me'. So they both went on until they came to the "House of Bread" and the women there said, Is this "My Delight"? But she said to them, 'Do not call me "My Delight", but call me "Bitterness", for I went out full, but YHWH has brought me back empty.'" (Ruth 1:1-21)

Names are important to God, and they very often tell the story or destiny of a person, and sometimes God changes someone's name when He changes their story or destiny. Scripture also says that God calls us by name, and that He will give us a new name.

Prayer: Abba Father, thank You that my name is no accident, that the name I was given tells my story or destiny. Help me to walk out the story of the name You have given me, until You change my name or give me a new one. Amen.

Bible Study

"Why have I found favour in your sight that you should take notice of me, though I am a foreigner?" Ruth 2:10b

In Ruth 2:4-12, we read the account of Boaz' first meeting with Ruth. Ruth is surprised by Boaz' favour toward her but Boaz is not surprised to find her gleaning in his field. The light of God's favour on Ruth because of her faithfulness to Naomi, her mother-in-law, and the truth of her character and hard work have spread throughout the region. Before Boaz sees her for the first time, he has heard about her (Ruth 2:11). So when he sees the young woman working hard in his field, he suspects that it is this Ruth that he's been hearing about; and his servant who is in charge of the reapers confirms it (Ruth 2:5-7). Ruth has not heard about Boaz, but he has heard a lot about her.

When we walk in truth and light, the truth of our character and the light of God's favour go ahead of us to prepare the way for us, as God does exceedingly abundantly above what we can ask or think (Ephesians 3:20).

Discuss:

Questions:

1. At the time of Ruth and Boaz first meeting, do you think Ruth realized that the light of God's favor was on her?
2. Has there been a time in your life when you didn't realise God's favor until after the fact?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus date:

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Day 66 – Psalms 27–29

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Give your heart to me, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways.' Proverbs 23:26

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of YHWH in the land of the living. Hope in YHWH: be strong and let your heart take courage: hope in YHWH." Psalm 27:13-14

Daily Devotion

"Ascribe to YHWH, O sons of the mighty, ascribe to YHWH glory and strength. Ascribe to YHWH the glory of His name; worship YHWH in the splendor of holiness." Psalm 29:1-2

How do you see yourself when you present yourself before YHWH? Do you see yourself as sons of the Mighty? As clothed in the splendor of holiness? For me, this passage has much the same effect on me that I imagine the angel of YHWH's message to Gideon had on him (Judges 6:12). It causes me to see myself in a different light, to see myself as I am not yet but am capable of becoming, in Him. My expectation of myself gets cranked up a few notches based on God's expectation of me. When I read these verses, I see them like a military parade lined up in ranks, standing tall and straight in their splendid dress uniforms and proud to serve the the Almighty. Shouting out His name and His praises. GLORY (Psalm 29:3-9)!!!

"YHWH sat enthroned over the flood; indeed, YHWH sits as King forever. YHWH will give strength to His people; YHWH will bless His people with peace" Psalm 29:10-11.

Prayer: Abba Father, I want to see myself through Your eyes, to see who I am in You. A child of the Mighty, clothed in the majesty of holiness. A workman who need not be ashamed, presenting myself before Your throne as a living sacrifice, honoured to serve the King above all kings. Amen.

Bible Study

Psalm 27 is bookended with Light and Truth (and defence against lies). It starts with David's declaration, "YHWH is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? YHWH is the strong defence of my life; whom shall I dread?"
Psalm 27:1.

In Psalm 27:2-8, we see David's confidence in YHWH; and that his face is turned toward God (vs. 4, 8), the source of his confidence.

In Psalm 27:7-10, we see the extent to which he seeks after YHWH and clings to Him.

And in Psalm 27:11-14, we see him crying out to God for truth (verse 11) and defence against the lies of his enemies (vs. 12), and finally declaring that he will wait for YHWH (vs. 13-14).

This really is a snapshot of the life of King David.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. What is the pattern of David's life that we see in Psalm 27?
2. How can we learn from David's example?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Day 67 – Job 19–20

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*'We should seek not so much to pray but
to become prayer.' Francis of Assisi*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! That with an iron stylus and lead they were engraved in the rock forever!" Job

11:23-24

Daily Devotion

"Pity me, pity me, O my friends, for the hand of God has smitten me." Job 19:21

When we see someone going through it and struggling to cope, it can bring up in us many different and often contradictory feelings. We may start by feeling compassion but that can quickly wear thin and can be replaced with discomfort, impatience, frustration, or even the beginnings of judgement. Like Job's friends, we may even start to persecute those who are struggling, providing unsolicited advice that assumes or places blame for what they are enduring squarely on their shoulders, adding to the burden they are carrying (Job 19:22). Instead of giving them the pity they so need and deserve, we start to ask ourselves things like, "How much can one person actually be going through?", or, "They're just being dramatic or looking for attention". Or maybe we start to avoid making eye contact or engaging in conversation for fear of hearing about some new woe. I have to say, if I was in the place of Job's friends, it's very possible that I would behave just like them to join in the persecution of Job. Although it can be easy to judge Job's friends for their response to his suffering, we should be looking at them through eyes of compassion as well – it's easy to fall in line with what appears to be the consensus of opinion.

Prayer: Abba Father, the only opinion that matters is Yours. Help me to seek Your opinion on any matter before offering my own. Keep me from judging anyone else, for only You know their heart before You. Fill me to overflowing with Your compassion, so that it becomes the thing that motivates my thoughts and actions. Amen.

Bible Study

"As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will rise up over the dust of this world." Job 19:25

What an amazing statement of faith!

We have taken this verse and turned it into some of the most beautiful hymns and worship songs ever written but we can easily forget that this is a statement made by Job when he's at his lowest point and going through an intense test of his faith. So, let's take a deeper look at what Job is saying in this verse.

"As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives..." (verse 25a). When we look at the dictionary definition of the word redeemer, we find that it is a noun: 1. One who redeems. 2. Jesus. 3. Specifically, the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. But the term used here is more accurately translated as "kinsman redeemer". A kinsman redeemer is someone who is a near relative, who has the right or responsibility to act on behalf of a relative who is in trouble, danger, or in need of vindication. They can be called upon to redeem property, a person, or avenge the murder of a relative (Genesis 48:15-16, Exodus 6:6, Leviticus 25:47-55, 27:9-25, Numbers 35:16:21). Every aspect of Job's suffering is the right and responsibility of the kinsman redeemer to either redeem or vindicate. Job knows God as his Redeemer and that He will redeem all his possessions and vindicate the murder of his children, and even his own life if he doesn't survive. Everything that he has, and is, Job has placed in God's hands. But this concept of the kinsman redeemer is most clearly seen in Ruth 2:20-4:10, and also Isaiah 54:5.

Job is not just declaring that the truth will come out, but that he knows that it is God who will vindicate him. He is also declaring the depth of his relationship with God.

"...and at the last He will rise up over the dust of this world" (verse 25b). The concept of God coming to earth and dwelling among men is one that we see repeated throughout Scripture, from Genesis all the way through to Revelation (Genesis 3:5, Exodus 29:45-46, Leviticus 26:11, Numbers 35:34, 1 Kings 6:13, Ezekiel 37:27, 43:7, Zechariah 2:10-11, John 1:14, Revelation 21:3). And that when He comes, He will be a Light to His people (Revelation 21:22-22:5, Psalm 27:1, Isaiah 9:2, 60:1). Job knows that even if he is not vindicated in his own lifetime, that at the end when God takes His stand on the earth, then he will stand before God as one of His righteous ones.

God is truth, and the Revealer of truth who will vindicate him as his Kinsman Redeemer. And that even if his flesh has decayed in the grave, he will stand before Him who is the Light of the world who dwells among men, before Whom no unrighteousness can stand.

Again I say, what an amazing declaration of faith!

Discuss:

Question:

1. What is your declaration of faith?

Answer:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

date: _____

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

Day 68 – Isaiah 51–55

Daily Planner day:

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'Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man's power ends.' George Mueller

Notes:

Memory Verse:

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who proclaims good news, who announces peace and brings good news of good things, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!' Isaiah 52:7

Daily Devotion

"Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of YHWH; Awake as in the days of old, the generations of long ago." Isaiah 51:9a

I don't know about you, but this is a cry that very often crosses my lips. I cry out to God to act in power on my behalf, to move in power like He has in the past, as we read in the Scriptures. I cry out for Him to move on behalf of His people Israel, to move with His mighty right hand to protect and defend them.

But this is not the only time in this passage that we see this cry. The cry of, "Awake, awake", is echoed and we would do well to pay attention to it (Isaiah 52: 1-2). The cry, "Awake, awake", comes back to us from God Himself, and it's a call for the people of Israel, and us, to prepare ourselves for Him to answer our cry. To arise, shake off the dust and loosen our chains; to clothe ourselves with strength and put on our beautiful garments.

After crying out for so long for God to move, it would be a shame if we missed out when He does, because we aren't prepared for Him to answer, or we've fallen asleep in the waiting and have run out of oil for our lamps, or we have become entangled in the things of this world and unable to move when He says, "Arise", or we've clothed ourselves in the filthy rags of our own accomplishments instead of His righteousness.

If we are going to call on God to act on our behalf, we must also prepare ourselves and remain vigilant for the appointed time when He does so.

Prayer: Abba Father, I throw off a spirit of slumber and say to my soul, "Awake, awake"! Fill me with Your joy so I can clothe myself in Your strength as I put on the righteousness of Christ. Prepare my body, mind, soul and spirit for that moment when You move and answer the cry of my heart. Amen.

Bible Study

"Pay attention to Me, O My people, and give ear to Me, O My nation; for a law will go forth from Me, and I will set My justice for a light of the peoples. "
Isaiah 51:4

In Isaiah 51:1-7, we see God call for the attention of His people three times. And as we look at each one, we see a progression from those who pursue righteousness to those who know righteousness.

Many of Isaiah's prophecies speak directly of the Messiah and this one is no different.

