

## **Bible study for this week** 3/23/09~3/29/09

\***March 23(Monday),2009**{ [Isaiah 49:13-18](#) }Key: As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. (Psalm 103:13)“No Need Is Too Trivial”Bible In One Year: [Joshua 13-15; Luke 1:57-80](#)

Several mothers of small children were sharing encouraging answers to prayer. One woman admitted that she felt selfish when she troubled God with her personal needs. “Compared with the huge global needs God faces,” she explained, “my circumstances must seem trivial to Him.”

Moments later, her little son pinched his fingers in a door and ran screaming to his mother. She didn’t say, “How selfish of you to bother me with your throbbing fingers when I’m busy!” No, she showed him great compassion and tenderness.

As Psalm 103:13 reminds us, this is the response of love, both human and divine. In Isaiah 49, God said that even though a mother may forget to have compassion on her child, the Lord never forgets His children (v.15). God assured His people, “I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands” (v.16).

Such intimacy with God belongs to those who fear Him, and who rely on Him rather than on themselves. As that child with throbbing fingers ran freely to his mother, so may we run to God with our daily problems.

Our compassionate God doesn’t neglect others to respond to your concerns. He has limitless time and love for each of His children. No need is too trivial for Him.

***Meditate:***No heart too small, no world too wide To feel the Master’s touch; Dear Lord of all, we give Thee thanks For Thou hast sent so much.

***Aphorism:***God bears the world’s weight on His shoulder, and He holds His children in the palm of His hand.

\***March 24(Tuesday),2009**{ [Acts 17:22-31](#) }Key: It is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. (Acts 10:42)“The Carpenter Judge”Bible In One Year: [Joshua 16-18; Luke 2:1-24](#)

Jesus Christ is the Inescapable One. We must either receive Him in this life as our loving Savior or stand before Him in the life to come as our eternal Judge.

There’s a story in the *Gray and Adams Commentary* about a doctor who “made it his chief concern in matters of religion to degrade the character and dignity of Christ.” He viewed the Savior with so much contempt that he always spoke of Him in a demeaning way by calling Him “the carpenter’s son.”

Eventually, the physician became terminally ill. During the weeks before his death, he became very agitated. He remarked to the person attending him, “I’m a dying man, and what affects me most of all is that I must be judged by the carpenter’s son!”

That doctor faced the terrible future that awaits all who reject Christ. Yet, even in his last conscious moments, if he had trusted Jesus as Savior he could have found peace and received eternal salvation.

How have you been treating Christ? Remember, “the carpenter’s son” is the Son of God. Trust Him today! You will receive the blessing of salvation—not the sentence of condemnation (John 3:17).

***Meditate:*** What will you do with Jesus? Neutral you cannot be; Someday your heart will be asking, “What will He do with me?”

***Aphorism:***Everyone must choose—Christ or condemnation.

\***March 25(Wednesday),2009**{ [Proverbs 26:17-28](#) }Key: Where there is no wood, the

fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases. (Proverbs 26:20)“When The Fire Goes Out”Bible In One Year: [Joshua 19-21; Luke 2:25-52](#)

When a fire finishes burning through the material it feeds on, it goes out. Similarly, when gossip reaches the ear of someone who will not repeat it, it dies.

Gossip, like other sins, is like “tasty trifles” (Proverbs 26:22). We like to hear it and share it with others because it “tastes” good. Gossip is rooted in our need to feel good about ourselves. As we bring others down, we gain the illusion that we are moving upward.

That’s why spreading gossip is so difficult to resist. It takes prayer and God’s grace to bring us to the point where we refuse to pass it on or even hear it—even under the guise of personal concern or a request to pray for a sinning friend in trouble.

We must ask God for the wisdom to know when to speak, what to speak, and when to simply keep our mouths shut. For “in the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise” (Proverbs 10:19).

It is often wise to be quiet and speak few words. But if we must speak, let’s talk of those things that encourage and move others closer to God, not those things that will discourage and hurt them. “The tongue of the wise promotes health” (Proverbs 12:18).

**Meditate:** The tongue can spread suspicion, And reputations steal; But when the Lord controls our tongue, Its words will soothe and heal.

**Aphorism:** Destroy gossip by ignoring it.

\***March 26(Thursday),2009**{ [Psalm 119:97-104](#) }Key: Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. (Psalm 119:97)“A Personal Letter”Bible In One Year: [Joshua 22-24; Luke 3](#)

In 1991, actress Julia Roberts was asked what object she valued most. “I have a letter from my daddy,” she replied, “the only letter that I managed not to lose as a child . . . . If anybody ever took that away from me, I would just be destroyed. It doesn’t mean anything to anybody else, yet I can read that letter 10 times a day, and it moves me in a different way every time.”

