

January 21st Readings

[JOB 8:1-11:20](#)

[1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-28](#)

[PSALM 38:1-22](#)

[PROVERBS 21:28-29](#)

PSALM 38

As I was thinking of the relationship David had with God, I wondered: how would we behave if we knew we were one of God's chosen? He was never a braggart about his position. Actually, he seems to have been the complete opposite, accepting God's goodness with a faithful heart.

He was not without sin. At one point in his confessing, he stated, "Against Thee and Thee only, have I sinned." To me, that statement clearly shows where he placed God in his life, an example we would do well to study and imitate that we, too, might be described as he was: "a man after God's own heart." In that way, we, too, become one of God's chosen!

January 22nd Readings

[JOB 12:1-15:35](#)

[1 CORINTHIANS 15:29-58](#)

[PSALM 39:1-13](#)

[PROVERBS 21:30-31](#)

I CORINTHIANS 15:29-58

When I was 8-10 years old we moved from a village into the country. In the fall my mother taught me a lesson that today's scripture in I Corinthians often brings to mind.

Mama liked beauty around us, but not only for us. She liked to share with others so we planted some ugly old tulip bulbs that cold, windy fall day, with a look towards beauty.

While I believed that beautiful flowers would bloom around the mailbox come spring, the real surprise came when Mama said we needed to replant the tulip bulbs the following fall. "Why, Mama?" "Because tulip bulbs double and they have to be separated so they'll have room to grow next spring."

I hadn't yet learned to multiply and divide, but I understood those lessons clearly that day! I also gleaned Bible stories from those tulips regarding our dead bodies and the beauties of resurrection that stand by me today. There's also that thought about the fruit we produce through our lives and even beyond, in that we don't live just for ourselves.

January 23rd Readings

[JOB 16:1-19:29](#)

[1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-24](#)

[PSALM 40:1-10](#)

[PROVERBS 22:1](#)

PSALM 40:1-10

It seems these verses of Psalm 40:1-10, whatever version you choose, can be summed up with, "I Love To Tell The Story". Right here is a Daily Bible Reader's perfect opportunity to improve their abilities. The more we read the better we understand; the better we understand, the more we are able and want to share with people we know and love.

January 24th Readings

[JOB 20:1-22:30](#)

[2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11](#)

[PSALM 40:11-17](#)

[PROVERBS 22:2-4](#)

2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11

Comfort. Do you long to be comforted?

"But no one understands the loneliness, distance from family, pain, etc., I'm suffering."

2 Corinthians 1, verses 3-7 tell us that not only is there comfort in all our afflictions from God but He has also planned more. We are comforted so that we are able to use the comfort we are given to give to others. This goes right back to that business of understanding. Just think

about it: who can better understand having to wait four months or more to actually see their first grandbaby than another grandparent or two who can say, “Our circumstances were a bit different, but I understand.”

When we reach out in an effort to comfort, not only do we accomplish that, but we also better understand the needs of others, while our fellowship grows stronger. When our fellowship grows stronger, others understand our needs better, therefore they and we are more comfortable sharing like the loving family God would have us to be and to do.

January 25th Readings

[JOB 23:1-27:23](#)

[2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-2:11](#)

[PSALM 41:1-13](#)

[PROVERBS 22:5-6](#)

PROVERBS 22:5-6

For every bit of advice we see in print, on tape, and by word of mouth from counsel (be it friend, foe, those who would judge what we “*coulda, woulda, shoulda*” done!) the greatest and kindest piece to parent and child alike is found in Luke 15:11-32, the Prodigal Son. If you Google it, it states it is “also known as the Two Brothers, **Lost Son**, Loving Father, or Lovesick Father”.

Our task is to lead our children to God; there comes a point when they must take responsibility for themselves. That means part of our teaching includes our not only guiding them to independence, but letting them choose it, little bits at a time along the way when we adults see it is wise. At the age of great-grandparent, it’s easier to see the stages than it was when it was my child whose hand I had to release! There came a time when I, rather like the father in the story of the Prodigal, had to let go. That was when I determined that I absolutely HAD to give my child, who was now “of age”, over to God. Yes, you see I thought I was still responsible! THAT was a hard, but wonderful lesson for me. My eyes were opened to the fact that he was always more in God’s keeping than mine anyway! Until then, I would have said I understood that. Okay, I’m a slow learner, but finally it really sunk in.

Let's look back to the parable from Jesus. That is a message directly to parents and children alike. My recommendation would be to read it faithfully as you raise children or seek to guide young parents. Pattern yourself after the godliness you see in the loving Father portrayed there as he dealt with not just one, but with each of his sons.

January 26th Readings

[JOB 28:1-30:31](#)

[2 CORINTHIANS 2:12-17](#)

[PSALM 42:1-11](#)

[PROVERBS 22:7](#)

2 CORINTHIANS 2:12-17

SMILES. Have you ever noticed how a smile from you brings a return from a friend or often, even a stranger? We expect that from a friend, right? How about from a person we're just passing at the grocery store aisle? I have found it to be not only contagious, but also frequently followed by at least a few words, and on occasion, those conversations have developed into friendships.

Our countenance is a part of our spreading the aroma of Christ. It's truly akin to a sweet-smelling perfume that perhaps just passes by, leaving a memory from the day. What if...just what if...your smile was the only memory of something pleasant someone saw in their whole day? There are folks we pass on sidewalks and in stores who are lonely, and longing for someone to acknowledge their presence as human beings. If you can do that with your smile, remember YOU represent JESUS to that person, if only for a moment. How about sparing a moment? When you walk away, you will discover a sweet-smelling memory following you the rest of the day, too!

January 27th Readings

[JOB 31:1-33:33](#)

[2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-18](#)

[PSALM 43:1-5](#)

[PROVERBS 22:8-9](#)

2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-18

We teach our children to take pride in their work. We praise them for their abilities. We do all we can to teach them to be self-sufficient and we give them high praise for their great achievements, right? And well we should, but do we set the scales to the point that they fully understand that “Without Him, I would be nothing; without Him, I’d surely fail”?

When I was a young homemaker, I did a tremendous amount of sewing, thereby not only saving money, but also providing our early school years’ children a variety of fashionable clothes. As I sat at my faithful old Singer machine one evening, I thought, “What a good job I have done!” followed immediately with a prayer of, “Thank You, God, that You have given me the ability to do this!” It was sheer delight when that spontaneous prayer erupted that night, and to this day well over a half century later, not only has it been a constant reminder of from Whom my ability has come, but also with each memory returns the sensation of complete joy!

Be sure to teach your young ones, using praise from you to them and to God for His gifts, resulting in their wonderful abilities!