

September 24th Readings

[JUDGES 6:1-40](#)

[LUKE 22:54-23:12](#)

[PSALM 95:1-96:13](#)

[PROVERBS 14:5-6](#)

Consider Job

“Consider my servant, Job.” This is what God said to Satan. He was pointing out what a faithful servant Job was and that God had confidence in him. God knew Job would remain faithful regardless of the circumstances. But he knew more than that.

God knew what Job was able to endure. I Corinthians 10:13 assures us that “God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

God is able to make this promise because He is in control. He limits what Satan is able to do to Job, and Satan is completely bound by God. He knows us and He controls Satan. That is comforting. Even more comforting than that is His promise that He will provide a way out. “He will never leave us or forsake us.” (Deuteronomy 31:7)

Consider God’s servant Job and remember three things: God is in complete control of Satan, we will not be tempted beyond what we can bear, and God will always provide a way out.

September 25th Readings

[JUDGES 7:1-8:17](#)

[LUKE 23:13-43](#)

[PSALM 97:1-98:9](#)

[PROVERBS 14:7-8](#)

Peter Wept

Peter gets a bad rap. Granted, he made a lot of mistakes. He had little faith, he was impetuous, and he was afraid. Even so, I want to be more like Peter.

In Matthew 14, we read the story of Jesus walking on the water. When Jesus reached out to save him from sinking he said, "You of little faith. Why did you doubt?" Peter had little faith. But he was the only one in the boat who had enough to step out at all. For a moment he walked on the water with Jesus. I pray for faith like Peter's.

When the soldiers came to arrest Jesus, Peter drew his sword and cut off the right ear of one of the servants. (John 18:10) Jesus rebuked him saying, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?" Peter was impetuous and thoughtless, but he was passionate about his love for Jesus. I pray for passion like Peter's.

When Peter denied Christ three times, as Jesus knew that he would, he was immediately convicted of his sin. Luke 22:62 says "he went outside and wept bitterly." I pray for repentance like Peter's.

September 26th Readings

[JUDGES 8:18-9:21](#)

[LUKE 23:44-24:12](#)

[PSALM 99:1-9](#)

[PROVERBS 14:9-10](#)

Looking at the Heart

"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." I Samuel 16:7 In this age of consumerism, those words are very timely.

It seems one can never get enough: not a big enough house, not a new enough car, not a cool enough job, not smart enough kids. The pressure we put on ourselves and on our children to compete in this world is impossible. God assures us that if what we are seeking is His Kingdom, all our daily needs will be provided. (Matthew 6:33)

Matthew 6:19-21 reminds us not to store up treasure here on earth where it can be destroyed, but in Heaven where it will last eternally "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." That's the heart at which God looks. He sees if you're storing up your

treasure here on earth or safely tucked away in Heaven; and while we might not be good enough for the world, we must remember that God is looking at our heart.

September 27th Readings

[JUDGES 9:22-10:18](#)

[LUKE 24:13-53](#)

[PSALM 100:1-5](#)

[PROVERBS 14:11-12](#)

The Good Shepherd

In Psalm 23:2, the good shepherd “makes me lie down in green pastures.” What a comforting thought that is. Especially if we take a look at what it is literally saying.

Apparently, sheep are not the brightest of animals and they are pretty stubborn. The more I know about sheep, the more I understand why God uses them as an analogy for His people. They are also restless animals. They like things a certain way and are generally not apt to lie down at all unless four basic needs are sufficiently met.

First, they will not lie down if they are afraid of any sort of predator.

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* Secondly, sheep will not lie down unless they are completely free of friction with other sheep.

* Third, living outdoors among all the other outdoor creatures, sheep will not lie down unless they are completely free of all parasites, bugs, and pests.

* Lastly, they will not lie down unless they are completely free from hunger.

“He makes me lie down in green pastures” means more than a nice place to lay my head. It means that I have no need that God has not taken care of. I am safe, happy, comfortable, and satisfied. What a good shepherd we have.

September 28th Readings

[JUDGES 11:1-12:15](#)

[JOHN 1:1-28](#)

[PSALM 101:1-8](#)

[PROVERBS 14:13-14](#)

Like a Child

“I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” (Mark 10:15) A little child is petulant, messy, loud, temperamental, and immature; but he is also naive, trusting, and pure.

Naiveté means innocence or unsophistication, not ignorance. A child is not guilty or worldly. Like a child, we should reject the influence of this world and live in the innocence we gain through the blood of Christ.

Trusting is to believe or have faith. A child doesn't need the answer to every question. Sometimes the reason “why” is because God “said so” and that is good enough. Like children, we must understand that our Father knows what is best.

Pure is to be uncontaminated or flawless. A child should be protected from those things that damage or destroy. Like a child, we should guard our hearts and minds from corruption.

While we might occasionally throw a tantrum like a child, our goal is to be innocent of evil, trusting in God, and flawless in His sight. Like a child, we can rest in the Father.

September 29th Readings

[JUDGES 13:1-14:20](#)

[JOHN 1:29-51](#)

[PSALM 102:1-28](#)

[PROVERBS 14:15-16](#)

A Man After God's Own Heart

In I Samuel 13:14, God refers to David as a man after His own heart. What higher praise could there be from the Lord of all creation? What exactly does it mean to be a man after God's own heart?

Knowing the life of David, I find it comforting that a man who sinned against God again and again could still be such a beloved child of His. It wasn't the sin that endeared him so to God, it was everything else he displayed.

David praised God. While David did not write every Psalm, he wrote many of them and the word "praise" is found more than 130 times throughout the Psalms.

David was trusting. "From the Lord come deliverance." (Psalm 3:8) Many of the Psalms written by David talk about God's rescue, refuge, and deliverance.

David was repentant. Psalm 51:10 says "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." David knew he needed to be purified, and he longed to be.

Like David, I'm a sinner. But I can also praise God, trust him, and repent of those sins. I pray that I can be a (wo)man after God's own heart.

September 30th Readings

[JUDGES 15:1-16:31](#)

[JOHN 2:1-25](#)

[PSALM 103:1-22](#)

[PROVERBS 14:17-19](#)

A Book of Love

The book of Leviticus is a book about love. Have you read it? It's not an easy or fun book to read. Most people aren't going to frame verses from Leviticus on the kitchen walls or print them on t-shirts, and yet, it's all about the love God shows His people.

Leviticus is a book of law. It's all the ways the Israelites needed to sacrifice in order to be clean and all the steps they needed to take when they failed, as inevitably, they would. They needed a perfect lamb, sacrificed by a perfect high priest, on a very regular basis. Over and

over again. Weekly, monthly, yearly, constantly trying to make themselves clean before God. It couldn't be done.

So here's the love. Thousands of years later, the perfect Lamb is born in a manger in Bethlehem. He grows in wisdom and becomes the perfect High Priest. He offers himself as a perfect and pleasing sacrifice, once and for all, to cover the sins of His children. Because of this, we are constantly cleansed and ready to be presented to God.

Leviticus is a book about love - love that did what we could never do on our own.