

## **Bible study for this week** 4/27/09~5/03/09

\***April 27 (Monday), 2009** { [Luke 11:1-13](#) } Key: As He was praying in a certain place, . . . one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1) "In Conference" Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 1-2; Luke 19:28-48](#)

The president of a large company wanted to talk to the factory's manager about an urgent matter. But the manager's secretary said, "He cannot be disturbed. He's in conference—as he is every day at this time."

"Tell him the president wants to see him," the man responded impatiently.

The secretary firmly replied, "I have strict orders, Sir, not to disturb him while he is in conference."

Angrily, the man brushed past the secretary and opened the door to the manager's office. After one quick look he backed out, gently closed the door, and said, "I'm sorry!" The president had found his manager on his knees in front of his open Bible.

The purpose of a daily devotional time is to stimulate regular, intimate meetings with the King of kings. We need to seek new orders and instructions each day from the One who has planned our lives and provided for our needs.

Jesus Himself spent regular time in prayer and inspired His disciples to pray (Luke 11:1). He gave them what we know as The Lord's Prayer and told them to keep asking, seeking, and knocking (vv.9-10).

Have you spent time in conference with God today? It's never too late to start.

**Meditate:** Begin the day with God, Kneel down to Him in prayer; Lift up your heart to His abode, And seek His love to share.

**Aphorism:** Begin the day with prayer; end it with praise.

\***April 28 (Tuesday), 2009** { [Hebrews 11:13-16](#) } Key: They were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. (Hebrews 11:13) "Tramps And Pilgrims" Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 3-5; Luke 20:1-26](#)

During the Great Depression of the early 1930s, many men became tramps. They hopped freight trains to travel from place to place, slept in empty boxcars, and earned a little money by doing seasonal jobs. When they couldn't find a job, they resorted to begging. My mother was a "soft touch" for any such drifters who came to our door for food. They had lost the comfortable security of a home.

Like the tramp, a pilgrim may be without the comfort and protection of a home, but he knows where he is going. His hopes and aspirations are set upon a goal.

The Christian is to be that kind of pilgrim. In Hebrews we read about the heroes of the faith, who "confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (11:13). They were able to live godly lives of faith because they looked forward to "a better, that is, a heavenly country" (v.16).

The Lord is preparing you and me for eternity, and everything we do is full of significance. Though this earth is not our permanent place of habitation, we are not aimless vagabonds. We are to be sojourners who live responsibly as we travel to our prepared destination. We have a heavenly Father who loves us and will welcome us into that home made ready by our Savior.

**Meditate:** A few more watches keeping, A few more foes to down, As pilgrims brave we journey To win the victor's crown!

**Aphorism:** Don't drive your stakes too deep; we're moving in the morning!

\***April 29 (Wednesday), 2009** { [Psalm 40:1-5](#) } Key: I waited patiently for the Lord; and He

inclined to me, and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit. (Psalm 40:1-2)“Lifted From The Depths”Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 6-7; Luke 20:27-47](#)

The story is told in an old book of sermon illustrations of a submarine that lay disabled on the ocean floor. Several days passed and the crew lost hope of being rescued. The prospect was especially dim because they had not been able to communicate their exact position to ships on the surface. The commanding officer explained to the men that they didn't have much longer to live, and he suggested that they sing a hymn. So together, they sang these words: “The darkness deepens—Lord, with me abide.”

As the oxygen supply began to run out, the men gradually weakened. One sailor was affected more quickly than the others and lurched forward, crashing against the vessel's surfacing equipment. Suddenly the faulty mechanism began to operate, and the vessel slowly rose from the ocean floor. They all made it back to port safely.

Greater than any deliverance from a literal sea is God's provision for those who are trapped in the ocean of unbelief. Only a miracle of grace can bring us out of the pit of sin and degradation.

If you are caught in the grip of sin, Jesus alone can give you a new start. If you put your trust in the Savior, you will be lifted out of the waters of judgment and into the sunlight of God's forgiveness.

**Meditate:**From sinking sand He lifted me, With tender hand He lifted me; From shades of night to plains of light, O praise His name, He lifted me!

**Aphorism:**God's grace can lift you from the plight of sin into the light of salvation.

\***April30(Thursday),2009**{ [Revelation 4:6-11](#) }Key: You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power. (Revelation 4:11)“Surrendered Crowns”Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 8-9; Luke 21:1-19](#)

Once during her reign, England's Queen Victoria listened to a chaplain preach a sermon about the second coming of Christ. Those near the royal box noticed that the queen's eyes were filled with tears.

When the service ended, she asked to see the chaplain alone. Seeing her great emotion, he asked why she was so moved. She replied, "Because of what you said about the coming again of the world's rightful King, I wish still to be here when He returns that I might lay my crown at His blessed feet!"

