

Bible study for this week 5/04/09~5/10/09

***May04(Monday),2009**{ [Job 2:7-10](#)}Key: Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity? (Job 2:10)“Lost At Sea”Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 16-18;](#)
[Luke 22:47-71](#)

In the fall of 1982, Deborah Kiley set out with three other young people to deliver the 58-foot yacht *Trashman* from Maine to Florida. Off the coast of North Carolina, they encountered gale winds and mountainous seas that sank their boat. Enduring 4 grueling days at sea without food or fresh water, the crew clung to life in a rubber dinghy in shark-infested waters.

In her book *Albatross*, Deborah recalls how one of the crew shouted curses at God for their dilemma. Despite her fatigue, Deborah silently recited The Lord’s Prayer and asked God to teach her through this crisis. Later, the same young man drank seawater, became delirious, jumped overboard, and was eaten by sharks. Eventually, the survivors were rescued by a Russian freighter.

Each of us responds in different ways to a crisis. Centuries ago, Job was hit by one wave of bad news after another. At one point his wife told him to curse God and die. Job’s response was profound: “Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” (Job 2:10).

The next time a crisis hits, recognize God’s sovereignty and do as Deborah Kiley did—ask God to teach you something through it.

Meditate:O Lord, I would not ask You why These trials come my way But what there is for me to learn Of Your great love, I pray.

Aphorism:The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

***May05(Tuesday),2009**{ [1 John 1:1-4](#)}Key: That which . . . our hands have handled, . . . we declare to you.(1 John 1:1,3)“We Touched Him!”Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 19-20;](#)
[Luke 23:1-25](#)

Mythology is filled with legends of ancient gods who descended from heaven and took human form, but no one ever heard or saw them, and no one ever touched them. These were dreams born of human desire for God and the hope that someday He would draw near. The incarnation of Jesus—God who came in the flesh—is how those dreams came true.

Author Dorothy Sayers put it this way: “[God] can exact nothing from man that He has not exacted from Himself. He has Himself gone through the whole of human experience, from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair, and death. When He was a man, He played the man. He was born in poverty and died in disgrace and thought it well worthwhile.”

The incarnation of Jesus Christ is the irrefutable proof that God will do anything to draw near to us.

Augustine said, “[God] gave Himself for a time to be handled by the hands of men.” And we have the written record of John, a man who actually did touch Him. We can trust his account—and we can trust that God wants to be near to you and me.

Meditate:Absolutely tender! Absolutely true! Understanding all things; understanding you; Infinitely loving, good and kind and near—That is Christ our Savior. What have we to fear?

Aphorism:Love was when God became a man.

***May06(Wednesday),2009**{ [Acts 5:1-11](#)}Key: You have not lied to men but to God.(Acts

5:4)“Which Tire Was It?”Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 21-22; Luke 23:26-56](#)

One sunny day, four high school boys couldn't resist the temptation to skip classes. The next morning they explained to their teacher that they had missed her class because their car had a flat tire. To their relief, she smiled and said, “Well, you missed a quiz yesterday.” But then she added, “Take your seats and get out a pencil and paper. The first question is: Which tire was flat?”

No one gets away with lying. In Acts 5, Ananias and Sapphira thought they were lying only to Peter and the other believers. But the apostle said to them, “You have not lied to men but to God” (v.4).

Truth is one of the attributes of God. So when we tell a lie, we offend Him. And sooner or later He will uncover every falsehood—if not in this life, then at the final judgment, when we each give an account of ourselves to God (Romans 14:10-12).

We live in a highly competitive world, and sometimes we may be strongly tempted to shade the truth to get ahead. But the short-term gains from lying are worth little compared with the long-term benefits of telling the truth.

If you have deceived someone, confess it to that person and to the Lord. It may be humbling, but it's the first step to restoring integrity in your life.

Meditate:The road that leads to misery Is caused by a tongue that wags; Beware of lying lips, my friend, And a mouth that boasts and brags.

Aphorism:If you always tell the truth, you will never be trapped in a lie.

***May07(Thursday),2009**{[John 15:9-17](#)}Key: You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. (John 15:14)““Good Buddy””Bible In One Year: [2 Kings 1-3; Luke 24:1-35](#)

The congregation listened intently as the pastor began to pray: “Dear heavenly Father . . .” Suddenly he was interrupted by a voice saying, “Hey there, good buddy!”

Everyone began to laugh when they realized the voice was coming from the organ. It was picking up the conversation of a truckdriver on his CB radio! Not much was accomplished in the service that day, because the congregation continued to chuckle about the voice that made them think God was responding to their pastor and calling him His “good buddy.”

Moses knew what it was like to be a friend of God—a relationship that went beyond buddies. The Lord often talked with Moses “face to face, as a man speaks to his friend” (Exodus 33:11). The patriarch Abraham was also called God's friend (2 Chronicles 20:7).