"Listen to Me, you who pursue righteousness..." (Isaiah 51:1-2). To those who pursue righteousness He says, return to righteousness attained by faith rather than works of the Law, which is the blessing that comes from believing God (Romans 1:17, 3:20, 4:13, Philippians 3:9).

"Pay attention, O My people..." (Isaiah 51:4-5). These verses are speaking directly of the Messiah: Jesus, who spoke of the law of love, who fulfills both the Law and the prophets (John 13:34, Matthew 5:17-18), the truth at the heart of the Law, and God's justice in the giving of His own Son to pay the price for the sin of the world. Jesus, the Light of the world, and righteousness and salvation that come through Christ alone (2 Corinthians 5:21, John 14:6, Acts 4:12, Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:8-9, John 3:16-17).

"Listen to Me, you who know righteousness..." (Isaiah 51:7a). To know righteousness is to know Christ Jesus, Yeshuah Hamachiach (Matthew 5:6, Malachi 4:2), and to have the law of love written on our hearts (Jeremiah 31:33, 32:40, Isaiah 55:3), a law that holds us to a higher standard than that of the Pharisees (Matthew 5:17-20).

Discuss:

Question:

1. Write a paraphrase or synopsis of these verses, in the light of the risen Messiah.

Answer:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

date: _____

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Day 69 – Matthew 26–28

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*Present your body, mind, soul and spirit in
reverence and awe to our Creator God, as an
act of worship.*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

'And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Matthew 28: 18-20

Daily Devotion

"A woman came to Him with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume, and she poured it on His head as He reclined at the table." Matthew 26:7

Sometimes the simple things we do as an act of worship from a heart of worship can become a defining moment, not only in our lives but in the lives of others. I'm pretty sure that when this woman anointed Jesus with the costly perfume she was moved purely by a desire to give the best she had to Jesus. She gave no thought to what might happen next. She had no idea that this would cause controversy, that it would be the catalyst to spur Judas into betraying Jesus. That she was preparing Jesus' body for His burial, and that her actions would be spoken of 2,000 years later wherever the gospel is preached.

When we move in obedience to the nudge of the Holy Spirit from a heart of worship, God can do extraordinary things, things beyond our ability to imagine.

Prayer: Abba Father, I want to be so in love with You and Your son Yeshuah that I am willing to pour out my very best to You as an act of worship, from a heart of worship. May my offering be a pleasing aroma to You. Amen.

Bible Study

I have been struggling to know what to write for this study - there seems to be so much material and some of it seems obvious, but none of it was what God wanted me to write. I prayed and I sought His face, and kept sitting down to write...and...nothing...but...crickets...

And then when I was despairing of getting anything written on the page, God highlighted two verses in the reading that I would not have thought of. But let's see what He has in store for us.

Truth: "Now when Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to that yourselves'.

And all the people answered and said, 'His blood be on us and on our children!'" Matthew 27:24-25

In the first portion of this Scripture, we see two major truth bombs that are dropped: "I am innocent of this man's blood" (verse 24b), and "His blood shall be on us and on our children" (verse 25b). These two contradictory phrases are both true, at one and the same time, as they apply to us.

Pilate is innocent of Jesus' blood because he did everything he could do to set Him free (John 19:7-15). Likewise, we are innocent of Jesus' blood because as the righteous Judge, He has declared us innocent. Although He died to pay the price for our sin, He also gave His life freely for us (John 10:17-18).

The other statement is equally true. The religious Jews took upon themselves and their children the guilt for the shedding of Jesus' blood. This is significant in that in doing so, they are officiating at the sacrifice of the Passover Lamb and covering every person who has ever lived, everyone who has been born under sin, with the blood of the Lamb. Jesus' blood is on us and our children. For those who receive Him, it is the blood of life that cleanses us from sin and the curse of death. For those who reject Him, it is the stain of guilt (2 Corinthians 2:15-16, 1 Peter 2:6-8, Romans 9:33).

Light: "Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon the land until the ninth hour." Matthew 27:45

The sixth hour of the day was the point at which the sun was highest in the sky and therefore at its fullest and brightest. At this time when the light should have been brightest, darkness fell on the earth and lasted until the ninth hour, when Jesus cried out to God and yielded up His spirit (Matthew 27:45-46, 50, Mark 15:33-37, Luke 23:44-46, John 19:30). This was when the sun was halfway between its highest point and

its setting. There are some records that indicate that there was an eclipse at that time and this may very well be true. But the true eclipse was that the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5), the Son who gave His life a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45, 1 Timothy 2:5-6), eclipsed the light of the sun. The light of the earth could not stand in the presence of the Light of the world pouring Himself out as a ransom for all.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. Considering that Jesus is the Light of the world, what other explanation could there be for darkness coming over the earth at that time?
2. How can we be both innocent and guilty at the same time?

Answers:

date:

Prayer Focus

[illegible]

Prayer Focus

date: _____

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Day 70 – 1 Corinthians 3-4

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*Before I do or say anything, I pray. This is
the difference between acting and reacting.
Yonggi Cho*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

'Do you not know that you are a sanctuary of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the sanctuary of God, God will destroy him, for the sanctuary of God is holy, and that is what you are.' ¹

Corinthians 3:16-17

Daily Devotion

"Therefore do not go on passing judgement before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and make manifest the motives of hearts. And then each man's praise will come to him from God." 1 Corinthians 4:5

In previous passages, we have discussed not passing judgement on others based on the things that we perceive them to be doing wrong. Do not try and remove the speck from someone else's eye when you have a log in your own (Matthew 7:1-5). In this passage, it's different. It's talking about not passing judgement on the perceived good that others have done. This is a very different idea, and not one that's addressed much in the church. Prior to this verse, Paul has been talking about the divisions within the church that come from some saying "I am of Paul, and I am of Apollos", etc (1 Corinthians 3:1-6). He's saying that we don't know the motives of people's hearts; wait until the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things hidden in darkness, and disclose the motives of men's hearts (Matthew 7:21-23, 13:24-30). Rather, to regard each one as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God (1 Corinthians 4:1).

In the church today, we are still doing just this. Putting people on pedestals, when it is Christ to whom we belong; we are called by His name, and have direct access to the Father through Him by His Spirit that dwells in us. Those who minister should be regarded as "...servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God", nothing more (1 Corinthians 4:1b). Even Jesus said, do not call anyone, or allow yourself to be called Rabbi (teacher), or Father (Matthew 23:8-11).

Prayer: Abba Father, help me not to think more highly of others than I ought. To receive those who minister in the church as Your servants, and stewards of Your mysteries, drawing people to Christ Jesus by the power of Your Spirit. I pray that You will protect those who serve from being puffed up by the adulation of others, to continually seek Your face, and give all glory to You; for You alone are worthy to receive glory and honor and power and praise.

Amen.

Bible Study

"...all things belong to you, and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God. " 1 Corinthians 3:22b-23

When I first read the passage in 1 Corinthians 3:21-23, I really didn't understand it - what did it mean, "all things belong to you"? I read the words but did not comprehend them.

So let's have a look at where else in Scripture we see the same thing. In Romans 8:32 we read, "He who did not spare His own son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?"

OK, that's great, but it still doesn't hit home for me. Yes, God can give us all things, He gives good gifts to His children, but how often am I on the receiving end of them?

So let's look at Luke 15:11-32, and particularly focus on verses 29-31. Is it starting to make sense now? Are the connections happening? All things belong to you because all that the Father has is yours (Romans 8:16-17)!

So, all things belong to you (because all that the Father has is yours), and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God (therefore all things belong to God).

Maybe we need to start that again from the beginning!

Discuss:

Questions:

1. Are you able to recognise yourself in 1 Corinthians 3:22?
2. Are you able to recognise yourself in 1 Corinthians 3:23?

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

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Day 71 – Genesis 40–43

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*And your ears will hear a word behind you,
'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you
turn to the right or to the left.
Isaiah 30:21*

Notes:

Memory Verse

"So Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'Since God has made you know all of this, there is no one so understanding and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you.'" Genesis 41:39-40

Daily Devotion

"And they were seated before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth, and the men looked at one another in astonishment. " Genesis 43:33

Throughout Joseph's interactions with his brothers, he's giving them hints and indications that things are not as they seem, but they don't make the connection. Joseph recognised his brothers immediately but they do not recognise him. He treats them in peculiar ways, but they just put it down to bad luck, or repayment for their sin against their brother. Even now, when Joseph has them seated according to their ages, they are truly astonished but still haven't worked it out. What is it that's keeping them from seeing the truth that's right in front of them?

The answer can be found in Genesis 42:21-22. It has been at least 20 years since Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, but their sin against him is still at the forefront of their minds. It's the first place they go to when things start to go wrong. The weight of guilt they are carrying is keeping them from seeing the very thing that could relieve them of their burden.

How often do we carry guilt from sins in our past that keep us from seeing the forgiveness of God that is right in front of us? Unable to receive God's forgiveness because we are unwilling to forgive ourselves? (John 20:23).

Prayer: Abba Father, help me to forgive myself for past sins that still weigh heavily upon my heart. Open my eyes to see the forgiveness that is available to me, that's standing right in front of me, just waiting to be recognised. Amen.

Bible Study

"...Do not interpretations belong to God?" Genesis 40:8b

In Genesis 40:1-8, we are introduced to the cup-bearer and the baker for Pharaoh. We are told that after being in prison for some time, in Joseph's care, they both have a dream on the same night, and are dejected because no one can interpret the dreams for them.

Joseph's response is fascinating - *"Do not interpretations belong to God? Recount it to me please"* (verse 8b).

The first part of Joseph's response has become the basis of a whole school of Rabbinic thought. They take it to mean that all interpretation belongs to YHWH and therefore no one is allowed to interpret Scripture for themselves. They can only interpret other people's interpretation of Scripture, so you have whole trains of Rabbinic teaching where Rabbi X comments on Rabbi Y's interpretation of what Rabbi L said to Rabbi M, etc. As with everything that comes from a place of fear of punishment rather than reverence for God, this has had the reverse effect of its intention. The original idea was to keep from doing something that is only YHWH's to do, but in so doing they have actually placed Rabbinic tradition before the Scriptures.

