

Bible study for this week 5/18/09~5/24/09

***May18(Monday),2009**{ [Numbers 11:1-10](#)}Key: When the people complained, it displeased the Lord.(Numbers 11:1)“Are You A Complainer?”Bible In One Year: [1 Chronicles 4-6; John 6:1-21](#)

There’s a story about a farmer who was known for his negative attitude. One day a neighbor stopped by and commented on the farmer’s wonderful crop. “You must be extremely happy with this year’s harvest,” he said. The farmer grudgingly replied, “Well, yes, it looks like a pretty good one, but a bumper crop is awfully hard on the soil.”

The people of Israel had the same kind of complaining attitude. God had miraculously taken care of them during their wilderness wanderings, yet they constantly complained. For example, they griped about the manna that God had so graciously provided. Remembering the fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic of Egypt, they whined, “There is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!” (Numbers 11:6). What ingratitude!

We too sometimes tend to focus on the negatives rather than the positives of life. We murmur against the Lord when we should be praising Him for His countless blessings. We let ourselves be distracted by the disappointments and deprivations that God allows for our spiritual good.

Whenever we are tempted to grumble, let’s remember Numbers 11:1, “When the people complained, it displeased the Lord.”

Meditate: Every time you want to grumble, Think of others who have less; Ask the Lord to keep you humble, Grateful for each happiness.

Aphorism:Some people go through life standing at the complaint counter.

***May19(Tuesday),2009**{ [John 6:25-35](#)}Key: “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” . . . They said to Him, “What sign will You perform?”(John 6:29-30)“Signs Are Not Enough”Bible In One Year: [1 Chronicles 7-9; John 6:22-44](#)

Film director Woody Allen has been quoted as saying, “If only God would give me some clear sign! Like making a large deposit in my name at a Swiss bank.”

The reasons people give for not believing God often boil down to something they want God to do to prove Himself. Sadly, in making “to do” lists for God, we miss seeing the countless things He has already done.

Even people who lived near Jesus and who witnessed His miracles asked for more proof. Comparing Jesus to Moses, they asked, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? . . . Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat’” (John 6:30-31).

The startling thing about their request is that just one day earlier Jesus had indeed given them bread. He had fed 5,000 of them with the bread from one boy’s lunch!

Had we been in Jesus’ place, we may have replied, “What about the bread I fed you yesterday?” But Jesus used the moment to teach them, “I am the bread of life” (v.35).

Instead of waiting in doubt and disappointment for God to do the one thing we demand of Him, let’s take the time to look at everything God has already done.

Meditate: If you’re waiting for a sign from heaven, I’m afraid you may be disappointed; God has given us the perfect witness—Jesus Christ, the One He has anointed.

Aphorism:What we know of God encourages us to trust Him in all we don’t know.

***May20(Wednesday),2009**{ [Acts 9:1-9](#) }Key :He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love. (Colossians

1:13)“Dynamited Into Change”Bible In One Year: [1 Chronicles 10-12; John 6:45-71](#)

When a newspaper editor learned that a man named Alfred Nobel had died, he assumed that the deceased must be the same man who had invented dynamite. So he published an obituary calling Nobel the merchant of death.

When Nobel read the account of his own death, he reacted like a blind man suddenly gaining sight. From that day on, Nobel devoted himself to philanthropic causes—especially peace.

Saul of Tarsus experienced a transformation far more dramatic than Nobel’s. While on the road to Damascus to take captive those who followed Jesus, Saul met the Lord Himself. Temporarily blinded by his encounter, Saul devoted the rest of his life to serving the One he had formerly persecuted. The enemy of Jesus became His dedicated apostle (Acts 9:15-16).

Our own experience will not likely be so earthshaking. Yet we must ask ourselves if we have had an encounter with the Savior—one that has changed the direction of our lives.

If that is not your experience, turn to John 3 and read what Jesus said about being born again. Then, with a simple prayer of repentance, you may open your heart to Him. An honest commitment to the Lord will put you into a new relationship with Him—one that will last for eternity.

Meditate: He touched me, oh, He touched me, And oh, the joy that floods my soul! Something happened and now I know He touched me and made me whole.

Aphorism: Salvation is more than breaking bad habits, it’s creating good character.

***May21(Thursday),2009**{ [Matthew 27:33-50](#)}Key: God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans

5:8)“Unchained By The Cross”Bible In One Year: [1 Chronicles 13-15; John 7:1-27](#)

In ancient Greek mythology, the hero Prometheus was captured and chained to a mountain peak, where he was sentenced to stay forever. Each day, a giant eagle arrived to feast on his liver. Hermes came to him and said, “Do not hope for an end to your suffering until a god appears as your substitute in torment, ready to descend for you into the realm of Hades.” According to the myth, this was done by the wise and just god Chiron, who sacrificed himself for Prometheus and delivered him from torment.

