

July 16th Readings

[EXODUS 39:1-40:38](#)

[MARK 1:1-28](#)

[PSALM 35:1-16](#)

[PROVERBS 9:11-12](#)

Exodus 39:1-40 - When one opens their Bible to this passage, it is easy to just skim over the surface. It is full of what appears to be tedious details of building requirements for the tabernacle, but it is so much more.

Three quick points...

1. God gave specific commands as to the materials, measurements, and uses for each item. Any others would not have been acceptable before God. Notice He did not say what not to use.

God gave us His word with clear, specific instructions. We are to follow it if we want to be saved. Any changes to His plan will not be acceptable.

2. Read Exodus 36:1. One word, in particular, stands out to me, and that is the word "all." How much of God's word are we commanded to apply? All.

3. Each person had a job to do, and they had a willing heart to do it according to Exodus 36:2. Do we have a willing heart to do His service?

July 17th Readings

[LEVITICUS 1:1-3:17](#)

[MARK 1:29-2:12](#)

[PSALM 35:17-28](#)

[PROVERBS 9:13-18](#)

Proverbs 9:13-18 - Folly is described as an ungodly trait.

Official definition of folly: 1. a contemptuous regard for holy things 2. a foolish action, practice, or idea

Synonyms: fool(ish, ness), stupid, senseless, dullard, ignoble

Idea is mentioned at least 61 times in the book of Proverbs.

Warnings against it:

Jeremiah 23:13 - False prophets caused people to err/go astray

Psalms 85:8 - Let not saints/His people turn back to folly

We are not to be naive. The naive are especially susceptible to folly. Twice in our passage Proverbs 9:13-18 does it mention "knowing not/knowing nothing."

Hosea 4:6 says that God's people were destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Let us not be that people. Let's seek knowledge that can only come from knowing God and his Word.

Proverbs 1:7 - "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge..."

July 18th Readings

LEVITICUS 4:1-5:19

MARK 2:13-3:6

PSALM 36:1-12

PROVERBS 10:1-2

Mark 3:5 - In this passage, Jesus is grieved by the Pharisees' "hardness of heart."

-Hardness of heart meaning spiritual insensitivity.

This is not the only passage where this hardness is mentioned. You may remember Pharaoh in Exodus 4:21 whose heart was hardened, and he refused to let God's people go. In Ezekiel 3:7, Israel refused to listen and heed the words of the prophet.

Warning against it:

Hebrews 3:8-15 - v. 12 "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily while it is called Today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

Our hearts are the organ of understanding. Proverbs 4:23a tells us to "keep your heart with all diligence." We are to protect it from attack.

Let's be like King David who said, "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." Psalm 119:11

July 19th Readings

LEVITICUS 6:1-7:27

MARK 3:7-30

PSALM 37:1-11

PROVERBS 10:3-4

Mark 3:13-19 - Here Jesus is appointing 12 Apostles. The New Testament contains three other lists of the twelve. (Matthew 10:2-4, Luke 6:14-16, Acts 1:13)

Apostle - men divinely commissioned to represent Christ

These men were certainly busy with the Lord's work. They were witnesses of Christ's resurrection (Acts 1:22; Acts 10:40-42). They preached the Gospel (Matthew 28:19-20). They performed miracles and signs (Acts 2:43). They were inspired to write Scripture (Ephesians 3:5) and so much more.

Oftentimes, our friends are actually closer to us than our actual physical relatives. Certainly, these twelve men chosen by our Savior were loved and counted as his family. "...there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."
Proverbs 18:24

They shared a love like David and Jonathan. (1 Samuel 18:1; 1 Samuel 20:17)

They were valuable to one another in their times of need. (Proverbs 27:10)

They were always faithful. (Proverbs 17:17)

John 15:13-14 says, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are my friends if you do whatever I command you."

Are you a friend of Jesus? He laid down his life for you. There's no greater love!

July 20th Readings

LEVITICUS 7:28-9:6

MARK 3:31-4:25

PSALM 37:12-29

PROVERBS 10:5

Proverbs 10:5 - "He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame." (Proverbs 10:5)

These days, it seems like people who are willing to work hard are difficult to come by. It is a godly trait that we should all be striving to uphold.

Here are some benefits of hard work...

1. There is a profit. (Proverbs 14:23)
2. We can find happiness in hard work. (Psalm 128:2)
3. We can help supply other's needs. (Acts 20:35; Ephesians 4:28)
4. It gives us restful sleep. (Ecclesiastes 5:12)
5. It gives double honor. (1 Timothy 5:17)
6. Leads to eternal life. (John 6:27)
7. Not done in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58; Philippians 2:16)

On the other hand, here are some consequences of laziness...

1. Leads to poverty. (Proverbs 6:9-11)
2. Leads to waste. (Proverbs 18:9)
3. Leads to complete loss. (Matthew 25:26-30)

We should consider the ant in Proverbs 6:6-8. It's amazing how much we can learn about hard work from such a tiny creature.

July 21st Readings

LEVITICUS 9:7-10:20

MARK 4:26-5:20

PSALM 37:30-40

PROVERBS 10:6-7

Leviticus 9:7-10 - Here Moses is speaking to his brother, Aaron. He is giving Aaron instructions on making atonement; first on behalf of himself and then for the people.

This reminds me of a flight attendant's instructions in case of an emergency. We are to put on our own oxygen mask first before we help anyone else.

Why?...Because we are in no position to help another person if we are in danger ourselves. We've heard it said that the blind cannot lead the blind. If so, they'll both end up in the ditch. Matthew 15:14

If we have sin in our life, we need to remember who we are approaching.

1. Through the avenue of prayer, we are approaching the throne of a HOLY God. 1 Peter 1:15-16, Revelation 4:8
2. We should not be afraid to seek the help of other brothers and sisters. James 5:6 tells us that "the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."
3. We should also be careful in judging our brothers and sisters. We need to carefully examine ourselves before praying on behalf of others. Matthew 7:3-5

As Christians, we are called to be holy and to live godly in this world. 1 Thessalonians 4:7, 1 Timothy 6:11, 1 Timothy 4:7-8, Titus 2:12

July 22nd Readings

LEVITICUS 11:1-12:8

MARK 5:21-43

PSALM 38:1-22

PROVERBS 10:8-9

Proverbs 10:8-9 - "The wise in heart will receive commands, But a prating fool will fall. He who walks with integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known." Proverbs 10:8-9

Integrity defined - moral uprightness

Can it be said of you that you walk with integrity? Will God be able to judge you based on the integrity of your heart?

Abimelech had a heart of integrity in Genesis 20:3-10.

Peter demonstrated integrity by not accepting a bribe in Acts 8:18-23.

Honest behavior demonstrates integrity as shown in 2 Corinthians 7:2.

Some biblical examples of men with integrity...

1. Job - a blameless and upright man (Job 2:3,9,10)
2. David - asking God to judge him according to his integrity (Psalm 7:8)
3. Nehemiah - feared the Lord in his service (Nehemiah 5:14-19)
4. Daniel - distinguished himself by acting with integrity (Daniel 6:1-4)
5. Paul - always teaching with clear motives in truth (2 Corinthians 4:2)

Let it be said of us that we are a person that has walked with integrity in every aspect of our lives. "The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him." (Proverbs 20:7)