

June 4th Readings

GENESIS 8:1-10:32

MATTHEW 4:12-25

PSALM 4:1-8

PROVERBS 1:20-23

There have been many notable people over the years that have committed to memory large sections of the Bible and are able to repeat it word for word. What a wonderful gift to be able to use their God-given abilities, but knowledge of the scriptures without understanding is of little profit to these individuals. Wisdom as we see in Proverbs is the taking of the understanding of the scripture and putting it to use in our lives. In our reading today God makes two wonderful promises if we will pay attention to wisdom. Proverbs 1:23 states that if we are wise enough to turn from our sinful ways and accept God's reproof, He will (1) pour out his spirit to us and (2) make his word known to us. This is the Spirit and word of the creator of everything. Can anyone use a better understanding of God's word today? Count me in.

June 5th Readings

GENESIS 11:1-13:4

MATTHEW 5:1-26

PSALM 5:1-12

PROVERBS 1:24-28

Oh how we often say that if we could all just get on the same page and be united in our goals and purposes, then what great things we could accomplish. Surely this is the way to advance our lives while here on earth. In Genesis Chapter 11, God sees the people of the earth unified in purpose and with common goals and language. Why wouldn't God like this? It was not because God didn't want man to be successful as much as it was who their confidence and dependence was upon. We can tell from the scriptures that man depended on himself. Sometimes we need to evaluate what our unity and purposes are centered in and make sure they are centered in God's desires and not our desires. How about your goals today? Are they centered in God?

June 6th Readings

GENESIS 13:5-15:21

MATTHEW 5:27-48

PSALM 6:1-10

PROVERBS 1:29-33

Usually any discussion dealing with religious matters will contain at least several references to "that's what they say" or "according to our preacher." Jesus addresses this over and over in the sermon on the mount. In our reading for today in Matthew Chapter 5, Jesus takes these beliefs by man and not God by saying "you have heard it said, but I say...". Where does your authority come from for your understanding of God's desires for

you? Is it in Man or what Jesus says in his word? How about we get back to letting God's word answer our questions and stand on the inspired word of our creator.

June 7th Readings

GENESIS 16:1-18:15

MATTHEW 6:1-24

PSALM 7:1-17

PROVERBS 2:1-5

Isn't it great when we are noticed for some kindness or good deed that we have done. Was the praise of others my motivation to do good or was it because I realized what Christ did for me and I give or help others out of love? Maybe it is hard for us to distinguish exactly why we do what we do. Obviously the person or persons helped received the kindness or help regardless of our attitude. In Matthew chapter 6, Jesus addresses this issue using the help for the needy as well as our prayers. Don't do either for the praise of men for if you do, you have already received your reward. Rather, do your deeds in secret and God will reward you. A pretty good way to provide for our retirement from life is by laying up treasures in heaven and no retirement specialist is needed.

June 8th Readings

GENESIS 18:16-19:38

MATTHEW 6:25-7:14

PSALM 8:1-9

PROVERBS 2:6-15

Have you ever sat outside and watched the beautiful sunsets that we have here in San Angelo? Colors that are brilliant and beyond description can be seen painted on the sky right in front of you. Then, was your next thought, "Oh well I guess all of this just happened by chance I suppose." I am going to guess that wasn't your thoughts. How could you think that after looking at God's beautiful art work. Psalm 8 captures this thought by saying "O Lord, our Lord how majestic is your name in all the earth." It continues with God's magnificent creation and asks, oh God why do you care so much for me. I am but a speck compared to your creation yet you made me a little lower than the Angels and gave me power over your creation. God loves you. Let me say that again and meditate upon it, God Loves You!!!!

June 9th Readings

GENESIS 22:1-22:24

MATTHEW 7:15-29

PSALM 9:1-12

PROVERBS 2:16-22

There are some events in the Bible that are just so incredible that it is hard for us to imagine that the people described in the story are really human. One such story is Abraham willingly taking his son Isaac to be sacrificed. I know we have all heard sermon after sermon about faith, but this one is really a foreshadow of what God did for you and me. In Genesis chapter 22 verse 16 God says to Abraham, "Because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you ...". Does this remind you of any other great act of faith? For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish. From other scriptures in Ephesians we know that God had this plan from the beginning. What faith demonstrated by Abraham so that he could be the father of faith. I know that Abraham was just another man created by God for good works, but he had to be tested and show this faith. Are you ready to be tested? Remember, we have a God who paid the ultimate sacrifice for you.

June 10th Readings

GENESIS 23:1-24:51

MATTHEW 8:1-17

PSALM 9:13-20

PROVERBS 3:1-6

Trust is a word that we use a lot of the time without really thinking about what we are saying. Phrases like, "Trust me, I know what I am doing." Or my favorite, "Trust me honey, I know where we are going. I don't need directions." Inherent in the word trust is a testing and what we call earned trust. Through many trials and errors we have come to learn to trust individuals or not based on their prior actions. In Proverbs 3:5 the writer says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." Notice, the writer says with all your heart meaning without reservation. We know that God has always kept every promise he has ever made to man and will continue to until time is ended. You know from your own experiences with trials and other testing, that trusting in God's word has always been the right thing. So why is it that we more than often lean on our own understanding? Is it just inherent in man to choose the wrong thing? I am not sure it is inherent in man, but I know we choose the wrong path too often. Let's break that lack of faith by trusting in the Lord with all our heart.