



Monday, May 27, 2013

READ- The Old Testament: | Kings 18:20-39

Elijah showed tremendous courage in confronting King Ahab, his queen Jezebel, and their prophets of Baal. Before a huge assembly of Israelites, he challenged them to show what their god could do. Then he invoked the name of the Lord God and something miraculous happened!

REFLECT-

- Elijah and the prophets of the Lord had been severely persecuted by Ahab and Jezebel. The hearts of the Israelites were being turned toward pagan gods. A dramatic intervention was necessary and Elijah placed his faith in God to show his power. We cannot remain quiet about the love and power of our God in this pagan culture we live in. Find a way to share your faith with someone today.

PRAY-

Lord, give me courage to trust you completely. Amen.

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

READ- The Epistle: Galatians 1:1-12

Paul has received word that the church in Galatia is being led astray by false prophets – persons who claim to follow Christ, but are preaching different teachings from his. Paul reminds them of his divine authority received directly from Jesus in his Damascus road experience in hopes they will turn back to his teachings when he was among them.

REFLECT-

- How easy it is for us as Christians to be led astray by preachers or teachers who twist the words of the gospel. We must read the scripture for ourselves, particularly the teachings of Jesus, so that we can stay on the straight path in the light of his love.

PRAY-

Father, forgive me when I stray from the pathway and help me to walk within your will. Amen.

Wednesday, May 29, 2013

READ- The Gospel: Luke 7:1-10

Jesus heals the Gentile slave of a Gentile centurion based on the request of Jewish leaders. The centurion, not wanting to trouble the busy Jewish rabbi, sends word to him rather than coming himself, but also affirms his faith that Jesus can heal his slave, even at a distance.

REFLECT-

- This passage is remarkable in several ways: the Jewish leaders intervention for a Roman centurion's slave; the faith of the centurion in a Jewish rabbi whom he had never met; and the centurion's understanding that Jesus' power was such that he could heal the slave while still at a distance. Do you believe that much in Jesus' power? Do we sometimes sell God's power short in what we pray for?

PRAY-

O God, thank you for your miraculous healing power. Amen.

Thursday, May 30, 2013

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 96

What a beautiful song of worship, praise and thanksgiving! The people are called to "sing to the Lord" of his glory and marvelous works. They then must "say among the nations" that the Lord is king – they must witness to their faith. Then the entire creation is called to worship God – heaven and earth, sea and fields and trees – must proclaim him as King.

REFLECT-

- This psalm expresses such joy – it could easily be one of our "go-to" psalms to tell God how much we love and honor him. It reminds us that we must witness to the greatness of our God AND that all creation reflects his power and glory.

PRAY-

O Lord, I thank you and praise you for all the ways you love and care for me and for the world. Amen.

Friday, May 31, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: Galatians 1:10

Am I now seeking human approval or God's approval? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still pleasing people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Who are you trying to please – yourself, others around you or God? Sometimes it is possible to please all concerned; more often, we are tempted to do and say things that we know are not in God's will because we are influenced by others. Be aware today of your motives in all you think, say and do. Before you repeat gossip, criticize someone or take the easy way out of a difficult situation, ask yourself, "Is this pleasing to God?" His is really the only approval that matters.