

## DEVOTIONAL READINGS AND SCRIPTURES

July 1-31, 2009

### Wednesday, July 1

Read Genesis 21:5-20, giving thanks for the mercy and faithfulness of God, even in the light of our mistakes. Consider what might have happened through history had Sarah been less threatened and more accepting of Hagar's presence.

Read Psalm 34:4-22, rejoicing and worshipping the Lord for His unfailing mercy and love to those who call upon His Name.

Read Matthew 8:28-34, considering how sometimes the powerful works of Jesus cause people to be frightened and disturbed. Ask the Father to pour out His compassion upon the Church, so that we might see things as He sees them.

### Thursday, July 2

Read Genesis 22:1-19, giving thanks for Abraham's unquestioning obedience that gives us a picture of what God did with His Son Jesus, that we might be redeemed by His loving sacrifice.

Read Psalm 115:1-9, giving thanks and praising God as the True Lord, in Whom the world may put its trust. Petition the Father, asking "**Why should the pagans say 'Where is their God?'**" and calling upon Him to show His Presence and power in our time.

Read Matthew 9:1-8, thanking God for these two things: That healing and forgiveness are two sides of the same coin, and that we as the people of God can have faith for the healing of those who are unable to have faith for themselves.

### Friday, July 3

Read Genesis 23:1-4,19; 24:1-8,62-67, and enjoy the beautiful story of how God made provision for Isaac to marry Rebekah, and to carry on the blessing of God through Abraham's descendants.

Read Psalm 106:1-5, allowing the Holy Spirit to touch you with the reality of being one of family of God, of those who rejoice in His Name and in His compassion toward His inheritance.

Read Matthew 9:9-13, understanding that it has always been Jesus' way to go to those who know they need Him, rather than to those who are satisfied in their own religious expressions. Pray and ask the Father to show you your own need of the Lord to move in your life today.

### Saturday, July 4

Read Genesis 27:1-5,15-29, considering how Rebekah and Jacob tried to manipulate circumstances to bring fulfillment to the word of the Lord (see Gen. 25:18-34). This lack of trust in God caused much pain in their family, yet God still brought fulfillment in His own time and way. Submit yourself to the Lord's timing concerning His words to you.

Read Psalm 135:1-6, giving thanks to the Father that He has joined you into His family, and that the performance of His will throughout the earth is certain.

Read Matthew 9:14-17, meditating upon what it may mean to us personally and corporately for the Lord to pour out the new wine of His Presence and power. Pray that our lives and structures may be flexible enough to conform to His will and desire.

### **Sunday, July 5**

Read Ezekiel 2:1-5, giving thanks that our Father is determined to have relationship with His children, and will do whatever it takes for us to hear His voice. Set your heart to respond easily to the Word of the Lord.

Read Psalm 123:1-4, giving thanks for the unfailing mercy of God, that we may look to Him to receive all that we need for every day. Let His goodness and mercy wash you of every dark thing today, that you might serve Him with gladness.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, giving thanks for the weaknesses and “thorns” that the Father has placed in your life that keep you conscious of your dependency upon Him for everything.

Read Mark 6:1-6, seeing how at times familiarity can keep God’s people from hearing His voice. Ask the Lord for grace to hear His voice no matter through whom it comes to us.

### **Monday, July 6**

Read Genesis 28:1-22, considering how God made His promise clear to Jacob before He had finished working in Jacob’s life. Let the Holy Spirit bring to your mind promises He has made to you, and let your faith be strengthened by Jacob’s story.

Read Psalm 91:1-15, and allow the Holy Spirit to comfort you in the Presence of Almighty God, your Father.

Read Matthew 9:18-26, giving thanks that the Father’s perfect will concerning healing is again demonstrated in this story from the life of Jesus.

### **Tuesday, July 7**

Read Genesis 32:23-33, considering what it means to wrestle with God, to prevail, and to have your life changed by His touch. Engage the Father in prayer about what He has promised you, and don’t let go until you have prevailed.

