

Read Through The Bible

Week 27 – Aug 4-10, 2024

2 Kings 4:38-17:41; Acts 21:27-27:12; Palms 79-81, Proverbs 16

Icebreaker

- Who was the most disobedient child in your family?
- What was something you thought was right or seemed good to do, but turned out to be wrong?
- Who is the most gracious person you know?

Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?

What struggles did you face?

What can you share from your personal Bible reading this week?

Where did you see God in your daily life?

Step 2: GET FED

2 Kings

2 Kings 5:10-14 10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” 11 But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. 12 Are not Abana³ and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage. 13 But his servants came near and said to him, “My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?” 14 So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

How often do our expectations or perceptions clash with the word of God? Do we think we are better than God? Do we expect God to validate our thoughts? Do we negate or not obey the word of God because of our pride? Do we have friends who help us see more clearly our proper actions?

2 Kings 5:25-27 25 He went in and stood before his master, and Elisha said to him, “Where have you been, Gehazi?” And he said, “Your servant went nowhere.” 26 But he said to him, “Did not my heart go when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Was it a time to accept money and garments, olive orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male servants and female servants? 27 Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever.” So he went out from his presence a leper, like snow.

What is another word for greed? (selfishness) How often has greed/selfishness caused you to act wrongly? How prevalent is the idea/practice of greed/selfishness in the world? How hard is it to overcome greed/selfishness? What can we do to reduce this practice in our life?

2 Kings 6:16-16 15 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” 16 He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

Where else do we find this idea presented in Scripture? (Rom 8:31-39) How hard is it for us to believe this principle when we are in difficult circumstances? What can we do to strengthen our belief in this principle?

2 Kings 11:10 10 Know then that there shall fall to the earth nothing of the word of the LORD, which the LORD spoke concerning the house of Ahab, for the LORD has done what he said by his servant Elijah.”

How hard is it for us to believe this principle? How important is this principle for our life? How can we incorporate this principle into our life so that it guides us in our actions?

2 Kings 11:17-18 *17 And Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD and the king and people, that they should be the LORD's people, and also between the king and the people. 18 Then all the people of the land went to the house of Baal and tore it down; his altars and his images they broke in pieces, and they killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest posted watchmen over the house of the LORD.*
Have we made a covenant with the Lord? Have we torn down any altars and images we have in our lives?

2 Kings 17:6-8 *6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. 7 And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods 8 and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced.*

God's prediction of exile due to disobedience begins to come true. Israel is the beginning of the entire Jewish nation being captured. What will be our punishment if we disobey God? If we worship other Gods?

Acts

Acts 22 relates the dramatic story of Saul/Paul's conversion. How great of a turn did Paul make in his life? Have you been converted like Paul? When we were baptized did we simply stop doing bad things or did we turn from bad actions and replace them with positive actions?

Acts 22:14-16 *14 And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; 15 for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'*

What has God appointed you to do?

Acts 24:1-4 *1 And after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and a spokesman, one Tertullus. They laid before the governor their case against Paul. 2 And when he had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying: "Since through you we enjoy much peace, and since by your foresight, most excellent Felix, reforms are being made for this nation, 3 in every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude. 4 But, to detain you no further, I beg you in your kindness to hear us briefly.*

Such smooth talkers. Who do you know is a smooth talker with the authorities? What topics today are we being persuaded to participate in by smooth talkers? How can we find the truth?

Acts 24:14-16 *14 But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, 15 having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. 16 So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.*

How often do we "worship" God? How often are we awed by His greatness and ascribe greatness to Him? In whom do we place our hope, God or ourselves or our leaders? What do our actions tell the world? Are we ready for the resurrection? Do we have a clear conscience?

Acts 26:27-29 *27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe." 28 And Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?" 29 And Paul said, "Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains."*

Paul took every opportunity to persuade people to follow God and Christ. How often do we try to persuade those around us? Are we stymied by the concept of separation of church and state? Are there other things that keep us from telling others about God?

Acts 27:35 35 *And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat.*

How often do we give thanks to God for what He has given us? What do we have that didn't come from God? Do we give thanks in the presence of all? How often do you see people giving thanks in public? What impression do you think this makes on the world?

Psalms

Psalm 79:13 13 *But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise.*

What does it mean to be sheep in God's pasture? Do we give thanks? Do we tell others about God's greatness?

Psalm 80:19 19 *Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!*

How much do we need God to shine His face on us? What can we do for ourselves?

Psalm 81:11-13 11 *“But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. 12 So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels. 13 Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!*

How much does God want us to listen to Him? Why does He want us to listen? How are we doing at listening?

Proverbs

Prov 16:25 25 *There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.*

What ways of man do you see that are ways of death?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

- Rehearse the great things God has done. List at least 5 things God has done for you this week.
- Examine your life for greed and selfishness. List actions you can take to reduce your greed and selfishness.
- Think of ways of man that seem right to him, but are against God's way. Resolve to oppose at least one of them this week.

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