Joseph was not saying to the baker and cup-bearer that he couldn't give them the interpretation; nor was he saying that he was God when he told them to tell him the dreams. Joseph was saying that if they would tell him the dream, he would ask God for the interpretation so that he could give it to them. He was saying that because he knows God, he could talk to Him about it, and find out for them what's going on.

Yes, interpretation belongs to YHWH; and because of that, we who are in relationship with Him have access to His interpretations, so that we can give them to those who need them (1 Corinthians 2:10-13, 16, Romans 11:33-36).

Discuss:

Questions:

1. Who can interpret dreams?
2. Can you know what God is thinking?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

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Day 72 - 1 Samuel 1-5

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*YHWH will accomplish what concerns me. O
YHWH, Your lovingkindness endures forever...
Psalms 138:8a*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"YHWH puts to death and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up. YHWH makes poor and rich; He brings low; He also exalts. He raises the poor from the dust; He exalts the needy from the ash heaps to make them sit with nobles, and inherit a seat of glory; for the pillars of the earth are YHWH's and He has set the world on them." 1 Samuel 2:6-8

Daily Devotion

"Now the young boy Samuel was ministering to YHWH before Eli. And word from YHWH was rare in those days; visions were infrequent." 1 Samuel 3:1

Eli was high priest, and his sons priests before YHWH at Shiloh. But Eli's sons were acting dishonourably and despising the sacrifice of YHWH, and Eli was honouring his sons above God, because he knew what they were doing but did not rebuke them. For this reason, the word from YHWH was rare and visions infrequent.

When we're not hearing from YHWH, do we ask ourselves if there is an area of our lives that we are walking in disobedience to God, or dishonouring Him in some way? This is very often the reason we are unable to hear His voice or not hear Him clearly. It would do us well to daily ask, like the Psalmist, *"Examine me, O YHWH, and try me; test my mind and heart"* (Psalm 26:2, 139:23-24).

Prayer: Abba Father, help me to quickly recognise when my hearing becomes dim, and to seek Your face. Search out anything in me that is dishonouring to You, or any area of my life where I am being disobedient. I want to hear You clearly, with nothing coming between me and You. Amen.

Bible Study

“And she said, ‘The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God was taken.’” 1 Samuel 4:22

Today we will be taking a closer look at 1 Samuel 4:10-22 and this remarkable statement from the wife of Phinehas.

The significance of the death of the wife of Phineas, and the statement she makes as she’s dying, is made clear by its place of prominence in the telling of this account. It is the culmination of the account of the battle, and the fulfillment of the prophecies against Eli’s house.

To understand the significance of her statement, we need to look at the sins of the sons of Eli, and of the people of Israel. The sons of Eli have brought a curse upon themselves because they have despised the offering of YHWH, and have acted wickedly (1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-25, 27-36, 3:10-14). And the people of Israel have treated lightly the ark of the covenant, and looked upon it as they would one of the idols of the nations around them, ascribing the glory due to God to the ark (1 Samuel 4:3). Because of this, Israel is defeated by the Philistines and the ark of the covenant is taken (1 Samuel 4:10-18).

Now, I want to pay special attention to the next few verses: the wife of Phineas has just heard the news of the defeat of Israel and the death of her husband and her father-in-law. She has just given birth to a son but with her dying breath, she shows no concern for any of that. All her concern is for the departure of the glory because the ark of YHWH has been captured. Even the name she gives her son shows the same concern (1 Samuel 4: 19-22). Here is another woman, who although we never find out her name, is shown to have a deep and reverent love for YHWH.

The glory is the LORD’s and He will not allow it to be diminished or defiled by those who are called to serve Him; or allow it to be shared with anyone, or anything else (1 Samuel 4:5-9, 5:1-5).

The glory is YHWH’s, but so is the ark, as the Philistines find out when they take the ark of the covenant for themselves (1 Samuel 5:6-12).

Discuss:

Questions:

1. What does the name Ichabod mean?
2. How many times, as she is dying, does the wife of Phinehas declare that the glory has departed?

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

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Day 73 – Psalms 30–32

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*"But as for me, I trust in You, O
YHWH. I say, 'You are my God.' My
times are in Your hand..." Psalm 31:14-15a*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

'How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! How blessed is the man whose iniquity YHWH will not take into account, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.' Psalm 32:1-2

Daily Devotion

"I will give you insight and teach you in the way that you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you." Psalm 32:8

Sometimes the promises of God are so wonderful that we fail to comprehend or take them in. In the moment, we are often oblivious to His guiding hand and instruction. Very often, it's not until after the fact that we recognise His guidance or instruction, and we wonder how we could have possibly missed it (Isaiah 30:21, 2 Chronicles 16:9a). At other times, we willfully ignore His guidance, choosing rather to pursue our own way and expecting Him to override our decision "if it's really His will". But God doesn't want to force us, even if we've given Him permission to do so (Psalm 32:9).

Prayer: Abba Father, make me acutely aware of Your eye upon me, and sensitive to Your voice, so that I will hear Your guidance and instruction and be instantly responsive to You. Amen.

Bible Study

"You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness, that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O YHWH my God, I will give thanks to You forever. "
Psalm 30:11-12

This is one of those passages that are so full of exuberance and joy that I can't help but want to dance along with the Psalmist. The impression I have is that David is describing what is supposed to be your natural state; and maybe it is for him, as a worshipper by nature and practice. I get the sense that our pure and uncorrupted nature, the pre-sin nature that we were created with, would freely dance and sing before YHWH, declaring

His praise with joyful exuberance in thanksgiving. And that one of the reasons for the redemptive work of the cross is to restore us to that state. Throughout Scripture, we are admonished and even commanded to praise

God with singing and dancing (Psalm 50:1-6, 149:3-4, Exodus 15:20-21, Ecclesiastes 3:4, 1 Samuel 6:14-17). We even see prophecies that declare that we will dance before YHWH (Jeremiah 31:4, 12-13). Nowhere in Scripture will you find a command not to dance or a statement that dancing is a sin. But we do see singing and dancing as an expression of thanksgiving and praise to God.

Thanks and praise belong to God, and one of the most authentic expressions of this truth is that of singing and dancing. If you don't believe me, just look at a small child when music comes on – the pure, innocent, whole-body expression of delight. That is what God delights to receive from us.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. When was the last time you danced before YHWH with all your might?
2. We tend to think of praise and thanksgiving being about the words we speak, but what other ways can you think of the express your thanks and praise to God?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

[illegible]

Prayer Focus

date:

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Day 74 – Job 21-22

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*'Sing to YHWH a new song sing to
YHWH, all the earth. Sing to YHWH, bless
His name...' Psalm 96:1-2a*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"How often is the lamp of the wicked put out, or does their disaster fall on them? Does God apportion destruction in His anger? Are they as straw before the wind, and like chaff which the storm steals away?" Job 21:17-18

Daily Devotion

"As for me, is my musing to man? And why should my spirit not be impatient. "
Job 21:4

Job is bringing his complaint before YHWH and not man; he wants to present his case before Him. Job's condition is so bad that he just wants his life to be over, as he is impatient to meet God face to face because he knows that he will be vindicated before God (Job 21:5-6). Job's friends consider the seriousness of his condition as evidence of the extent of his sin (Job 22:4-5), and are taking it upon themselves to answer Job on God's behalf (Job 22:21-22).

Job's friends cannot comprehend that God would allow a righteous man to suffer all that Job is going through. Even though they know Job's life and character prior to this, they are creating in their own imaginations sins that Job must have committed for God to afflict him so severely (Job 22:5-9).

I can only imagine why they would do this, but I suspect that seeing Job's suffering makes them feel very concerned that they too might suffer. It feels safer to try to defend their idea of who God is than to recognise that their righteousness may not be a protection from suffering.

Prayer: Abba Father, help me to recognise that if I feel like I need to defend You before men, that I may be trying to defend my own idea of You, and not seeing You for who You are. I want to know You so well that my faith and trust in You is not shaken, no matter what my circumstances may be. Amen.

Bible Study

"Can anyone teach God knowledge, in that He judges those on high? Job 21:22

In Job 21, we hear Job's response to his friends' accusations. And as he frequently does, his response is a warning to his friends. In this passage the warning is this: 'Judgement belongs to YHWH'. Through his response, Job is trying to get them to see that their arguments don't stand up to scrutiny or experience (Job 21:7-13, 17-21). That they are in danger of attributing a lie to God by what they are saying (Job 21:27-34, 19:28-29). He knows that they are not hearing him and even as he's speaking, they're busy planning their own arguments against him but he continues to try, even though he knows that it is God who has stopped their ears to his argument.

It speaks to the character of Job that in the midst of all he is enduring, the focus of his response to his friends shifts from trying to get them to empathise with his situation (Job 21:5-6) to trying to get them to see the error of their ways by showing them that they have begun to usurp a role that is God's alone (Deuteronomy 1:17, Ecclesiastes 3:16-17, James 4:12).

Discuss:

Questions:

1. How is Job's character proven in Job 21?
2. If judgement belongs to YHWH, how can those who are called to judge do so without sinning?

Answers:

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

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Day 75 – Isaiah 56–61

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*'But the lowly will inherit the land and
will delight themselves in abundant peace.'*

Psalm 87:11

Notes:

Memory Verse:

'Arise, shine: for your light has come, and the glory of YHWH has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and dense gloom the peoples: but YHWH will rise upon you, and His glory will appear upon you.'