Read Psalm 17:1-15, joining with David in this prayer for victory and blessing from the Father. Let your heart and soul be engaged in this prayer until you find release in His Presence.

Read Matthew 9:32-38, and respond to the command of Jesus that we beg the Father to send out laborers to gather the harvest of people for whom Jesus died.

### **Wednesday, July 8**

Read Genesis 41:55-57; 42:5-24, reflecting on the power of God’s sovereign plan to restore this family after establishing Joseph in a place of rulership by using the treachery of his brothers. Entrust yourself to God’s ways, knowing that He has your best interests at heart.

Read Psalm 33:1-22, and rejoice in the merciful power of God that oversees all the affairs of men, and causes blessing and prosperity to come to His people. Pray for the fulfillment of His promises to us in this day, that His Spirit would be poured out upon all flesh.

Read Matthew 10:1-7, considering that Jesus gave His disciples the ability and the authorization to deal with every kind of problem they would encounter in ministering to people. Give thanks for His generous gift of the Holy Spirit, and the empowering that comes to us through His Presence.

### **Thursday, July 9**

Read Genesis 44:18-45:7, meditating again on the awesome power of the sovereignty of God, that He would bring rescue and deliverance out of what seemed to be betrayal and defeat. Give thanks for His goodness and mercy.

Read Psalm 105:16-22, considering the testimony of Joseph and his endurance through difficulty “until the Word of the Lord proved him true”. Consider any disappointment you might have in the light of this Psalm, and allow the Holy Spirit to renew your faith in the Father’s promises.

Read Matthew 10:7-15, considering the attitude of humility with which the disciples were to exercise the authority of the Kingdom. Seek to be one who speaks blessing and healing upon every situation today, that the Name of Jesus might be honored through you.

### **Friday, July 10**

Read Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30, considering the supernatural guidance given to Jacob for his family. Thank the Lord for His guidance, and ask Him for help in any situation you are facing today.

Read the following from Psalm 37, and receive His comfort and assurance concerning the process of your life:

**Trust in the Lord and do good, that you may dwell in the land and enjoy security.  
Take delight in the Lord, and He will grant you your heart’s desire.  
The Lord watches over the lives of the whole-hearted; their inheritance lasts forever.  
They are not put to shame in an evil time; in days of famine they have plenty.  
Turn from evil and do good, that you may abide forever; For the Lord loves what is right, and forsakes not His faithful ones.  
Criminals are destroyed, and the posterity of the wicked is cut off.  
The salvation of the just is from the Lord; He is their refuge in time of distress.  
And the Lord helps them and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked and saves them,  
Because they take their refuge in Him.**

Read Matthew 10:16-23, considering the tension that is evident in obedience to Jesus. His Presence and power is our strength even when those around us resist and present difficulty. Take comfort from His promise to be with you today.

### **Saturday, July 11**

Read Genesis 49:29-33; 50:15-24, giving thanks to God for the resolution He brought to Jacob’s family, and the peace that was finally their experience. Pray again for the fulfillment of His promises to you and your family, and rest in Him as you wait for Him to work it out.

Read Psalm 105:1-7, and worship the Lord with a thankful heart for all His goodness to you.

Read Matthew 10:24-33, and come to a settled place concerning the Father’s love for you and His provision for you. Remember today that difficulty comes to you because you are His child, and because you are being conformed to the image of Jesus. Rest in His love today.

### **Sunday, July 12**

Read Amos 7:1-15, seeing the danger of hardening one’s heart to the Word of the Lord when it comes in an unusual package. Ask the Lord for grace to receive His messengers, whoever they are.

Read Psalm 85:1-13, praying this prayer over your church and over this land. Give thanks that Jesus is the fulfillment of this passage, and that God’s holiness and peace have come together in His lovely Son.