But can you and I be a friend of God? In our Bible reading for today, Jesus, the supreme example of loving friendship, called His disciples friends (John 15:13,15). He put it simply: “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you” (v.14).

And what does He command? That we love Him with all our heart and love others as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31). That's how we can be God's friend.

Meditate: Friendship with Jesus, Fellowship divine, Oh, what blessed, sweet communion, Jesus is a friend of mine.

Aphorism:The dearest friend on earth is but a mere shadow compared to Jesus.

***May08(Friday),2009**{[2 Kings 5:15-27](#)}Key: Did not my heart go with you . . . ? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing? (2 Kings 5:26)“Looting The Camp”Bible In One Year: [2 Kings 4-6; Luke 24:36-53](#)

While visiting a US Civil War battlefield in Virginia, I was struck by a story about an army unit that arrived too late for a major battle. The troops had stopped to loot a camp

abandoned by their enemy. By taking what they felt they needed, they could not accomplish their mission.

That seems to describe the failure of the prophet Elisha's servant Gehazi, who sought money and clothing from Naaman, a Syrian military commander (2 Kings 5:20-25). Elisha told Naaman how to be cured of his leprosy, but he refused any gift or payment from him (v.16). Gehazi, however, decided to get something for himself (v.20). In a stinging rebuke, Elisha said to Gehazi: "Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing . . . ? Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever" (vv.26-27).

The desire for personal gain can be a snare in our service for the Lord. It may be the subtle lure of recognition or the fatal attraction of financial reward. Any motive that changes our focus from giving to God to getting from Him poses a real spiritual danger.

Greed makes us believe that we deserve what we desire. That leads us down the wrong road. May God give us the wisdom to avoid the sin of Gehazi.

Meditate: God's riches fill up our supply, Whatever we may need, So we can then be generous, And not controlled by greed.

Aphorism: Live to give.

***May09(Saturday),2009**{ [2 Peter 3:3-15](#) }Key: The longsuffering of our Lord is salvation. (2 Peter 3:15)"Mount St. Helens Syndrome"Bible In One Year: [2 Kings 7-9;](#)
[John 1:1-28](#)

On March 20, 1980, Mount St. Helens in Washington, a supposedly dormant volcano, began to quake and rumble. The local population was evacuated to a "safe" distance 8 miles away. Later, the side of the mountain began to bulge. Scientists were not alarmed because past research of volcanoes indicated that they never blew sideways.

Then on May 18 the side of Mount St. Helens exploded, shooting tons of debris downhill at the speed of 150 miles per hour. A minute later, the volcano exploded upward with the equivalent power of 500 atomic bombs! Two hundred thirty square miles of forest were devastated and 57 people lost their lives. The scientists had assumed that natural events would continue as before. But they were wrong.

The book of 2 Peter tells us of a future time when a similar misplaced confidence will be destroyed by the fiery end of our world (3:4-7). But the good news is that God will build "new heavens and a new earth" (v.13). He is "not willing that any should perish," and He is patiently waiting so that more people will find true safety in His Son Jesus (v.9). They need only accept the salvation He offers.

Have you trusted Christ for your safety?

Meditate: Necessary we are not the platform, where to spread and state the mainly holy speech; Only need us to make a decision, share main good news sincerely.

Aphorism: God's people must point the way if others are to escape God's judgment.

***May10(Sunday),2009**{ [Genesis 47:7-12](#) }Key: Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh. (Genesis 47:10)"The Greatness Of Godliness"Bible In One Year: [2 Kings 10-12;](#)
[John 1:29-51](#)

In the eyes of most people, Jacob's brother Esau was the greater man of the two. Through the years he had accumulated immense wealth and power. He was the ruler of the land of Edom and could have met Pharaoh on his own terms. Yet Esau, with all his earthly authority, could not have blessed Pharaoh. Only Jacob had that power (Genesis 47:10).

The spiritual is greater than the natural. God can endow a humble human being with awesome moral force. Holiness has within itself the power to master all other powers.

The Greek word for power or authority (*exousia*) contains the preposition *ex*, which means “out of” or “from.” This suggests that the ability to influence others flows from inside. It is rooted in what we *are*. “Do you wish to be great?” Augustine asked. “Then begin by *being*.” Greatness comes from holiness and nothing more.

I have a friend who makes his way through the halls of power in Washington, DC, meeting with the most prominent women and men in the world. He speaks a word or two, prays, and then walks on, but he leaves behind the lingering and compelling influence of Christ. He has the aura of greatness that surrounds all whose lives reflect the character of Jesus. It is the greatness of godliness.

Meditate: I want my heart His throne to be, So that a watching world may see His likeness shining forth in me; I want to be like Jesus.

Aphorism: Even a little example can have a big influence for Christ.