Isaiah 60:1-2

Daily Devotion

"The righteous man perishes, and no man puts it upon his heart; and men of lovingkindness are gathered away, while no one understands. For the righteous man is gathered away from evil, he enters into peace..." Isaiah 57:1-2a

There are times when righteous men and women are taken, whether through illness or by injury, and we struggle to comprehend why. Sometimes they are pastors or leaders in the church and, despite the prayers of the saints, they don't recover. This can shake the faith of some, and their trust in God. This can stem from our Western perception that death is bad, a punishment or otherwise taboo, rather than a natural part of life. We tend to think that our existence is primarily a physical one. But in this verse, we see that sometimes the righteous perish because God is protecting them. Sometimes it is so that

God can prepare them for a future work (Daniel 11:35, 12:2-3). But for all believers in Christ Jesus (Yeshyah Hamashiach), what we think of as death is really mortality being swallowed up in life (1 Corinthians 15:54, 2 Corinthians 5:4). We think of ourselves as being alive on earth and then dying, when in reality we are dying on earth and then we enter into life.

Prayer: Abba Father, help me to realise that Your purposes and plans are perfect, and though I don't always understand why You take some "before their time", I can trust You to know what is best for them, and Your plan for them. Thank You that for we who believe, death is not the end but just the beginning and Your purpose for our life continues in eternity. Amen.

Bible Study

"Thus says YHWH, 'Keep justice and do righteousness, for My salvation is about to come and My righteousness to be revealed.' " Isaiah 56:1

"For as the earth brings forth its branches, and as a garden causes the things sown in it to branch out, So the Lord YHWH will cause righteousness and praise to branch out before all the nations. " Isaiah 61:11

How wonderful is this! That the very first verse of our reading today, and the very last are both about righteousness. The first verse is a command to do righteousness. Why? Because God's salvation is about to come and His righteousness to be revealed (Isaiah 56:1). The second is a decree that righteousness will spring up from ALL the nations, like plants from the earth (Isaiah 61:11)

!

We are to preserve justice and do righteousness as we wait for the salvation of God to appear; and then rejoice in Him as we see righteousness and praise spring up from all the nations of the earth. At this time, we recognise that judgement is about to come on all nations, but we do so knowing what the end result will be. While the darkness remains, we are to walk in God's ways (Colossians 3:12-17), being a light in the darkness (Ephesians 5:8-9), putting on the righteousness of Christ and walking in it as ambassadors of His kingdom (1 Corinthians 1:30, 2 Corinthians 5:20-21). All while keeping the hope of the righteousness of God, springing up from all the nations of the earth, before us (Psalm 30:5).

Discuss:

Questions:

1. Jesus endured the cross for the hope set before Him. What is the hope set before us?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

[illegible]

Prayer Focus

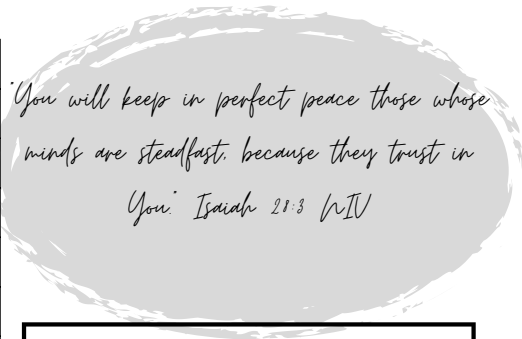
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Day 76 – Mark 1-2

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Notes:

Memory Verse:

"And Jesus was saying to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Consequently the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.'" Matthew 2:27-28

Daily Devotion

"No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; otherwise that patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear results. and no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wine will burst the skins and the wine is lost and the skins as well; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins. "

Mark 2:21-22

The thought struck me as the Lord highlighted this verse to me – "Why cloth and wine?" Why use these examples? Unlike us, Jesus doesn't just use whatever example comes to mind in the moment; there is always a deeper purpose behind every example He uses. So, why cloth and wine?

We often think that He is talking about the old and new covenants, or about a new work that He is doing in our time, and this can be true. But the deeper reason, that is as current now as it was then, is that He is talking about righteousness and the Spirit.

The old cloth represents righteousness by works and the new cloth represents righteousness by faith in Christ. We are to be clothed in the righteousness of Christ. We cannot just tack on His righteousness to fill the gap in our own. We must recognise that our righteousness is filthy rags in order to put off the old and be clothed in the new.

The new wine represents the Spirit. The Spirit cannot be poured into our old self, with its corruption and rigidity. For the Spirit of God to dwell in us and not destroy us, we must be born again, becoming a new creation in Christ Jesus. We are to be clothed in the righteousness of Christ and be filled with the Spirit of the living God who raised Jesus from the dead.

Prayer: Abba Father, thank You that You call me to newness of life in Christ Jesus, Your beloved Son, and to do that I must leave the old behind. Help me not to cling to my own righteousness or the old self, that will corrupt and destroy the new. Amen.

Bible Study

"But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic, 'I say to you, get up, pick up your mat and go to your home. " Mark 2:10-11

As Jesus goes about His ministry, speaking in the synagogues and healing the sick, the people are astonished at the authority of His teaching (Mark 1:22, Matthew 7:29) and when the paralytic man is brought to Jesus by his friends, it is the authority with which Jesus speaks that offends the scribes, not that He is healing miraculously (Mark 2:5-9).

We very often say that Jesus meets people where they are, and this is certainly true. But sometimes, His response to them is the opposite of where they are. The scribes and the Pharisees loved to debate points of the Law and considered themselves the authority on the things of the Law. When they grumbled against Jesus in this account, He doesn't meet them where they're at, He doesn't get drawn into a debate about the Law or the forgiveness of sins. Instead, He backs up the authority of His words with the authority of His actions. They have stated that only God has the authority to forgive sin, so Jesus forgives the man's sin, publicly and in their presence. Declaring Himself to be God by His actions. They challenged His authority to speak forgiveness, so He demonstrated His authority to forgive in an indisputable way (Mark 2:10-12).

Discuss:

Questions:

1. What other examples of Jesus demonstrating His authority do we see in Mark 1 & 2?

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

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Day 77 – 1 Corinthians 5–6

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Throughout the coming ages we will be the visible display of the infinite, limitless riches of His grace and kindness, which was showered upon us in Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:7 (TWT)

Notes:

Memory Verse:

“Or do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Daily Devotion

“But the one who joins himself to the LORD is one spirit with Him.” 1 Corinthians 6:17

We often hear people preach and teach from 1 Corinthians 6:16, “Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, ‘The two shall become one flesh.’” However, we rarely hear them continue on to the next verse, 1 Corinthians 6:17. And yet, to preach or teach one without the other is like telling someone that the engine of their car is out of oil, but not giving them what they need to fill it up. It is a classic example of “having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof” (2 Timothy 3:1-5). Not denying the power exists, but rather denying the power to those who need it, by not providing them the tools they need to persevere in the times we are living in.

Jesus, in the great commission, never said, “Go into all the world and save as many souls as possible”. He did say, “Go into all the world and make disciples of every nation” (Matthew 28:19-20). In the book of Mark, it could be construed that the salvation message is all that is required (Mark 16:15), but only if we forget that the gospel, or good news, is that the kingdom of heaven is at hand, is now accessible, is in your midst (Luke 9:2, Matthew 4:23, 24:14). And only if we read no further, for it goes on to say that those who believe in His name will cast out demons, heal the sick, speak in tongues, defeat their enemies, and that attacks on their character will not prevail (Mark 16:16-18). To do these things, they would need to be taught and matured in the Scriptures, and in the teachings of Jesus. In other words, to be discipled. In the account of Pentecost, it doesn’t say 3,000 souls were saved (Acts 2:41); it says they were added to the church.

Anyone can say, don’t do X, Y or Z, it’s bad for you; but to disciple someone, we need to spend time with them, teach them, and grow them into maturity. If we are preaching salvation from sin but not teaching how to walk in the Spirit as one with the LORD, we are failing in the great commission.

Prayer: Abba, Father, thank You that You have made me one in the Spirit with You. Teach me all that that means, and help me to teach others also. Grow me up into maturity so that I can fulfill Your great commission of preaching Your kingdom, and making disciples. Amen.

Bible Study

"All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything." 1 Corinthians 6:12

Being in the world but not of the world, ambassadors of the kingdom of heaven, we carry with us the kingdom and bear the diplomatic immunity that comes with it. We are no longer bound by the Law or by sin; to us, all things are lawful. But the question we need to ask ourselves is this: What are we doing with that freedom? What is profitable? And what are we allowing to have mastery over us?

We can use our freedom to glorify God, to be good ambassadors of His kingdom, or we can use it for our own self-interest. How we use it depends on where our focus is – are we focused on the things of this world or the things of the Kingdom? Are you a sojourner in the land of your inheritance or have you made your home here? Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were sojourners in the land of their inheritance, waiting for the fulfillment of the promises of God; then their descendants were sojourners in the land of Egypt, waiting for 400 years for the time when God would fulfill His word and lead them into the land of their inheritance (Genesis 15:13-16). We too are waiting on God to fulfill His promises to us, when we will inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5). Until then, we are sojourners in the land of our inheritance; and like the people of Israel, we are to live out the days of our sojourning according to the precepts and principles of the Kingdom. A unique people set apart to God. Recognising that our bodies are not our own, but are God's, and therefore choosing to do what is profitable or beneficial, in and with our bodies; and not allowing ourselves to be mastered by anything of this world. Living according to the law of love.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. What happened to Abraham's relative who made his home in the land?
2. If all things are lawful, why should we choose to do what is profitable (beneficial)?

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

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Day one 78 - Genesis 44-47

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"But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."