Read Ephesians 1:1-14, giving thanks that you are among those who have been chosen in Christ to be His very own. Ask the Lord to help you today to become like Jesus.

Read Mark 6:7-13, seeing that to be sent out in the Name of Jesus means to carry with you His authority and power over all the works of the evil one. Rejoice in that, and serve Him boldly today.

### **Monday, July 13**

Read Exodus 1:8-22, asking the Lord to teach you about His plan of deliverance as you read the Exodus story over the next number of days. Look for patterns of salvation in this story that are fulfilled in Christ.

Read Psalm 124:1-8, giving thanks for the salvation that the Lord brings to those who cry out to Him. Give thanks for His faithful love and power that He shows to His own.

Read Matthew 10:34-11:1, understanding that Jesus came fully intending to place Himself at the center of your life, with no competitors. Consider this version of V.39: **He who seeks only himself brings himself to ruin, whereas he who brings himself to nought for me discovers who he is.**

### **Tuesday, July 14**

Read Exodus 2:1-15, considering God's unfolding plan for the salvation of Israel, and how the human zeal of Moses had to be addressed before God could use him in that plan.

Read the following from Psalm 69, and cry out to God concerning the places in your life that are not yet resolved in victory:

**I am sunk in the abysmal swamp where there is no foothold; I have reached the watery depths; the flood overwhelms me.**

**But I pray to You, O Lord, for the time of Your favor, O God! In Your great kindness answer me with Your constant help.**

**But I am afflicted and in pain; let Your saving help, O God, protect me. I will praise the Name of God in song, and I will glorify Him with thanksgiving.**

**See, you lowly ones, and be glad; you who seek God, may your hearts be merry! For the Lord hears the poor, and His own who are in bonds He spurns not.**

Read Matthew 11:20-24, seeing how important it is for repentance and faith to attend the visitation of Jesus. Pray that we will know how to recognize Jesus and respond to Him as He continues to visit us in this time.

### **Wednesday, July 15**

Read Exodus 3:1-12, considering the incredible reality that Moses tries to refuse God's initiative in his life. Pray that you will recognize God when He comes to you, that you might respond with obedience and faith.

Read Psalm 103:1-7, giving thanks and blessing to the Father for His faithful love and care for you.

Read Matthew 11:25-27, rejoicing that God has chosen to reveal Himself to the youngest and the most childlike. Ask Him for childlike faith, that you may respond to Him with freedom.

### **Thursday, July 16**

Read Exodus 3:11-20, considering the magnificent promise that God gave to Moses: **"I will be with you!"** Give thanks that God is also with us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Read Psalm 105:1-9,24-27, and meditate upon the wonder of the unfolding plan of salvation. Consider how God must have conspired to set you free, that you might serve Him with all your life.

Read Matthew 11:28-30, and rest in the Presence of Jesus, allowing the Holy Spirit to take the things that burden you, and in their place give you rest.

### **Friday, July 17**

Read Exodus 11:10-12:14, again considering the perfect picture of Jesus and His sacrifice that was given to the nation of Israel during the time of the Exodus. Give thanks to God for this sacrificial gift of life that is made complete in Christ.

Read Psalm 116:12-19, giving thanks to God, and considering how to repay Him with the gift of your life in return for His love given to you.

Read Matthew 12:1-8, realizing that Jesus claimed that those who serve Him are doing something more important than literal service in the temple? Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in your life of service today, and accept your appointment as a priest of the Most High God.

### **Saturday, July 18**

Read Exodus 12:37-42, giving thanks for this time of deliverance, and considering the power and wonder that must have accompanied the children of Israel as they left the place of their slavery.

Read Psalm 136:1-26 aloud, and allow the power of God's deliverance to impact your spirit. Rejoice in the mighty acts of God's salvation!

Read Matthew 12:14-21, seeing that the purpose of Jesus was to serve the Father by bringing hope to the people. Understand that He had no desire to "build a following", and that the character of His service was peaceful and unpretentious.

