

November 19th Readings

[2 KINGS 1:1-2:25](#)

[ACTS 13:42-14:7](#)

[PSALM 139:1-24](#)

[PROVERBS 17:19-21](#)

Whom Do You Seek?

When times are tough; when the world seems to close in on you, where do you go for answers? => a parent, a sibling, a friend, the government.

In today's reading, King Ahaziah became very ill. He sought answers from a fabricated deity, which was not a deity at all. Today people may not go to man-made fabrications, but do they go to the right place for answers. Most of the time, I would say no. We overlook the one who has all the answers. => God, the creator of all things. If Ahaziah had sought God, he and 102 men might have been spared. Let's not make the same mistake. In I Corinthians 10:13, Paul writes that God assures us that whatever comes our way, we can get through it. Therefore, always seek God for your answers.

November 20th Readings

[2 KINGS 3:1-4:17](#)

[ACTS 14:8-28](#)

[PSALM 140:1-13](#)

[PROVERBS 17:22](#)

The wisdom of Solomon rings very true today -- "A cheerful heart is a good medicine..." (Proverbs 17:22). In the original Hebrew, the idea is that a cheerful/joyful or merry heart makes a good cure. How true is this? A small child with a big smile just melts all troubles away. When bad days are upon you, a smiling face makes the day go better. There is something about smiles. They are contagious and difficult to be angry at. It is always pleasant to be in the company of joyful people. However, it is even better to know that one of the fruits of the Spirit is "joy" (Galatians 5:22). In Christ, we have this joy, which is a good cure for all souls.

November 21st Readings

[2 KINGS 4:18-5:27](#)

[ACTS 15:1-35](#)

[PSALM 141:1-10](#)

[PROVERBS 17:23](#)

In this passage, Naaman expected to go through some foofaraw to cure him of his leprosy. But to his surprise, God gave him a simple task – go wash in the Jordan. God’s ways are nothing like our ways. Jesus told us to “...love one another; even as I have loved you...” (John 13:34). How hard is this to do? – only you can answer that question. What about God? Was it hard for God to send His son to the cross for us? I believe it was. And, it showed His love for us. Surely, we can love each other. God does not expect us to leap tall buildings in a single bound. But, what He expects is doable, which does not mean that it will be easy.

November 22nd Readings

[2 KINGS 6:1-7:20](#)

[ACTS 15:36-16:15](#)

[PSALM 142:1-7](#)

[PROVERBS 17:24-25](#)

Keeping It to Yourself

In this section, the four leprous men were very instrumental in saving the city of Samaria from starvation. God used these men as an instrument in doing His will. To their amazement, the Syrians abandoned their campsite. As the four men were feasting on their good fortune, they came to their senses and said “We do not well; this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace...” (II Kings 7:9). The people of Samaria would not have known about the desertion of the Syrian campsite if these men had kept silent. The gospel is very similar. Christians

should not keep the news to themselves, but share it with others. There are still people in this world who have never heard the good news of Jesus Christ. We need to remedy that.

November 23rd Readings

[2 KINGS 8:1-9:13](#)

[ACTS 16:16-40](#)

[PSALM 143:1-12](#)

[PROVERBS 17:26](#)

In chapter 16 of Acts, we find Paul and Silas in a Philippian jail praying and singing to God. When you are chained up, there is not a lot you can do. So, Paul and Silas did what they knew they could do – pray and sing. Unbeknownst to them was an audience listening intently. Our lives are like that. We are being observed and listened to everywhere we go. What we say or do can have unexpected influences on individuals that we do not even know. Paul did not anticipate the Philippian jailor to ask "...what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30) The jailor had to have heard Paul and Silas praying and singing in order to come up with this question. We may not have earthquakes open doors and loosen shackles off our feet, but we could be observed praying in public places or having discussions about Jesus. Even being a good Christian example can be noticed by others. Remember, our example speaks volumes to others.

November 24th Readings

[2 KINGS 9:14-10:31](#)

[ACTS 17:1-34](#)

[PSALM 144:1-15](#)

[PROVERBS 17:27-28](#)

There is an old saying "ignorance is bliss." -- Is it? Paul told the Athenians in Acts 17:30 "The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commands men that they should all

everywhere repent.” Paul is stating that there was a time when God overlooked man’s ignorance of Him in the past, but not anymore. God commands everyone to obey Him. We do that by repenting of our sins and following His instructions. He does not exclude anyone – “**all** everywhere repent.” The day will come when we will account for what we have done during our life. Are you ready for that day?

November 25th Readings

[2 KINGS 10:32-12:21](#)

[ACTS 18:1-22](#)

[PSALM 145:1-21](#)

[PROVERBS 18:1](#)

Even the Faithful Need Encouragement

Discouragement is not a sign of weakness or giving up. Throughout the Old Testament many individuals were discouraged. King David (a man after God’s own heart) became discouraged numerous times. Even today, people who may be perceived as strong in the Faith will become discouraged from time to time. The Apostle Paul was a strong and outspoken individual. God thought it necessary to encourage him. We read in chapter 18 of Acts that the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision. He encouraged Paul to speak boldly and told him that He would be with him. Our encouragement today comes from the Word of God and from others. The world we live in is full of discouragement. The Word of God provides us with true encouragement. So, let us seek comfort in the Word. Have you read it today?