Acts 7:55

Notes:

Memory Verse:

'So God sent me before you to establish for you a remnant in the earth and to keep you alive for a great remnant of survivors.' Genesis 45:7

Daily Devotion

"So Judah said, 'What can we say to my Lord? What can we speak? And how can we justify ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants...' "
Genesis 44:16a

As we have seen before, the sins of Joseph's brothers are continually before their face. So much so that they immediately believe that this accusation against their brother Benjamin has been orchestrated by YHWH as retribution for their sin against Joseph (Genesis 42:18-23, 44:14-17). It has been 24 years since they sold Joseph into slavery, and in that time they have had to witness the profound and ongoing grief of their father at the loss of his son (Genesis 37:34-35, 46:30, 47:9). This has changed them. They are now protective of their younger brother, for the sake of their father Israel, and willing to take the punishment for the false accusation, as if it were the punishment from God for their actual sins (Genesis 44:14-34). It is this that causes Joseph to break down and finally reveal his identity to his brothers (Genesis 45:1-3), but this only causes them to be even more dismayed. Unconfessed sin that we carry with us, will colour how we perceive even the goodness and grace of God toward us, and cause us to be dismayed when we should be rejoicing (Leviticus 5:5, Psalm 32:5, 2 Samuel 12:13, James 5:16).

Prayer: Abba Father, bring to light any unconfessed sin that I am carrying; anything that will stand in the way of my relationship with You, or colour my response to Your goodness and grace. Give me the courage to confess my sins to You, and to my brothers and sisters in Christ, so that I can rejoice in the fullness of Your goodness and grace, and not be dismayed. Amen.

Bible Study

"So Jacob said to Pharaoh, 'The days of the years of my sojourning are 130; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years that my fathers lived during the days of their sojourning.'" Genesis 47:9

This verse really struck me as I was reading it, recognising the mindset of Jacob: That he sees himself as a sojourner, a temporary resident of this life and of the land. He and his fathers before him lived a nomadic lifestyle, moving from one place to another, always traveling through the land of the promise but never settling in one place; because the land had been promised but not yet inherited. This mindset is foreign to us in the West. And yet, this truly is what our mindset should be as believers. The land of our inheritance is still inhabited by those who are at odds with God. But God will fulfill His promises at the appointed time, and until then our identity is in Him, not in the land in which we dwell.

We are in the world, but not of the world; even though the world is our inheritance, according to the promise of God.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. What is the hope of your inheritance?
2. How does this mindset differ from what we have grown up with?

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

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Day 79 – 1 Samuel 6–10

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And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the way of the east. And His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory. Ezekiel 43:2

Notes:

Memory Verse:

'Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, 'If you are to return to YHWH with all your heart, then remove the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and set your hearts toward YHWH and serve Him alone; and He will deliver you from the hands of the Philistines.' So the sons of Israel removed the Baals and the Ashtaroth and served YHWH alone.' 1

Samuel 7:8-4

Daily Devotion

"Then YHWH said to Samuel, 'Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.' " 1 Samuel 8:7

Sometimes God will listen to our voice, and give us what we have persisted in asking Him for. Not because it's His perfect will for us, but because we have consistently rejected what He does have for us, consistently ignored His voice and leading (1 Samuel 8:8). He will not do so without warning, but by this point, we are unlikely to heed His voice in the matter (1 Samuel 8:9, 19-22). When we consistently fail to listen to the voice of YHWH, He will listen to our voice.

Prayer: Abba Father, I want to be so sensitive to Your voice saying, "This is the way, walk in it" that I will turn to the right or to the left at the sound of Your voice, in every aspect of my life. If there is any area where I have tuned out Your voice with the cry of my own desire, YHWH please reveal that area to me, so that I can bring my own will into subjection to Yours. Amen.

Bible Study

"Why then do you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? When He had abused them, did they not allow the people to go, and they went?" 1 Samuel 6:6

In 1 Samuel 6, we read the account of the ark of YHWH and its capture by the Philistines. For seven months it has dwelled among them and they are now in a state of consternation about how to send it back as soon as possible. They have been plagued with mice and tumours that have broken out on the whole population (1 Samuel 6:1-4). The hand of the God of Israel has been heavy upon them. But the Philistines have learned from the example of Egypt (1 Samuel 6:6-10).

There is an interesting contrast between the way the Philistines perceive the ark, and the perception of the people of Israel at that time. The Israelites treated the ark like one of the idols of the peoples around them, thinking that if they brought it into the battle with them, IT would deliver them from the hands of the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:1-4). When they were defeated they did not seek YHWH, instead they took the ark of YHWH to be a god for them; dishonouring God by their actions and thoughts. Whereas the Philistines recognise that it is the God of Israel that is afflicting them because they have possession of the ark and now want to send it back to HIM. The ark of YHWH's short time among the Philistines caused them to have a deep respect for the God of Israel (1 Samuel 5:1-7, 10-12).

Discuss:

Questions:

1. How did God show Himself holy to the Philistines?
2. How would you compare the response of the Philistines to that of the Israelites?

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

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Day 80 – Psalms 33–35

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Nothing you can do will benefit you more than prayer. Yonggi Cho

Notes:

Memory Verse:

Who is the man who delights in life and loves many days that he may see good? Guard your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good: seek peace and pursue it. Psalm 34:12-14

Daily Devotion

"For the word of YHWH is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the lovingkindness of YHWH. " Psalm 33:4-5

The world will try to tell you that the universe happened by accident, or due to chaos or some other idea, but we as believers know that it was created by God Himself. I remember, when I was in the first or second grade at school, being called a "Bible-basher" by the teacher because when she tried to teach us evolution my response was, "Don't be silly, everything was created by God."

We know that the heavens and the earth were created by the word of YHWH. He spoke and they came into being (Genesis 1:3-10). This passage takes that to another level. Not only were the heavens and the earth created by God, but they were created in uprightness and faithfulness (Psalm 33:4), and they are full of righteousness and justice and lovingkindness (Psalm 33:5). Not only were they created by a caring and intelligent God, but He also infused them with His own attributes. Pouring into them His uprightness and faithfulness, His righteousness, justice, and lovingkindness.

I have heard it often said that God didn't want Adam and Eve to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because He wanted them to know only good (Genesis 2:15-17).

But it had never struck me before that God's desire for us to know only good had caused Him to FILL the creation with ALL that is good.

Prayer: Abba Father, open my eyes to see You in the creation, to see Your uprightness and faithfulness, to see Your justice and righteousness, and most of all Your lovingkindness, in the heavens and the earth. To see the witness of Your glory in creation as I have never seen it before. Amen.

Bible Study

"YHWH looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; from the place of His habitation He gazes on all the inhabitants of the earth. " Psalm 33:13-14

God dwells in the eternal now, and before His eyes passes the parade of humanity, moving through time and into eternity. We are sojourners on this earth, temporary residents on the way to eternity, waiting for the appointed time to possess our inheritance, the land of our sojourning (Matthew 5:5). But our sojourning is not unobserved. God watches over us and observes all our ways, to strengthen and uphold all those who trust in Him (Psalm 34:15-18, 2 Chronicles 16:9).

In our sojourning God is with us, just as He was with the Israelites. From the beginning, God has promised to be with the descendants of Abraham (Genesis 26:24, 28:15). And He was with the Israelites as they traveled through the wilderness (Exodus 33:13-16). His promise and declaration that He is with us is seen from Genesis (Genesis 3:8a) through to Revelation (Revelation 21:3). He is our Immanuel, God with us (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:22-23).

Discuss:

Question:

1. How are the people of Israel an example to us in our sojourning?

Answer:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

date:

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Day 81 – Job 23–24

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*On my bed night after night I sought
him whom my soul loves
Song of Songs 3:1a*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"Oh that I knew where I might find Him, that I might come to His seat! I would arrange my case for justice before Him and fill my mouth with arguments. I would know the words which He would answer, and discern what He would say to me." Job 23:5-6

Daily Devotion

"Behold, I go forward but He is not there, and backward but I cannot perceive Him; when He acts on the left, I cannot behold Him; He turns on the right, I cannot see Him. But He knows the way I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:8-10

Sometimes when we go through a time of trial, we cannot see or hear or perceive the presence of God with us and that can be the hardest part of the trial. Everything else we are going through pales by comparison to that perceived loss of His presence and His voice. Even Jesus experienced the great grief of that loss when He cried out on the cross, "...My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46b). The Father turned His face away from Jesus because He cannot look upon sin and in that moment, Jesus took upon Himself the sin of the whole world. All that Jesus had gone through prior to that moment could not compare to His loss and suffering of that separation from His Father. Jesus, like Job, came forth as gold. When we are tried, what will our testimony be?

Prayer: Abba Father, I pray that I will never again know a time when I cannot hear Your voice or perceive Your presence. But I ask that You would help me to prepare my heart and my mind, by Your Word and by Your presence, to stand firm in that day of trial. Holding fast to Your Word and Your ways despite my circumstances. When You have tried me, I want to come forth as gold. Amen.

Bible Study

"He provides them with security, and they are supported; and His eyes are on their ways. They are exalted a little while, then they are gone; moreover, they are brought low and like everything gathered up; even like the the heads of grain they are cut off. " Job 24:23-24

Job is very aware of how transient life is. He is also aware that this life is just the beginning (Job 7:6-7). He knows that whatever happens to us in this life comes from the hand of YHWH, whether security, blessing and prosperity, or devastation and destruction (Job 2:9-10); and that even in that God is faithful and just and worthy to be praised (Job 1:20-21). And whatever we go through in this life, the time will come when we pass from life into eternity; then we will stand before God (Job 19:23-26). Are we going to be like Job or Abraham, living our lives like one sojourning in the land of our inheritance until the appointed time? Or have we decided to dwell here in the midst of the sin and corruption, as Lot did?