### **Sunday, July 19**

Read Jeremiah 23:1-6, seeing how important it is to the Lord to have the leaders of His people reflect His character as a gentle Shepherd. Pray for your spiritual leaders, asking that the character of Jesus be formed in them as they serve.

Read Psalm 23:1-6, worshipping the Lord Jesus as the one true Shepherd that leads us according to mercy and unfailing love.

Read Ephesians 2:13-18, seeing that the heart of God is that all His people come to reconciliation because of the work of Christ on the cross. Give thanks that the way to peace has been fully paved through the ministry of Jesus.

Read Mark 6:30-34, considering the model of Jesus during this time in His life, where he exercised great compassion over His people. Pray for your leaders to have this same heart of love and care.

### **Monday, July 20**

Read Exodus 14:5-18, seeing how the Lord causes His enemies to make bad choices, so that He might be justified in dealing with them according to justice and holiness.

Read Exodus 15:1-6, rejoicing with the Israelites over the defeat of the enemies of the Lord. Give thanks that all your enemies are defeated through Christ's work as well.

Read Matthew 12:38-42, asking the Lord for the grace to recognize Jesus wherever He shows up. Let your heart be open to His Presence today, so that His voice might continue to be familiar to the ears of your spirit.

### **Tuesday, July 21**

Read Exodus 14:21-15:1, giving thanks for the power of God demonstrated in the deliverance of His people from their enemies. Pray for the Spirit's Presence and power in our day so that His people might know His love and mercy in their lives.

Read Exodus 15:8-17, giving thanks to the Lord for His great love and power exercised on behalf of His people.

Read Matthew 12:46-50, seeing that the essence of relationship with Jesus is obedience to the will of the Father.

### **Wednesday, July 22**

Read Exodus 16:1-15, seeing the patience of God in the light of the grumbling of His people. Understand that grumbling against God during times of great revelation and provision is very costly and dangerous.

Read Psalm 78:17-31, understanding that this historical song that tells the story of Exodus 16 warns us of the dangers of ungratefulness in the light of God's mercy.

Read Matthew 13:1-9, asking the Lord for the grace to receive His Word deeply within your heart, that you might be responsive and obedient to His voice.

### **Thursday, July 23**

Read Exodus 19:1-20, giving thanks to our God, Who in His mercy revealed His Word to His people, that we might know what is required, and that we might receive the grace and mercy that we require.

Read the following from the Book of Daniel (this section was edited from Protestant versions of the Bible in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century), and worship the Lord together with the writer of this song:

**Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever;  
And blessed is your holy and glorious name, praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages.  
Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory, praiseworthy and glorious above all forever.  
Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.  
Blessed are you who look into the depths from your throne upon the cherubim, praiseworthy and  
exalted above all forever.  
Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven, praiseworthy and glorious forever.**

Read Matthew 13:10-17, repenting for any hardness of heart you may have, and asking the Lord for eyes and ears to see and hear what God is doing and saying, that you might be obedient and responsive to His will.

### **Friday, July 24**

Read Exodus 20:1-17, giving thanks for the law of God that helps us to understand His character and nature. Ask for the grace of the Holy Spirit to have God's Word written deeply upon your heart, that you might live pleasing to Him.

Read Psalm 19:7-11, considering the benefits of knowing the Word of God within your heart. Set your heart and mind to give priority to the learning of God's Word.

Read Matthew 13:18-23, understanding the factors that keep us from fruitfulness in the will of God. Ask for understanding to receive God's power, that you might obey His Word.

### **Saturday, July 25**

Read Exodus 24:3-8, setting your heart and will to be obedient to the Word of God. Understand that God takes those promises seriously, while giving us the power through the Holy Spirit to fulfill our vows to Him.

Read Psalm 50:1-15, considering the importance that God attaches to the keeping of vows made to Him. Again, receive the power from the Holy Spirit to complete the things you have promised to the Lord.