According to Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, the Bible is a priceless love letter from the heavenly Father to His children. How do you view the Bible? Do you think it’s simply a unique ancient book known for its historical and religious values? Or do you look at it as a personal letter from your heavenly Father, the only such letter in existence? And do you read the Scriptures repeatedly, even daily, finding in them something that with each reading touches your heart?

If you no longer sense God’s love letter speaking to you, try spending a week with Psalm 119—an anthem of praise for His Word. You’ll find that the Bible will make you wise and help you to restrain yourself “from every evil way” (vv.98,101). It will become “sweet” to your taste, “sweeter than honey to [your] mouth” (v.103).

**Meditate:** O send Thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me, That He may touch my eyes and make me see; Show me the truth concealed within Thy Word, And in Thy Book revealed I see Thee, Lord.

**Aphorism:** A well-read Bible is the companion of a well-fed soul.

\***March 27(Friday),2009**{ [Job 4:1-11](#) }Key: Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, and you have strengthened the feeble knees. (Job 4:4)“Strength & Support”Bible In One Year: [Judges 1-3; Luke 4:1-30](#)

The local newspaper reported that a mother is devastated because her 21-year-old son, who had always seemed like an upright young man, had been arrested for dealing drugs.

Also in our community, the parents and siblings of a 15-year-old are grieving because he was killed in a gun accident.

An aged friend is heartbroken because her only daughter, the person she depended on more than all others, died from cancer.

People who are hurting have a common need: the comfort that comes from trusting God. They need to be assured that tragedy and grief are not a mark of God's disfavor but that He weeps with them, He loves them, and He will never leave those who are His.

Eliphaz said to Job: "Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, and you have strengthened feeble knees" (Job 4:4). Job earned this tribute despite his own deep suffering. And when we offer comfort to sorrowing and suffering people, we not only emulate Job—we emulate Jesus.

In the midst of a host of hurting people, each one of us can reach out to become a comforter like Job. Let's ask God to make our hearts tender enough to support and strengthen those who are hurting.

**Meditate:** Reach out and give your love to the loveless, Reach out and make a home for the homeless; Reach out and shed God's light in the darkness—Reach out and let the smile of God touch through you.

**Aphorism:** God doesn't comfort us to make us comfortable, but to make us comforters.  
**\*March 28(Saturday),2009**{ [Psalm 92](#) } Key: They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing. (Psalm 92:14)"Keep Going For God!" Bible In One Year: [Judges 4-6; Luke 4:31-44](#)

A familiar saying goes something like this: "Old age is a matter of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter!"

That must have been John Kelley's attitude. Kelley, who died in 2004 at the age of 96, ran in 58 Boston Marathons (that's 26.2 miles each time)—including his last one in 1992 when he was 84 years old.

Kelley's remarkable feat is a reminder to each of us that we must stay active as long as we can. Far too many folks hit middle age and put the body in neutral. And Christians too often put their service for Jesus Christ in the same inactive mode.

Each of us has a responsibility to God, as long as He gives us physical and mental strength, to work heartily "as to the Lord" (Colossians 3:23). We are never called to retire from life and coast home to heaven.

The psalmist said that the righteous "shall still bear fruit in old age" (Psalm 92:14). For those who are physically able, that means continuing in active service. For those who can no longer move about, that means being active in prayer and in quiet service.

Let's make sure old age doesn't stop us from bearing fruit. We need to keep going for God.

**Meditate:** Growing old but not retiring, For the battle still is on; Going on without relenting Till the final victory's won.

**Aphorism:** To stay youthful, stay useful.

**\*March 29(Sunday),2009**{ [Hebrews 4:14-16](#) } Key: Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace. (Hebrews 4:16)"A Bold Entrance" Bible In One Year: [Judges 7-8; Luke 5:1-16](#)

One morning, Scott Long and his wife had just awakened and were lying in bed when suddenly a young fellow entered their bedroom. He walked around the bed to Scott's side.

If the trespasser had been a total stranger, his entrance would've been criminal intrusion. If he had been a friend, his entrance would've been just plain obnoxious. But it was their toddler son who had entered their bedroom, jumped on the bed, and boldly said, "I want in the middle." Scott was struck with the beauty of a child's security in knowing he is wanted.

We are welcome in our heavenly Father's presence as well. Hebrews 4:16 tells us we can "come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." We can approach Him confidently about anything—our needs and our desires—knowing that He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7).

Writer Phillips Brooks said, "If man is man and God is God, to live without prayer is not merely an awful thing; it is an infinitely foolish thing."

Let's not be foolish and ignore the help we can find in prayer to our Father. Instead, let's approach Him with the boldness of a child who knows he is loved and wanted by his father.

***Meditate:*** When we approach the Lord in prayer, We can come boldly to His throne; His children come expectantly, For grace and mercy will be shown.

***Aphorism:*** Pray as a child talks to his father.