There are many incentives for faithful service that involve both our acts and our motives. These rewards, which are designated as "crowns" in the New Testament, are to be earned by those who have first received the gift of eternal life.

Perhaps you're saying, "I would never expect to be rewarded for what I do for Christ." Have you considered what you may do with any crown you receive on that day? There will be no trophy cases in heaven; no gloating over earthly accomplishments. Redeemed sinners will have the transcendent joy of casting their crowns before the throne and saying, "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power" (Revelation 4:11).

**Meditate:**Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne; Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns All music but its own!

**Aphorism:**Heaven's crowns are not for keeping but for casting at Christ's feet.

\***May01(Friday),2009**{ [Romans 6:15-23](#) }Key: Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! (Acts 8:20)“You Can't Buy It”Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 10-11; Luke 21:20-38](#)

A missionary to the people of the Philippines was trying to explain salvation to a wealthy woman, but the woman didn't understand that she couldn't pay for it.

So the missionary gave her this illustration: "If you wanted to give your daughter a big, beautiful mansion as a gift, how would you feel if she said, 'Mother, you must let me help you pay for the gift. You know I work for the mission hospital and don't make much money, but I think I can squeeze out \$8 a month.'"

She went on: "That's what you are saying to God. You want to help pay for what Jesus has already paid for. A home in heaven is a gift. It is an insult to try to help pay for it."

All over the world devout, well-meaning people—rich, poor, and in-between—struggle to understand that Jesus paid it all. Convinced that they have to do something to earn God's favor, they attempt to pay for salvation as best they can.

We need to understand that when God gave His Son Jesus as a sacrifice, the bill for our sin was paid. For us to try to pay for God's gift is insulting to Him. Genuine trust is believing that God has already taken care of the payment. We don't need to buy something that has already been purchased with Jesus' death on the cross.

**Meditate:** Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain—He washed it white as snow.

**Aphorism:** If we could earn our salvation, Christ would not have died to provide it.

\***May02(Saturday),2009**{ [Ruth 4:13-22](#)}Key: The women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a close relative."(Ruth 4:14)"**Naomi**"Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 12-13; Luke 22:1-20](#)

A wise person once told me, "Never be quick to judge whether something is a blessing or a curse." The story of Naomi reminds me of this.

The name *Naomi* means "my delight." But when bad things happened to her, Naomi wanted to change her name to match her circumstances. After her husband and sons died, Naomi concluded, "The hand of the Lord has gone out against me!" (Ruth 1:13). When people greeted her, she said, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me" (v.20).

Rather than judge her circumstances in light of her identity as a follower of the one true God who had proclaimed unfailing love for His people, Naomi did what most of us tend to do: She judged God in light of her circumstances. And she judged wrongly. The hand of the Lord had not gone out against her. In fact, Naomi had a God-given treasure she had not yet discovered. Although Naomi lost her husband and two sons, she was given something totally unexpected—a devoted daughter-in-law and a grandchild who would be in the lineage of the Messiah.

As Naomi's life shows us, sometimes the worst thing that happens to us can open the door for the best that God has to give us.

**Meditate:** Loving Father, help me not to judge Your love for me on the basis of whether today brings good news or bad. Help me remember that You desire to use my circumstances to make me more like Jesus. Amen.

**Aphorism:** God's purpose for today's events may not be seen till tomorrow.

\***May03(Sunday),2009**{ [1 Cor. 10:1,5-11](#)}Key: These things . . . were written for our admonition. (1 Corinthians 10:11)"**Heed The Warning**"Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 14-15; Luke 22:21-46](#)

In the months following the devastating Asian tsunami of December 2004, an amazing story of survival emerged from Simeulue Island, the closest inhabited land to the epicenter of the earthquake.

A news report said that only 7 of the remote Indonesian island's 75,000 inhabitants died when 30-foot waves struck just half an hour after the quake. For decades, the people had heard stories told by their grandparents of giant waves that killed thousands on this same island in 1907. So when the ground shook and the sea retreated from the shore, the people recalled their grandparents' warnings and fled to high ground.

First Corinthians 10 describes a spiritual disaster we can avoid. After the people of Israel were delivered from slavery in Egypt, they continued to turn away from the Lord. Recounting their recurring self-indulgence and its disastrous results, Paul wrote: "Now these things became our examples . . . . And they were written for our admonition" (vv.6,11). The story of their failure has been preserved so we can avoid the same disaster of disobedience.

If there are warning signs in our lives today, it's time to run from self-destructive sin to the high ground of God's forgiving grace.

***Meditate:*** The Bible is filled with example and teaching on how to avoid all the pitfalls of sin; And if we will learn from its people and precepts, The struggles and battles of life we can win.

***Aphorism:*** A warning heeded is a disaster avoided.