Read Matthew 13:24-30, understanding that God has chosen to be patient with the presence of evil among His people. Entrust your questions to God, knowing that He will be faithful to deal with evil in due time.

### **Sunday, July 26**

Read 2 Kings 4:42-44, giving thanks for the power of the Lord to meet the needs of His people. Set your heart to trust the Lord with all your needs today.

Read Psalm 145:1-21, giving praise to the Father that He is merciful and gracious to provide for all living things. Understand that it is His mercy that sustains life for every creature, and give Him thanks.

Read Ephesians 4:1-6, seeing the place that the unity of the Body of Christ has in the heart of the Father. Pray for the Church, that we might know the power of the unity of His Spirit in us.

Read John 6:1-15, seeing that the powerful miracle of 2 Kings 4 was fulfilled and completed in the person and ministry of Jesus. Give thanks for His willingness to provide for His people in all our needs.

### **Monday, July 27**

Read Exodus 32:15-34, considering the tendency of God's people to move away from Him and easily go into grave sin. Pray for the grace to remain faithful to the Lord in every way during this day.

Read Psalm 106:19-23, considering the ease with which the people forgot God, and also considering the powerful picture of Jesus as Moses stood in the breach to intercede on behalf of the people. Give thanks for the mercy and generosity of God.

Read Matthew 13:31-35, giving thanks for these pictures that help us understand the certainty of God's kingdom growing into its place of power and protection. Praise God for the reality of His coming kingdom.

### **Tuesday, July 28**

Read Exodus 33:7-34:9,28, seeing again the grace of God that gave the people a second chance to be obedient to Him. Understand that it is God's Presence that we must have, or else it is better to not move forward. Call out to Him, asking for His Presence today.

Read Psalm 103:1-22, giving thanks for the mercy and compassion of the Father. Praise Him with all the angels, and acknowledge that God is good.

Read Matthew 13:35-43, giving thanks that the Father knows His children, and that He is not ignorant of the influence of evil among His people. Let the Holy Spirit speak peace to your soul, and be free to serve, knowing that the Father will indeed deal with those among us who serve the enemy.

### **Wednesday, July 29**

Read Exodus 34:29-35, understanding that simply being in the Presence of God, receiving His Word by the power of the Holy Spirit, causes us to shine with His glory. See 2 Corinthians 3:7-18 to understand that this reality is part of our inheritance in Christ.

Read Psalm 99:1-9, and worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, giving thanks for His mercy and His righteousness.

Read Matthew 13:44-46, seeing the value that Jesus has placed on having His Bride with Him to rule in His Kingdom. He gave everything He possessed to claim you, and is joyful over the result. Give Him thanks for that!

### **Thursday, July 30**

Read Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38, meditating on the wonder and beauty of being led by the very Presence of God. Give thanks for His mercy and grace that He shows as He leads us today.

Read Psalm 84:1-12, giving thanks for the Presence of the Lord, and for the House He is building (His Body, the Church!) that is the dwelling place of His Presence. Give praise and honor to the Lord for His great love and mercy.

Read Matthew 13:47-53, again understanding that God is not surprised or nervous by the mixture that appears among His people in this time. He will deal with that in His own way and in His timing. Set your heart to serve in love today, trusting the Father to deal with everything else.

**Friday, July 31**

Read Leviticus 23:1-16,27-37, understanding that the Lord has set yearly festivals in place so that His people might come together and celebrate His goodness as one Body. Give thanks for the Family of God, and bless the whole Church with His Presence and grace.

Read Psalm 81:1-16, giving thanks again for the grace of God that comes to us during times of corporate celebration. Allow that grace to be effective in your life today, setting your heart to obey the Lord fully.

Read Matthew 13:54-58, realizing that it is sometimes the most difficult to receive from the Lord through people whom we know well. Ask the Lord for the wisdom to see and hear Him through anyone He chooses to use in your life.