Discuss:

Question:

1. In what ways have we, as believers, made something other than the kingdom of God the source of our identity?

Answer:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

date: _____

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Day 82 – Isaiah 62–66

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*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases.
His mercies never come to an end.
Lamentations 3:22 (ESV)*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet, until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, and her salvation like a torch that is burning." Isaiah 62:1

Daily Devotion

"You who remind YHWH, take no rest for yourselves; and give Him no rest until He establishes and sets Jerusalem a praise in the earth." Isaiah 62:6b-7

"You who remind YHWH, take no rest for yourselves; and give Him no rest until He establishes and sets Jerusalem a praise in all the earth". This is a command – it's not a suggestion, it's an imperative. It is written to those who are appointed as watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem. They are to never keep silent (Isaiah 62:6a). To those of us who are appointed as watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem, we are to never keep silent, to give ourselves no rest and allow God no rest, until He fulfils the promises and prophecies of Scripture that He has spoken over Israel and Jerusalem. But there are also many calls to pray for Israel in Scripture that are to all of us (Psalm 122:6-9, 125:5, 128:6). God's heart, and His eye, are constantly toward Israel (Isaiah 65:18-19, Zechariah 2:8, Genesis 12:3, Leviticus 25:23, Amos 9:14-15, Ezekiel 1:14-17, Jeremiah 30:3, Joel 3:2, Deuteronomy 30:3-10, Isaiah 43:1-7). I haven't even scratched the surface of the Scriptures yet how YHWH feels about the people and the land of Israel and Jerusalem, so I encourage you to search the Scriptures for yourself. Because we who say we know YHWH need to know His heart for the land and the people of Israel – they are still at the forefront of His thoughts and actions, and therefore should be at the forefront of our own as well.

Prayer: Abba Father, give me Your heart for the people and the land of Israel. Show me the depth and breadth and height of Your love for them. Help me to pray for Israel, both the land and the people, from Your heart.
Amen.

Bible Study

"Because he who is blessed in the earth will be blessed by the God of truth, and he who swears in the earth will swear by the God of truth; because the former distresses are forgotten, and because they are hidden from My sight! For behold, I am creating a new heavens and a new earth; and the former things will not be remembered or come upon the heart. But be joyful and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing and her people for joy. I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be joyful in My people; and there will no longer be heard in her the voice of weeping and the voice of crying. " Isaiah 65:16-19

We are sojourners in this world because, like the land of Israel's inheritance, the sin of the world is not yet complete (Genesis 15:12-16). At the appointed time, God will judge the world and cleanse the earth of sin and destruction (2 Peter 3:7-13, Revelation 21:1).

Some take this to mean that God is going to destroy the earth and the heavens and create new ones, and this is where the theology of many gets a little hinky.

I want to remind you that the Scriptures also tell us that we will be tried by fire, and only that which is pure and of God will remain (1 Corinthians 3:13-15, 1 Peter 1:7). But whether the earth and the heavens are tested by fire and only what is pure and of God remains, or they are so badly destroyed by mankind that God creates a brand-new heavens and earth, there are two major fallacies I want to address here.

First, the idea that since God is going to destroy the earth and create a new one, that it doesn't matter what we do to this earth. The second is that, although the Scriptures tells us that God will create new heavens and a new earth and will dwell with His people on the earth, we have this idea that we will fly away and live in mansions in the sky. Both of these fallacies are rooted in an escapist mentality that is found nowhere in Scripture. The Scriptures tell us that we will inherit the earth; the land of our sojourning is the land of our inheritance (Matthew 5:5). The Scriptures also tell us that God places great importance on stewardship – that what we do with what He has given us to steward in this life will have direct a correlation to what we are given stewardship of in the next (Matthew 25:14-31, Luke 12:42-48), and that the first stewardship God gave to mankind was stewardship over the earth. The Scriptures tell us that God will dwell with his people on the earth (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15, 9:1-2, Revelation 21:1-3).

There are three primary passages in Scripture that have caused some confusion and have generated these escapist ideologies: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Revelation 19:6-9 and John 14:2.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. According to Scripture, what does Jesus do once we are raised up to meet Him in the clouds?
2. According to Scripture, what is the wedding feast of the Lamb?
3. According to Scripture, what are the “many dwelling places” that are in our Father’s house?

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

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Day 83 – Mark 3-4

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For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet, until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, and her salvation like a torch that is burning.' Isaiah 62:1

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"And He was saying, 'How shall we compare the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smallest of all the seeds that are upon the soil, yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes largest of all the garden plants and forms large branches so that the birds of the air can nest under its shade.'" Mark 4:30-32

Daily Devotion

"And after looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored." Mark 3:5

Sometimes anger is an appropriate response – not always, but sometimes.

Anger that comes from a place of compassion, and grief due to the lack of compassion in others is what Jesus is experiencing in this verse. Jesus' response to that anger is the perfect example of, "Be angry and do not sin" (Psalm 4:4 (ESV), Ephesians 4:26). I want you to note that these verses do not say, "Be angry, BUT do not sin". We are taught in our society that anger is a bad thing, and it can be. The Scriptures also talk about outbursts of anger (Ecclesiastes 7:9, Colossians 3:8, Proverbs 22:24), and that the anger of man does not achieve the purposes of God (James 1:19-20). Although Jesus looks at them with anger, it comes from a place of the depths of compassion and quickly turns to grief at their hardness of heart. Then Jesus turns from them and focuses His attention on the man who needs healing. The anger of God will be slow and under the control of the Spirit of God – not uncontrolled or rash. It will bear the fruit of righteousness.

Prayer: Abba Father, where I have outbursts of anger that rise up quickly and I speak rashly, bring to light the area of my life that needs healing, so that it can be submitted to the cross of Christ. YHWH, I know that my anger cannot produce Your righteousness, so cause me to be motivated by Your compassion, so that anger turns to grief and compassion and bears the fruit of righteousness. Amen.

Bible Study

Our study today comes from Mark 4:35-41.

In the last few days, we have seen many examples of people who knew what it meant to be a sojourner on this earth. But the best example we have is the life of Jesus Himself. Jesus is very aware that He is a temporary resident of earth at this time. And He lives His life not as a citizen of the world, but as a citizen of the kingdom of God, carrying the kingdom of God with Him and knowing who He is in the Father.

In this passage, we see Jesus very calmly sleeping in the stern of the boat as a storm rages, to the point where His disciples, most of whom are seasoned fishermen, think they're about to die. And then, just as calmly, shushing the sea and the storm as if He were speaking to a rambunctious child. This causes His disciples, who are already fearful for their lives, to become even more afraid, asking "Who is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" Jesus revealed in that moment that although He was in the world, He was not of the world.

Discuss:

Question:

1. Have you been able to sit through and watch "The Passion of the Christ"?

Answer:

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Prayer Focus

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Day 84 – 1 Corinthians 7–8

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'Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.'
Psalm 73:25

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him." 1 Corinthians 8:6

Daily Devotion

"Now this I say for your own benefit, not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote propriety and undistracted devotion to the Lord." 1 Corinthians 7:35

I want to talk, not so much about the advice Paul is giving in this chapter, but about his reason for giving it. Paul truly believed that Jesus would return at any moment, and wanted people to live their lives undistracted by the things of the world so that they could devote themselves wholly to the ministry of the gospel. That the time was so short that there was little use in getting married, buying land or possessions, or doing business in the world as it would, at best, distract from the things of YHWH and, at worst, cause a slavery to men and the things of the world (Matthew 6:24). The ideas he is putting forth are very similar to those of the Essenes, a contemporary Jewish sect, and were the basis of the Monastic philosophy that followed. For us, two thousand years later, we need to get back to the attitude of the imminent return of our Lord, Jesus Christ by freeing ourselves from debts and worldly entanglements (Hebrews 12:1-3), while realising that it may be many years yet (Matthew 24:36-39). Finding that balance point where we are in the world but not of the world. Like the fulcrum of a see-saw, where the possible imminence of His return is on one end, and His possible delay on the other, our stance must be such that whether He returns tomorrow or in a thousand years, our behaviour toward the Lord and each other doesn't change. An attitude of uprightness, integrity, and righteousness in Christ, seeking FIRST the kingdom of God and His righteousness in all that we do (Matthew 6:24-34).

Prayer: Abba Father, help me to live my life unencumbered by the things of this world, able to move when You say move, to speak when You say speak, my loyalty and my attention undivided. Even as I take care of the things of everyday life, working as unto You in all that I do. Help me to recognise the point of balance, the centre of the see-saw, anticipating Your imminent return but unfazed by Your delay. Seeking first Your kingdom and Your righteousness. Amen.

Bible Study

"For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died. And in that way, by sinning against the brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. "
1 Corinthians 8:11-12

In 1 Corinthians 8, Paul is addressing the issue of food sacrificed to idols.

First, talking about the freedom we have in Christ to eat whatever we want, knowing that it does not impact our salvation or our righteousness in Christ (1 Corinthians 8:4-6). But second, and more importantly, not allowing our freedom to become a stumbling block to those whose faith is not as strong (1 Corinthians 8:7-13). This same principle applies to other things also. Those who are strong in their faith have a responsibility to care for those who are weaker. We are to be like Jesus in our care for one another (Isaiah 42:3, Matthew 12:20), recognising that although all things are permissible for us, not all things are profitable (1 Corinthians 10:23). And that it is not enough to just abstain from evil, we must also abstain from the appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:12). We are to be our brother's keeper (Genesis 4:9).

[That being said, I want to make it clear that, although we are to be sensitive to the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ and care for them as we would ourselves, this does not mean we are to assume blame or fault for the actions of another, particularly those who are caught in addiction. If we, knowingly or unknowingly, encourage an alcoholic to have a drink and they fall back into addiction, we are responsible for our actions and must repent and work to restore that person, but not to the exclusion of them taking responsibility for themselves. One of the greatest gifts we can give another person is the opportunity to take responsibility for their own actions, and by allowing them to cast blame upon ourselves or others, we are enabling them in their addiction and hindering their repentance.]

Discuss:

Questions:

1. What are ways that our freedom could cause another to stumble?
2. What is a modern equivalent of food sacrificed to idols?

