

October 29th Readings

[2 SAMUEL 17:1-29](#)

[JOHN 19:23-42](#)

[PSALM 119:129-152](#)

[PROVERBS 16:12-13](#)

¹³⁶ My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.

¹³⁹ My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words.

¹⁴⁰ Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it.

Troubles abound in this world, as do sorrows and regrets. But what we need to remember is that many who suffer do so because of their foolish choices, their total disregard for God and His Word. So are we then to have a “serves you right” attitude? Heaven forbid! We who have learned to draw comfort from God and His promises need to gently and lovingly show by example that we love God's Word; it comforts us when nothing else can. It may not solve our problems immediately; we still feel pain and sorrow. But God gets us through our suffering. We come out stronger than we were before.

He is the eternal source of comfort. The world is foolish to turn from God. We are foolish to turn from the world. Be a holy example. Don't lose your compassion for all of God's people.

October 30th Readings

[2 SAMUEL 18:1-19:10](#)

[JOHN 20:1-31](#)

[PSALM 119:153-176](#)

[PROVERBS 16:14-15](#)

¹⁶⁵ Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

¹⁷⁶ I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

The same author pens verse 165 and verse 176. They are in different stanzas (Psalm 119 is written in 22 stanzas of 8 lines each) but it is the same author nonetheless. So what is the

difference? Focus. While focusing on God, the writer finds peace. When he strays from God's Word, he becomes lost. Peter was brave enough to join Jesus walking on a choppy sea (Matthew 14:22-33). When he stops focusing on Jesus, but instead, looks at the wind and waves, he begins to sink.

There is a simplistic meme going around Facebook, "Don't tell God how big your storm is; tell the storm how big your God is." Simplistic, but somewhat accurate. Focus on God, not your problems. This doesn't make your problems go away. Peter was still out on a choppy sea, but it helps to realize our divine shepherd is there to guide us and guard us through whatever we are going through. We are not alone.

October 31st Readings

[2 SAMUEL 19:11-20:13](#)

[JOHN 21:1-25](#)

[PSALM 120:1-7](#)

[PROVERBS 16:16-17](#)

Wisdom – noun the quality or state of being wise; knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action; sagacity, discernment, or insight.

Notice that it is knowledge coupled with just judgment as to action. It is not enough to know what is right to do. You need to act on what is right. Wisdom is not just reading the Bible everyday and patting yourself on the back for a job well done. You need to search for God's plan for mankind and implement His will into your life. God sees the big picture. He is the Creator, the Alpha, the Omega, the Judge and the Pardoner. He loves us, became one of us, and ultimately (through Jesus) died for us. Trust Him to know what is best for us. The fact that you are reading these devotionals proves you have some interest in God's word. God is not old-fashioned or out of step with modern times. He is, He was, He will be... all at the same time. Trust His word. Search it daily and act on its truths. Life within the will of God is a sure pass to peace. May God bless your searching and your reading.

November 1st Readings

[2 SAMUEL 20:14-21:22](#)

[ACTS 1:1-26](#)

[PSALM 121:1-8](#)

[PROVERBS 16:18](#)

Joseph, the non-Apostle (Acts 1:23)

The purpose – be a witness (with the remaining Apostles) of the resurrection of Jesus. The requirements were sparse, but clear: accompanied the group following Jesus from the Baptism by John until Jesus was taken up to heaven. Two men are put forth: Joseph (who was also called Barsabbas and Justus), and Matthias. The Eleven pray for God's will to be shown, and Matthias is chosen. What happened to this Joseph?

The Bible simply tells us nothing more. But when I try to put myself in his place, I imagine he did not go 'home', wherever that was before he began following Jesus. He had seen too much. He had been fed to bursting with a piece of fish and a scrap of bread – twice!, he had seen storms calmed, religious leaders rebuked, the dead raised, the lame healed, the sight of the blind restored, sinners declared whole and holy. All at the hands of Jesus. He may not be one of the Twelve, but he was chosen by Jesus, chosen by God, redeemed, “bought back”, from a life of sin. I imagine he told everyone who would listen about the things he had seen and heard at the feet of the Master. And people would listen, because they could. They could actually meet him, talk with him, eat a meal with him. This Joseph wasn't tied up with the issues that hounded the Twelve – caring for and preaching to the whole flock of believers in Jerusalem. This Joseph would have been accessible.

November 2nd Readings

[2 SAMUEL 22:1-23:23](#)

[ACTS 2:1-47](#)

[PSALM 122:1-9](#)

[PROVERBS 16:19-20](#)

ACTS 2:37-41 What shall we do? Peter has just told the huge crowd that they are responsible for putting to death the Son of God sent to save them. The crowd asks, "What shall we do?" Peter tells them, "Repent and be baptised." So those who received his word were baptized. The teaching is very simple: If we receive his word, we will be baptized. If we don't listen, don't care, blatantly rebel, or want to think about it for awhile, there is NO OTHER MEANS of salvation from our sin.

November 3rd Readings

[2 SAMUEL 23:24-24:25](#)

[ACTS 3:1-26](#)

[PSALM 123:1-4](#)

[PROVERBS 16:21-23](#)

²¹ The wise of heart is called discerning,
and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.

²² Good sense is a fountain of life to him who has it,
but the instruction of fools is folly.

²³ The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious
and adds persuasiveness to his lips.

Today, some are tearing down symbols of the Civil War, screaming for and against White Supremacy, vitriol is spewed by Muslim jihadists against the West and by westerners against the Muslim, Blacks against Whites, women against men, pacifists against war hawks. We seem to have so much hatred and disdain for opposing views that we can't even have a conversation. God says, "the heart of the wise makes his speech judicious and adds persuasiveness to his lips."

Help me, oh Lord, to be wise so that my speech may persuade others of your lovingkindness.

November 4th Readings

[1 KINGS 1:1-53](#)

[ACTS 4:1-37](#)

[PSALM 124:1-8](#)

[PROVERBS 16:24](#)

Another Joseph (Acts 4:36)

We often give nicknames to other people. For those we love, we call them Sweetie, Honey, Dear, or Mama, Papa, Nana, Auntie – the list is almost inexhaustible. Here in Acts 4, we meet Joseph, called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement). WOW! The Apostles. Those twelve men who walked with Jesus day and night for over three years. Those twelve men who saw miracles, who had the mind of God explained to them in words and in the life of Jesus. Those twelve men had another friend that they said encouraged them. Why would those twelve fearless men, so knowledgeable in God's plan, so empowered by His Spirit, need encouragement? Oh, to have known this Joseph! It appears that it is this same Joseph, called Barnabas, who introduces Saul, the killer of Stephen, to the Twelve apostles, and later becomes the boon companion of Saul, then known as Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles. Son of Encouragement? I believe so!