This story is in some ways a picture of what happened for us the day Jesus died on the cross. Mankind was bound by sin, and there was no hope of escape unless God took our place. And that’s exactly what happened. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on our behalf and paid the penalty for our sin. He provided a way of releasing us from eternal punishment. Were we to write for a thousand days, we still could not express the meaning of Christ’s sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Its full significance is beyond our comprehension.

Have you confessed your sin and asked Jesus Christ to be your personal Savior? If not, there’s no better time than today. Trust in Him, and you will know what it means to be unchained by the cross.

Meditate: Amazing thought, that God in flesh Would take my place and bear my sin; That I, a guilty, death-doomed soul, Eternal life might win.

Aphorism: Step out of sin’s slavery and into salvation’s freedom—trust Christ.

***May22(Friday),2009**{ [Psalm 24](#)}Key: The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.(Psalm 24:1)“Whose Are You?”Bible In One Year: [1](#)

[Chronicles 16-18; John 7:28-53](#)

You're not the boss of me!" Have you ever heard a child make this statement to someone in authority? It's the child's attempt to assert his or her independence.

It's not just children, though. No matter what our age, we don't like having someone tell us what to do. After all, that person might ask us to do something we don't want to do, or put us in a situation we don't want to be in.

Therein lies the fear of trusting God. Afraid of putting control of our life into His hands, we prefer to dig in and say, "You're not the boss of me."

There's a serious problem with that line of thinking: It's not accurate. In reality, we cannot tell God that He's not in charge. In Psalm 24, David said, "The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein" (v.1). God is the boss of "those who dwell" in the world. That means all of us.

Our response, therefore, of trusting Him and turning our life over to Him comes when we acknowledge His authority. We say to Him, "Lord, You *are* the boss of me! I acknowledge Your ownership, and I want to work with You to accomplish Your will."

We are God's. He is in charge. Our job is to trust in Him and live for Him.

Meditate: Now I belong to Jesus, Jesus belongs to me, Not for the years of time alone, But for eternity.

Aphorism: You are not your own. . . . You were bought at a price. —1 Corinthians 6:19-20

***May23(Saturday),2009** { [Proverbs 9:1-10](#) } Key: A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent. (Proverbs 15:5) "Welcome Criticism" Bible In One Year: [1 Chronicles 19-21; John 8:1-27](#)

Cancer researcher Dr. Robert Good was a hard-driving individual with an enormous faculty for new ideas. According to an article I read about him, he had the ability to make use of any information he came across.

I was most impressed, however, with a statement that credited him with a willingness to recognize any error in his theories and abandon them faster than anyone else in medical research. An associate said, "Dr. Good never gets married to his hypotheses, so he doesn't go through the pangs of divorce when one is proven wrong."

Proverbs 9 puts a high premium on such a willingness to see one's error and admit it. It describes a wise man as one who wants to learn from his mistakes. When challenged, he resists the urge to get his back up like a threatened tomcat. Instead, correction becomes a faithful friend and a necessary means to improvement (v.9). On the other hand, when a "scoffer" is rebuked, he responds with anger and hate (v.8). Because of his overinflated ego, he won't listen when told he has erred.

We need to follow the path of wisdom by giving heed to words of reproof. To be truly wise, we must remember that at times we too have played the fool.

Meditate: When criticism comes your way, Consider its intent; It may be that some truth from God To you is being sent.

Aphorism: The person who refuses to hear criticism has no chance to learn from it.

***May24(Sunday),2009** { [Habakkuk 3:17-19](#) } Key: One people remember : Yet I will rejoice in the Lord The Lord God is my strength. (Habakkuk 3:18-19) "Can We Rejoice?" Bible In One Year: [1 Chronicles 22-24; John 8:28-59](#)

I'll never forget the question our Bible-study leader asked: "What do you fear would test your faith in God the most?" We were studying Habakkuk 3:17-18, where the prophet said that even if God sent suffering or loss, he would still rejoice.

As a single woman in my twenties, my answer was “I don’t know if I could stand the pain of losing my parents.” But I told God that day that even when they died I would rejoice in Him. I found out too soon that it’s easier said than done.

A month later, Dad learned he had heart disease and didn’t have long to live. He didn’t know Jesus as his Savior, so I begged God not to let him die without coming to know Him. Not only did he die that year, so did Mom, who was a believer. I didn’t know if my prayer for Dad was answered. I couldn’t rejoice; I wondered if God had even heard my prayer.

As I wrestled with Him about my questions, I experienced the Lord as my “refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). I found hope in the truth that God, “the Judge of all the earth,” would do what was right by everyone (Genesis 18:25).

We can rejoice—when we are rejoicing in the Lord, our strong refuge and righteous Judge.

Meditate: Why must I bear this pain? I cannot tell; I only know my Lord does all things well. And so I trust in God, my all in all, For He will bring me through, whate’er befall.

Aphorism: God tries our faith so that we may try His faithfulness.