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

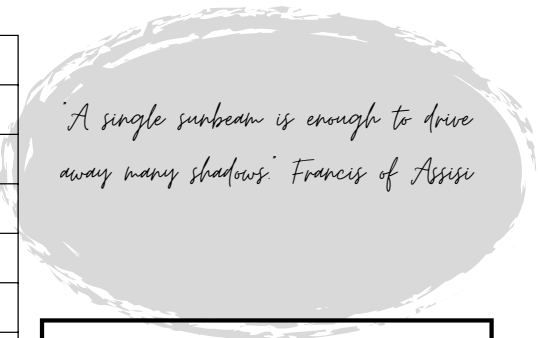
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Day 85 – Genesis 48–50

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'A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.' Francis of Assisi

Notes:

Memory Verse

"But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to do what has happened on this day, to keep many people alive.'" Genesis 50:19-20

Daily Devotion

"All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. So he blessed them. He blessed them, every one with the blessing appropriate to him. "
Genesis 49:28

Genesis 49 is fascinating reading – a father's blessing upon his sons. "...He blessed them, every one with the blessing appropriate to him" (verse 28b). Israel goes through each of his sons, from oldest to youngest, and speaks a blessing over the men but they are also prophetic declarations over their descendants (the tribes that will stem from each one). The other thing that is noticeable is that some of these blessing seem more like curses. A good example of this is the blessing he speaks over Simeon and Levi (Genesis 49:5-7). Israel spoke the same words over both of them and for Simeon, it became a curse. When the people of Israel entered the promised land, Simeon's inheritance was in the midst of Judah's (Joshua 19:1), but they didn't grow as rapidly as Judah and became dispersed in the land (1 Chronicles 4:38-43, 2 Chronicles 15:8-9).

Whereas, for the tribe of Levi, the same words become a blessing. Although they too have no inheritance in the land and they are dispersed throughout the territory of Israel, it is because YHWH is their inheritance and they have become the spiritual leaders of the people of Israel. Moses who led them out of Egypt and to the promised land; Aaron, who became the high priest, and his house became the priesthood; and the rest of the Levites – those who had the service of the tabernacle, and later, the temple.

We are aware of generational curses, but how often do we think about generational blessings and callings, much less walk in them with intention and purpose? And how often do we think about the generational impact of a word of blessing or prophecy that we speak over someone else?

Prayer: Abba Father, I ask You now to reveal to me any generational blessings or callings that may be impacting my life or the life of my family. Show me the spiritual heritage that is mine and, by Your grace, cause any words intended as a curse to be turned into a blessing. Amen.

Bible Study

"Then Jacob said to Joseph, 'God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, and He said to me, "Behold I will make you fruitful and multiply, and I will make you an assembly of peoples, and I will give this land to your seed after you for an everlasting possession. "' So now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Rueben and Simeon are. But your kin that have been born after them shall be yours; they shall be called by the names of their brothers in their inheritance" (Genesis 48:3-6).

Family dynamics are often very interesting, and this is certainly no exception. Joseph has heard that his father is ill, and brings his sons before Israel so that he can bless them. But before Israel even sees the boys, he makes the above statement to Joseph.

This may seem odd to our way of thinking. Why would Israel take Joseph's children as his own? Is he trying to make up for the lost time with Joseph, all those years he thought his son was dead? Is he trying to replace Joseph? After twenty five years of thinking he was dead, he's now alive and someone his father doesn't know, ruler of all Egypt, second only to Pharaoh. In actuality, he is doing this to give Joseph a double-portion in the land of their inheritance. By claiming Ephraim and Manasseh as his own sons, they each will receive an inheritance and a portion in the land, and each one becomes the head of a tribe of Israel (Genesis 48:21-22). The list of the sons of Israel that we see in Genesis (Genesis 49:3-4) are different than the lists of the tribes of Israel that we see in Numbers (Numbers 1:20-43, 2:1-31). In Genesis, they are listed according to the order of their birth, with Rueben first. In Numbers, things start to change. First, we see that Joseph and Levi are not listed but Ephraim and Manasseh are. Then the order changes again and Judah is listed first. So we see the prophecies of Jacob being fulfilled that he spoke over his sons and over Joseph's sons (Genesis 49:3-28). Israel blessed his sons with the blessing appropriate to each one, and those words have affected the course of the tribes of Israel throughout the generations (Genesis 49:1-2).

Discuss:

Questions:

1. How often do you think about the effect of the words that you speak over your family?
2. What are the effects of the words you speak over your family?

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus date:

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Day 86 – 1 Samuel 11-15

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*'I consecrate myself to God to do His will
where I am.' Watchman Lee*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"And Samuel said, 'Has YHWH as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of YHWH? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as wickedness and idolatry.'" 1 Samuel 15:22-

23a

Daily Devotion

"Then Johnathan said to the young man who was carrying his armour, 'Come and let us cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; perhaps YHWH will work for us, for YHWH is not restrained to save by many or by few.' " 1 Samuel 14:6

I can understand why Johnathan and David become such firm friends. He is a man of faith who knows that his God is not limited by size or by number, and I can't help but think that he would have made a great king over Israel, if his father had not sinned against God. Johnathan's faith is such that if God says to go fight a whole garrison with only two men and one sword, he will go knowing that God will give him the victory.

I don't know about you but I find myself constantly saying to God, "I don't have enough...to do what You're asking me to do." But I am inspired and convicted by Johnathan's faith in God, for YHWH is not restrained to save/ provide/work... by many or by few.

Prayer: Abba Father, I want faith like Johnathan's, free of doubt and focused on Your fullness rather than my lack. Grow my faith in You, as I focus on You and all that You have done. Amen.

Bible Study

"But the people said to Saul, 'Must Johnathan die, who has brought about this great salvation in Israel? Far from it! As YHWH lives, not one hair of his head will fall to the ground, for he has worked with God this day.' So the people rescued Johnathan and he did not die. " 1 Samuel 14:45

In 1 Samuel 14, we read the account of Johnathan's exploits against the Philistines and his father's foolish command. We see two members of the same family whose actions and words are very different.

Johnathan speaks with absolute faith in God (1 Samuel 14:6) and does exploits that should have brought a great victory for Israel (verses 12-15). Meanwhile, his father Saul has spoken words that have bound the people with a curse (verse 24), have diminished their ability to fight (verses 28-30) and caused them to sin against God (verses 31-34). The result of Saul's curse is that he is going to put his son Johnathan to death (verses 37-44). The result of Johnathan's actions and words are that the people of Israel defend him against his father and his life is preserved (verse 45). Two men from the same family, father and son; one who walks in faith and wisdom, and the other who acts from foolishness and insecurity.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. How does the oath that Saul bound the people with cause them to sin?
2. How does Johnathan's faith spur the people to victory?

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

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Day 87 – Psalms 36–38

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Rest in YHWH and wait patiently for Him...
Psalm 37:7a

Notes:

Memory Verse:

*Trust in YHWH and do good: dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.
Delight yourself in YHWH: and He will give you the desires of your heart.*

Psalms 37:3-4

Daily Devotion

*"But the lowly will inherit the land and will delight themselves in abundant peace."
Psalm 37:11*

Psalms 37 is one of my favourite passages of Scripture. There is so much encouragement in there and many important lessons for a life of faith in God. If verse 11 seems familiar, that's because it is almost identical to Matthew 5:5, a part of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7, another personal favourite), which is also full of lessons for how we are to live by faith. The parallels between these two passages are remarkable. But today, I want to focus on Psalm 37:1-11. There are three significant themes that are repeated in this stanza:

1. Do Not Fret (Psalm 37:3,9, 11)! Do not fret because of evildoers, because of those who prosper though they carry out wicked schemes, because it only leads to evildoing (Psalm 94:19, Proverbs 12:25, Isaiah 41:10, Philippians 4:6-8, Matthew 13:22, 6:25-34, 1 Peter 5:7, John 14:1).

2. The wicked (Psalm 37:2, 8-9) will wither and fade, will be cut off and will be no more. (Psalm 9:6, 34:16, 37:35-36, Proverbs 10:7). It is the wicked who will be removed from the earth, not the righteous.

3. Dwell in the land (Psalm 37:3,9,11) and cultivate faithfulness (Proverbs 3:3-4, Hebrews 10:23), delight yourself in YHWH (Psalm 94:19, Isaiah 58:14), commit your way to YHWH (Proverbs 3:5-6, 16:3), and rest in YHWH (Exodus 33:14, Psalm 4:8, 55:6, Isaiah 26:3). Those who wait for YHWH and the humble will inherit the land (Matthew 5:5) and delight themselves in abundant prosperity (Isaiah 58:13-14, 61:10, Zephaniah 3:17, Proverbs 3:12, 16:20, 21:21, Job 42:10).

Prayer: Abba Father, I thank You that You give me everything I need for life and godliness, that there is nothing too difficult for You. So I rest in You and wait on You.
Amen.

Bible Study

"How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the sons of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. They are satisfied from the richness of Your house; and You give them to drink of the river of Your delights."

Psalm 36:7-8

Throughout the Psalms, we see this image of taking refuge in the shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 17:6-8, 57:1, 61:4, 63:6-8, Psalm 91), and in it there is a sense of protection and refuge, but also of delight and joy, of the love and care of a parent. The Psalmist was very aware of God as his Father, the One he can run to in time of need, and he also delights in His presence. In Deuteronomy 32:9-18, we see this very clearly. God declares his passion for His people, His parental care, love and delight. But we also see His grief at the rejection of His people at all the good they are turning their back on. We see this same sentiment from Jesus in Matthew 23:37-39 and Luke 13:34-35.

