

August 13th Readings

[NUMBERS 22:21-23:30](#)

[LUKE 1:57-80](#)

[PSALM 58:1-11](#)

[PROVERBS 11:12-13](#)

In Proverbs 11 verses 12 and 13, we find a contrast between an individual who is lacking understanding and one who has understanding. One who is in need of understanding is one who despises or holds their neighbor, friend, companion or another person as insignificant. This person is like a talebearer; one who goes around telling slanderous talk or gossip in regards to familiar conversation, by implication, consultation.

In contrast, an individual with intelligence or understanding is one with a faithful spirit, literally one who is morally true and supportive. This person will hold their peace by being silent to conceal a word.

Which of the above are you?

August 14th Readings

[NUMBERS 24:1-25:18](#)

[LUKE 2:1-35](#)

[PSALM 59:1-17](#)

[PROVERBS 11:14](#)

In Proverbs 11:14, we find an important contrast between having no counsel and a multitude of counselors.

The Hebrew meaning for counsel is direction, guidance and good advice.

Here we learn where there is no direction or vision, the people will fall. They will not be successful. In contrast, having a multitude of counselors there is safety; meaning deliverance.

We need to keep in mind where this wisdom comes from that we may heed to it. We can look at the example of Rehoboam who took the advice of a multitude of young inexperienced counselors (1 Kings 12:1-19). Rehoboam erred in not taking the advice of the older, wiser counselors. This led to him being rejected as king over the 10 northern tribes.

Rehoboam should have chosen to be a servant to the people just as our king, Jesus Christ, who took on the form of a servant (Philippians 2:7).

August 15th Readings

[NUMBERS 26:1-51](#)

[LUKE 2:36-52](#)

[PSALM 60:1-12](#)

[PROVERBS 11:15](#)

In Luke chapter 2, I want to focus our attention on verses 40 and 52. Jesus grew in ways that I pray that my children will also grow. Don't we all want our children to grow in spirit and be filled with wisdom?

In verse 40, we see that Jesus grew in spirit. Do we not want our children "to be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" (Ephesians 6:10)? I desire that my children will be spiritually strong to resist the ways of the world.

Jesus was literally made full of wisdom (verses 40, 52). Don't we also want our children to be filled with wisdom from above, which "is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy" (James 3:17)? I want my children to be raised in the things of God, and we can help do this through daily family Bible reading, study, and prayer.

God's grace was upon Jesus (verse 40). Don't you want the grace of God upon your children? God's graceful word "is able to build you up, and give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" (Acts 20:32).

Jesus grew physically; he aged (verse 52). Don't you want your children to grow in stature? We provide physical needs for our children.

Jesus also "grew in favor with God and men" (verse 52). Don't you want the same for your children? "For he who serves Christ ... is acceptable to God and approved of man (Romans 14:18).

I not only want this for my children, but also for their future children and myself.

August 16th Readings

[NUMBERS 26:52-28:15](#)

[LUKE 3:1-22](#)

[PSALM 61:1-8](#)

[PROVERBS 11:16-17](#)

Psalm 61:1-8 is penned by the inspired David in a time of need who remembers God's faithfulness. David states that he will call upon God when he is overwhelmed (verse 2). Who do you call upon during a time you are overburdened?

David will call upon God because of His proven track record (verses 3, 5). God has been his strong tower, shelter and protector. God has heard his vows and has given David a heritage.

David is petitioning God in this Psalm (verses 1, 2, 7). He asks God to hear, attend and lead him. He asks God to preserve him through His mercy and truth. What do you petition God for in your life?

David then expresses his confidence in his creator (verse 6). God will prolong the king's life.

David's commitment to God (verses 2, 4, 6, 7, 8). He will cry to God in times of need (verse 2). He will trust and abide in God forever (verses 4, 7). David will perform his vows and sing praises to God daily (verse 8). Who are you committed to?

August 17th Readings

[NUMBERS 28:16-29:40](#)

[LUKE 3:23-38](#)

[PSALM 62:1-12](#)

[PROVERBS 11:18-19](#)

Proverbs 11 verse 18 and 19 contrast the reward of the wicked versus the righteous.

According to verse 18, a morally wrong, bad, or wicked person's work comes by untruthfulness, wrongfulness and, by implication, of a sham. Verse 19 teaches that this wicked individual will run after their own ruin as a reward.

The righteous or moral individual guided by God's standards will have a certain reward of life.

These two verses go along with Galatians chapter 6 verses 7 through 9. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

August 18th Readings

[NUMBERS 30:1-31:54](#)

[LUKE 4:1-30](#)

[PSALM 63:1-11](#)

[PROVERBS 11:20-21](#)

I have been told before that scripture can be interpreted and applied however a person wants.

We glean from the scripture that we have a responsibility to present ourselves approved to God, not being ashamed but rightly dividing the word (2 Timothy 2:15).

In Luke chapter 4, Satan and Jesus both applied scripture differently, but they both cannot be correct. In verses 11 and 12, Satan quoted Psalm 91 verses 11 and 12. Satan urged Jesus to jump because the angels will take care of Him. Turn to and read Psalm 91, and you will see the theme of putting your trust in God and making Him your refuge. He will show you his salvation (verse 16) and deliver you from a snare (verse 3). Satan wanted Jesus to intentionally jump off the temple. If one takes refuge in God, they will not intentionally do wrong or harm themselves to see if God will protect them.

According to Jesus, the above would tempt God as Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 6:16. As individuals, we are not to tempt God as Satan encouraged by applying scripture incorrectly. In Luke 4, it is recorded that Jesus referred to scripture three separate times to combat the devil (verses 4, 8, 14). We discover in Matthew chapter 4:11, after Jesus put his trust in God, that the angels came and ministered to him as it was prophesied in Psalm 91. We also find Jesus being strengthened by the angels when praying in the garden before enduring the agonizing cross (Luke 22:43).

Applying scripture without proper context can be costly, spiritually.

August 19th Readings

[NUMBERS 32:1-33:39](#)

[LUKE 4:31-5:11](#)

[PSALM 64:1-10](#)

[PROVERBS 11:22](#)

Just picture a boar out in the wild rolling around in the mud trying to cool off on a hot summer day. All of a sudden, your attention is drawn to an extravagant gold jewel in the boar's snout.

What would be the thoughts going through your mind? Read Proverbs 11 verse 22 and picture this illustration.

You may start to think what a waste of money and beauty. Maybe you will not even notice the beautiful jewel due to it being surrounded by mud and filth.

A fair woman is considered beautiful, goodly, pleasant, well and easy on the eyes. These verses state that a woman who removes or takes off discretion is like a swine who has a precious metal in its face.

The Bible translates discretion also as taste and judgement. The dictionary defines discretion as the quality of behavior or speaking in such a way as to avoid causing offense or revealing private information to embarrass or offend.

A woman who puts on discretion is a beautiful thing.