

Bible study for this week 6/08/09~6/14/09

***June08(Monday),2009**{[Mark 10:13-16](#) }Key: Let the little children come to Me. (Mark 10:14) “**Michael’s Baptism**”Bible In One Year: [2 Chronicles 30-31; John 18:1-18](#)

Michael wanted to be baptized. At first his father had reservations about this because Michael is autistic. Autism is a developmental disability that affects a person’s social interaction and communication skills.

There was no question that 35-year-old Michael had trusted Jesus for salvation, and the church leadership enthusiastically approved his baptism. But he would have to stand in front of the entire congregation.

Knowing that Michael didn’t like surprises, his dad reviewed all that would happen. But during the baptism, when the pastor said, “Michael, I baptize you in the name of the Father,” Michael interrupted as if to remind him, “and the Son!” The congregation smiled with joy. And Michael was baptized in obedience to Christ’s command.

Each of us comes to Jesus at a different level of spiritual understanding, and Jesus extends His welcome to all who respond. When little children approached the Savior, His disciples tried to send them away. But Christ rebuked them and said, “Let the little children come to Me” (Mark 10:14). And that also applies to the developmentally disabled.

The gospel is simple. The Savior is approachable. And His invitation is open to everyone.

Meditate: If you’d like to know the love of God the Father, Come to Him through Jesus Christ, His loving Son; He’ll forgive your sins and save your soul forever, And you’ll love forevermore this faithful One.

Aphorism:God accepts anyone who accepts His Son.

***June09(Tuesday),2009**{[Romans 12:9-21](#) }Key: If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. (Romans 12:18)“**People Problems**”Bible In One Year: [2 Chronicles 32-33; John 18:19-40](#)

My neighbor seemed upset with me. Apparently I had done something that bothered her. When I asked if I had offended her, she responded with a curt “No!” I told her, “I don’t want any bad feelings between us. If I’ve done something to offend you, I apologize.” Since then the climate has remained cool.

Someone has said, “The more I get to know the human race, the more I love my dog.” Dogs are loyal, dependable, eager to please, and quick to forgive and forget. Don’t you wish people were more like that? But sometimes no matter how hard we try to have a good relationship with someone, it doesn’t work.

The apostle Paul addressed that situation in Romans 12:18. Notice the phrase “as much as depends on you.” He knew that some people-problems may never be resolved. It takes two to quarrel; it takes two to reconcile. If you do your part and the problem remains, there is still a plan to follow. Don’t harbor resentment or retaliate with the weapon of silence. Do all you can to overcome evil with good (v.21), and let God work out the problem.

We need to keep following the steps given in Romans 12 until our people-problems are resolved—but especially if they’re not.

Meditate:How To Handle People Problems (Romans 12) Be affectionate (v.10). Be prayerfully patient (v.12). Bless your persecutors (v.14). Be humble (v.16). Don’t take revenge (v.19). Defeat evil with good (v.21).

Aphorism: The best way to conquer an enemy is with the weapon of love.

***June 10 (Wednesday), 2009** { [2 Chronicles 36:15-21](#) } Key: They mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets. (2 Chronicles 36:16) “Who Knows Best?” Bible In One Year: [2 Chronicles 34-36; John 19:1-22](#)

“I love my job,” said Maggie, a young nurse, “but it’s so frustrating when I tell people what they need to do to stay healthy and they don’t follow my advice.”

I smiled in empathy. “I felt that way when I started my editorial career,” I told her. “It was frustrating when authors would disregard the advice I gave them about improving their manuscripts.”

Then I realized the spiritual implication. “If you and I feel frustrated when people don’t follow our professional advice,” I said, “imagine how God feels when we ignore His.” He’s the only One with perfect knowledge of what’s good for us, yet we often behave as if we know better.

This was the case in ancient Israel. Thinking that they knew more than God did, the people followed their own way (2 Chronicles 36:15-16). As a result, Jerusalem and the house of God fell into the hands of the Babylonians.

This is also the case with us when God’s instructions seem difficult. We may conclude that He had exceptions in mind for our particular circumstance.

God graciously teaches what is best (Isaiah 48:17-18) but doesn’t force us to do it. He patiently presents what is right and good, and allows us to choose it.

Meditate: What freedom lies with all who choose To live for God each day! But chains of bondage shackle those Who choose some other way.

Aphorism: God’s teaching may not always make sense, but it’s always senseless to think we know better.

***June 11 (Thursday), 2009** { [John 1:1-14](#) } Key: I and My Father are one. (John 10:30) “Why He’s So Special” Bible In One Year: [Ezra 1-2; John 19:23-42](#)

Some pretty good people have founded religions over the centuries. One religious leader spent a good portion of his life trying to find truth—an admirable quest.

Another religious leader was a teacher and a civil servant who drew up an honor code for his people—a respectable venture.