God's love for His people is not just that of a creator for His creation, but that of a parent for His children. He watches over us to care for us and give us all good. He longs to gather His people under His care and protection, and pour out His delight upon us

Discuss:

Questions:

1. What does it mean to take refuge in the shadow of His wings?
2. What does Jesus mean when He says, "You will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD.'"?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

date:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Day 88 – Job 25–26

Daily Planner day:

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*A man is in a great place when he has
no one to turn to but God.
Smith Wigglesworth*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

He stretches out the north over what is formless and hangs the earth on nothing. He wraps up the waters in His clouds, and the cloud does not break out under them. He obscures the face of His throne and spreads His cloud over it. He has marked a circle on the surface of the waters at the boundary of light and darkness. Job 26:7-10

Daily Devotion

"To whom have you declared words? And whose breath comes out from you?" Job 26:4

Job asks a really interesting question here, and it is one that we should be asking ourselves on a regular basis, "...and whose breath comes out from you" (verse 4b)? Job knows that he is righteous before God (Job 9:19-22, 19:25-27), and that when he stands before God he will be vindicated (Job 16:19, 23:1-7), so he knows that the words spoken by his friends are not from the Spirit of God (Job 4:12-16), because God is not a man that He should lie (Numbers 23:19). Job's question is both valid and pertinent. How often do we stop and ask this question of ourselves? Before we open our mouths, do we check in with the Father so that we can be sure that the words we're about to speak are coming from His Spirit, and not our own or some other spirit? Maybe this should become our regular practice.

Prayer: Abba Father, help me to put a guard on my mouth so that I do not speak out words that are not of You, so that I express Your Spirit only in all my communications. Amen.

Bible Study

"Then Job answered and said, 'What a help you are to the one without power! How you have saved the arm without strength! What counsel you have given to the one without wisdom! What sound wisdom you have abundantly made known!'" Job 26:1-3

Job is speaking to his friends, but doesn't this sound like what we'd often like to say to family?

Family, who have known us since we were kids, often treat us like we still are children and offer advice and "comfort" based on who we were when we were eight, or even worse, thirteen to fifteen. Even Jesus experienced this with His family (Mark 3:20-21, 6:1-4, Matthew 13:54-57).

Discuss:

Question:

1. What can we learn from Job's response to his friends that could help us in dealing with our family in times of trouble?

Answer:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

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Day 89 – Jeremiah 1-6

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*Let us think often that our only business
in this life is to please God. Perhaps all
besides is but folly and vanity.
Brother Lawrence (The Practice of the
Presence of God)*

Notes:

Memory Verse

Thus says YHWH. 'Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it and you will find rest for your souls.

But they said, 'We will not walk in it.' Jeremiah 6:16

Daily Devotion

"A horrible and appalling thing has happened in the land; the prophets prophesy with lying, and the priests have dominion by their own hand; and My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?" Jeremiah 5:30-31

The prophet Elijah would often preface what he spoke with, "As YHWH, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand..." He knew by what authority he spoke (1 Kings 17:1, 18:15). Elisha after him used a similar phrase when he spoke in 2 Kings 3:14. And the disciples would speak in the name of Jesus of Nazareth (Acts 3:1-6). But it isn't about the words you say, it's about the Person before whom you stand, the One you serve, as the seven sons of Sceva found out (Acts 19 13-16). Our authority comes from Who we serve, who we are in relationship with.

Here in Jeremiah, YHWH is saying that it's an appalling and horrible thing for the priests to rule by their own authority. Those are very strong words. By what authority do you speak and act?

Prayer: Abba Father, forgive me for any time that I have spoken or acted on my own authority. I want to be able to say, like Elijah, "As YHWH, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand...", and like the apostles, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth", not as some incantation but because I stand before You and Your Son Yeshua, as Your child and Your servant. Amen.

Bible Study

"Then I said, 'How I would set you among my sons and give you a pleasant land, the most beautiful inheritance of the nations!' And I said, 'You shall call Me, "My Father", and not turn away from following Me.'" Jeremiah 3:19

Whenever I read this, it makes me want to weep with joy. This is the Father's heart for His people, Israel. This is His heart for you, too. Let's have a look at Jeremiah 3:14-19 - this whole passage shows the transition in the relationship between Israel and YHWH, their God. This transition has begun but is not yet complete.

They had started as sons but now, due to their unfaithfulness, the relationship has become one of master and servants (Jeremiah 3:14). It then becomes one of teacher and students, or shepherd and sheep (Jeremiah 3:15).

This next phase is one of my favourites. Their perception of God changes from one of a distant, inaccessible God (religion), to one of God with us [relationship] (Jeremiah 3:16-17).

Lastly, they become reconciled and reunited as sons of one Father (Jeremiah 3:18).

"Then I said, 'How I would set you among my sons and give you a pleasant land, the most beautiful inheritance of the nations!' And I said, 'You shall call Me, "My Father", and not turn away from following Me.'" Jeremiah 3:19

Discuss:

Questions:

1. What parable does this remind you of?
2. How is this a “type” of our relationship with God? does YHWH claim possession of in the passages we’ve look at in this study?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

[illegible]

Prayer Focus

date:

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Day 90 – Mark 5-6

Daily Planner day:

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Today, Jesus stands ready to hear your cry and to answer prayer for you. He is interested in every detail of your life. He knows you better than you know yourself. Kathryn Kuhlman

Notes:

Memory Verse:

'And as He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was pleading with Him that he might accompany Him. And He did not let him, but He said to him, 'Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you.' And he went away and began to preach in the Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was marveling!' Mark 5:18-20

Daily Devotion

"And seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; and crying out with a loud voice he said, 'What have I to do with you, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!'" Mark 5:6-7

There are several significant things to notice about these verses but before we look at them, it's important to note that it is the demons who are acting and speaking through the man.

First, they recognise Jesus' authority and show Him the honour He is due (Matthew 28:18).

Second, they respectfully ask Jesus what He wants with them (Matthew 8:29). They are shouting but that is due to fear, as shown by their next question, rather than disrespect.

Third, they know Jesus' name and who He is, His position and title (Matthew 4:3, Mark 1:34, Luke 4:41).

Fourth, they know He has authority over them and so appeal to God, the only authority greater than Jesus, for mercy (John 5:19).

If you read the rest of the encounter, you will note that there is no disrespect or hurling of abuse of any kind by either Jesus or the demons. The demons make a request of Jesus and he grants them permission (Mark 5:11-13, Matthew 8:32). Nowhere in Scripture will you find either the Father or the Son speaking abusively or disrespectfully to any demon or Satan. We would do well to follow their example.

Prayer: Abba Father, help me not to act presumptuously when dealing with principalities and powers of this dark age, but rather to follow Jesus' example and only do what I see You doing; speaking with authority rather than disrespect or abuse. Amen.

Bible Study

The Bible study for today comes from Mark 6:1-4 ; and I hope this is an encouragement to you, I know that it has been for me.

As we've discussed before, family can be difficult. There is the presumption that they know us, and therefore any respect we have gained or earned in other areas of our life has little impact on our family or those who know our family (Matthew 13:57, John 4:44). This can be a good thing, particularly if we've gained fame or importance, as it can help us to remain grounded and not think too highly of ourselves (Romans 12:3, 16, Philippians 2:1-4). It can help us to guard against pride (James 4:6, Jeremiah 9:23, Proverbs 11:2). But it can also mean that help we might be able to give, which is sought out and received by others, may not be received by family because they cannot or will not see us in that way. Jesus couldn't do any works of power in His hometown, other than a few healings, and He wondered at their unbelief (Mark 6:3, 5).

How is this an encouragement? Because even though family can often be the hardest place to walk out our faith in Christ, Jesus knows what we are going through. He went through it Himself, and can guide us in our dealings with family (Hebrews 4:15-16).

Discuss:

Question:

1. What does family mean to you?

Answer:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

date: _____

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Day 91 – 1 Corinthians 9-10

Daily Planner day:

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Never give up praying until the answer comes.
George Muller

Notes:

Memory Verse:

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

Daily Devotion

"Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar? So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel." 1 Corinthians 9:13-14

In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul talks about receiving a living from the gospel, defending his right to earn a living, just as all the other apostles do (1 Corinthians 9:1-11). And yet, declaring that he has not and will not exercise that right among the Corinthians, so as to freely preach the gospel without hindrance. This was a noble act, but it came with its own issues – because he did not receive support from them, his apostleship was diminished in their eyes and now he is having to defend his ministry.

When Jesus sent out his disciples to travel around the villages and towns preaching the gospel of the kingdom, He told them not to take with them money or extra clothes, shoes or staff; to not receive money but to receive their payment in food and drink (Matthew 10:7-10, Luke 10:3-8, 1 Timothy 5:17-18).

In our society, we tend to think of giving in terms of money but the Scriptures are full of different ways that people can give to the service of YHWH. What are some that you can think of?

Prayer: Abba Father, I want to be a cheerful giver. Show me how I can be generous even if I have no money to give. I ask you for creative ways that I can support those who preach and teach the gospel of Your kingdom. Change my paradigm regarding giving to that of Your kingdom. Amen.

Bible Study

There are many in the church whose spiritual walk consists of going from one spiritual experience to another, searching for the next “word” or conference or teaching. Always looking for someone else to speak into their lives or to make them feel good. Looking for the next “mountaintop” experience. In 1 Corinthians 10:1-5, we read about all the experiences of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness. If anyone could claim to have seen God move in power on their behalf, it’s the people of Israel, especially at this time in history. But many of them never saw past the experience to reach the place of intimate relationship with the living God, who dwelt with them and was their spiritual food and drink.

Experiences are great and they make good testimonies, but if the experience is all we have, then we have nothing. If the experience doesn’t lead to relationship and transformation, then it is as Paul would say, “a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal” (1 Corinthians 13:1-3), and we could end up like those who will say, “LORD, LORD!” (Matthew 7:22-23).

I never knew you!

In the experiences, we see God’s power; but in the stillness, we get to know Him (Psalm 46:10).

Discuss:

Questions:

1. Can you experience God, without knowing Him?
2. Can you know God, without experiencing Him?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

date: _____

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Month:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday

Year:

Thursday	Friday	Saturday

My Focus:

Notes

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The Week Of:

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Notes

I Get To Do List

No.	To Do	Y/N	

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☐ Saturday

Notes

I Get To Do List

[illegible]

The Week Of:

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☐ Monday

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☐ Friday

☐ Saturday

Notes

I Get To Do List

No.	To Do	Y/N	

The Week Of:

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Notes

I Get To Do List

No.	To Do	Y/N	

The Week Of:

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Notes

I Get To Do List

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