

September 17th Readings

[JOSHUA 19:1-20:9](#)

[LUKE 19:28-48](#)

[PSALM 88:1-18](#)

[PROVERBS 13:12-14](#)

We all have bad days: sometimes weeks, months and years. The writer of Psalm 88 was really having it rough, and it seems his desperate situation had been going on for a while. What a sad tune that must have been. His cries to God for help and deliverance were going unanswered. Why does God not always come to our aid? Why do friends and family, or even ourselves, die from cancer? Why do little babies die? Why can't I find a job? Why is there so much suffering?

One could write an entire series of books on this subject with lots of biblically sound and great ideas, and still might not have the right answer? (Can we answer for God?!) But, I do know this:

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21.

God's beloved Son died for you and me so that we can live forever with Him! Keep on "Crying Out" to God!

September 18th Readings

[JOSHUA 21:1-22:20](#)

[LUKE 20:1-26](#)

[PSALM 89:1-13](#)

[PROVERBS 13:15-16](#)

Proverbs 13:16

Every prudent man acts with knowledge,
but a fool flaunts his folly.

And folly was on full display in Luke 20. The Jewish leaders were trying to trap Jesus. "By what authority" are you doing and saying these things, Jesus? And that is the internal question each one of us has to answer when we meet Jesus. Does he have the authority to

demand my life, my obedience? Most will dismiss his authority, either out of ignorance or rebellion. But consider this: the grave was empty on the third day just as he had declared would happen.

...according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

(Ephesians 1:19-23)

September 19th Readings

[JOSHUA 22:21-23:16](#)

[LUKE 20:27-47](#)

[PSALM 89:14-37](#)

[PROVERBS 13:17-19](#)

We often use human arguments and reasoning when justifying our beliefs about spiritual truths. In today's reading from Luke, the Sadducees attempt to baffle Jesus and justify their non-belief in the resurrection with a perfectly logical argument. Problem is; the spiritual realm and the physical world where we live are two different realities. There are some lessons to learn.

Don't try to out-think or be smarter than Jesus.

Learn to believe and accept what he tells us as truth. Even the ideas that are beyond our grasp can be handled with enough faith.

Heaven will be different from here. We will be different in heaven.

When you think you have all religious matters solved, you could be a long ways from the truth.

Seek God's wisdom.

September 20th Readings

[JOSHUA 24:1-33](#)

[LUKE 21:1-28](#)

[PSALM 89:38-52](#)

[PROVERBS 13:20-23](#)

We have a lot of choices to make. What to wear today ...? What sounds good to eat ...? Sometimes even bigger decisions. What will I do for a career ...? Whom will I marry ...? But the most important choice is “Whom will you serve?” Everyone has to make this decision, whether they are aware of it or not. Consider all the relevant facts and get at the truth. Make a wise decision just as Joshua instructed the Israelites. Here are a few things to consider: Before the foundation of the world, God had a plan for you. It involved sacrificing his righteous, faultless son in order to reconcile a sinful and rebellious mankind to Himself because He loves us. This reconciliation is available for those who will serve Him. So “choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve ...”

September 21st Readings

[JUDGES 1:1-2:9](#)

[LUKE 21:29-22:13](#)

[PSALM 90:1-91:16](#)

[PROVERBS 13:24-25](#)

When Satan tempts Jesus in Matthew, chapter 4, he quotes from our reading today in Psalm 91. It's a Messianic prophecy speaking in general about God's protection and deliverance of his son, Jesus, because of his love for the Father. Satan uses this very real and true concept to try to get Jesus to take advantage of, or test, God. This would be a lack of faith on Jesus' part and would simply go against his very nature. He is always humble and submissive to the will of his Father. Of course, Jesus adamantly refuses to test his Father in this way and quotes some more scripture as a witness to his position. This begs the question. How do we

treat Scripture? Do we dare twist and contort for our own gain, or humbly and faithfully accept its wisdom and instruction?

September 22nd Readings

[JUDGES 2:10-3:31](#)

[LUKE 22:14-34](#)

[PSALM 92:1-93:5](#)

[PROVERBS 14:1-2](#)

The Passover. What an important National Holiday for the Israelite people. The feast and the week long holiday were set up by God to help the people remember the 10th and final plague visited upon the Egyptians, securing the Israelite nation's freedom. This plague, you remember, involved the destruction of the firstborn. Only the Israelites were informed of the procedure that could be performed to exempt oneself from the coming disaster. If the blood of the sacrificed lamb was on the doorpost, God would "pass over" that home and all would be safe. In our reading from Luke we read of Jesus' final Passover and we hopefully come to the realization that Jesus himself is actually the true "Passover Lamb" soon to be sacrificed. It is Jesus' blood that will allow God to blot out our transgressions. What a wonderful feast we enjoy every Sunday to remember what our Lord did that day!

September 23rd Readings

[JUDGES 4:1-5:31](#)

[LUKE 22:35-53](#)

[PSALM 94:1-23](#)

[PROVERBS 14:3-4](#)

In our reading from Judges we encounter the prophetess Deborah and Barak, the man God chose to deliver his people from the cruel oppressor Sisera. Deborah informs Barak of God's plan for him, but he will not go on the mission God has laid out for him unless Deborah goes

with him. Deborah tells Barak that all will go well with the battle, but because he didn't respond in full faith as instructed, the glory would belong to a woman instead of him. These sorts of stories in the Bible get me to thinking. I wonder about my semi-faithful responses to God. I wonder about what great things could be done in God's kingdom if I truly lived in full faith to his commands. "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" Mark 9:24.