No matter how good any originators of world religions may have been, they cannot in any way compare with the founder of Christianity. The major reason is simply this: They are all in the category of “good men,” while Jesus is in a category by Himself—the God-man.

Jesus alone is Immanuel (God with us; Matthew 1:23), the Living Word (John 1:14), the Savior (Luke 2:11), and the Messiah (John 1:41). Only Jesus could truthfully assert His equality with His heavenly Father. “I and my Father are one,” He said (John 10:30). Only Jesus’ words are divine. His life was the only perfect one. Only Jesus’ death and resurrection provide life everlasting.

Jesus is unique in all the world. He alone is worthy of our worship, adoration, and awe. He alone is the perfect Man. The divine One. The provider of salvation. Don’t settle for anything—or anyone—less.

Meditate: Not all roads lead to God, As many people claim; There’s only one true way—Christ Jesus is His name.

Aphorism: Only Jesus can erase mankind’s guilt.

***June 12 (Friday), 2009** { [Psalm 147:1-5](#) } Key: [God] heals the brokenhearted and binds

up their wounds. He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. (Psalm 147:3-4)“A Tender And Mighty God”Bible In One Year: [Ezra 3-5; John 20](#)

God knows and numbers the stars, yet He is concerned about you and me, even though we’re broken by sin. He binds our shattered hearts with sensitivity and kindness, and He brings healing into the depths of our souls. The greatness of God’s power is the greatness of His heart. His strength is the measure of His love. He is a tender and mighty God.

The psalmist tells us that God “counts the number of the stars,” and even “calls them all by name” (147:4). Would He care for the stars that are mere matter and not care for us, who bear His image? Of course not. He knows about our lonely struggles, and He cares. It is His business to care.

God, in the form of His Son Jesus, was subject to all our passions (Hebrews 2:18). He understands and does not scold or condemn when we fall short and fail. He leans down and listens to our cries for help. He gently corrects us. He heals through time and with great skill.

The stars will fall from the sky someday. They are not God’s major concern—you are! He “is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 1:24). And He will do it!

Meditate:The God who made the firmament, Who made the deepest sea, The God who put the stars in place Is the God who cares for me.

Aphorism:Because God cares about us, we can leave our cares with Him.

***June13(Saturday),2009**{[Matthew 6:25-34](#) }Key: Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin.(Matthew 6:28)“Focus On Being”Bible In One Year: [Ezra 6-8; John 21](#)

During a small-group exercise at a seminar, we were asked to introduce ourselves without referring to our occupations. The challenge was to explain who we are instead of telling what we do. It was not easy to focus on *being* instead of *doing*.

Dr. William H. Thomas, a geriatric specialist, has pointed out that babies begin life by *being*. As we approach adulthood, the emphasis shifts to accomplishment. Then, as we grow older and our energy wanes, we must refocus on *being*. “Elderhood brings us full circle,” Thomas says, “to a life that favors *being* over *doing*. This is a gift of great value.”

But the search for *being* isn’t confined to the sunset years. Jesus said that the proper focus is the antidote for anxiety at any age. He told His followers to look at the birds and flowers, which are not defined by what they do, and yet God cares for them.

Oswald Chambers said: ““Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow’ . . . they simply *are*! Think of the sea, the air, the sun, the stars, and the moon—all of these simply are as well, yet what a ministry and service they render.”

As Christians, our value to God comes not from what we *do* for Him, but in what we *are* to Him. Our being—more than our doing—glorifies His name.

Meditate: We’re members of God’s family, We’re children of the King; Because we’ve put our faith in Christ, To us He’ll always cling.

Aphorism:You are one of a kind—designed to glorify God as only you can.

***June14(Sunday),2009**{[1 John 2:1-11](#) }Key:By this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. (1 John 2:3)“Who Are You?”Bible In One Year: [Ezra 9-10; Acts 1](#)

Identity theft is a big problem in the age of credit cards and the Internet. It’s not hard for someone to retrieve your vital information and pose as you. If that were to happen,

however, it would not change the essence of who you are. The thief would not steal your true identity—just some superficial information about you.

Your identity goes much deeper than your ID numbers. In reality, you are who God says you are. Nothing really matters except whether or not you are identified as a child of God. That alone will dictate your eternal destiny, and that alone will indicate whether you can live life to the fullest.

In 1 John 2, there are three identity qualifiers—truths that reveal whether we are God’s children:

- We know that we have come to know the Lord if we obey His commands (v.3).
- Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus walked (v.6).
- Anyone who claims to be “in the light” will avoid hatred toward others (v.9).

Who are you? Do you know Jesus? If so, you will obey His commands, walk as He did, and love others. No one can ever steal that mark of identity from you. ***Meditate:*** Lord, help us never be ashamed To take a stand for what is true, And give us courage to be named As faithful followers of You.

Aphorism: No one can steal your identity in Christ.