

Bible study for this week 10/12/09~10/18/09

***October 12 (Monday), 2009** { [Isaiah 40:10~11, 28~31](#) } Key: To those who have no might [God] increases strength. (Isaiah 40:29) "Promised Strength" Bible In One Year: [Isaiah 39~40; Colossians 4](#)

Jonah Sorrentino was deeply hurt at age 6 when his parents separated. As a result, he held a lot of anger and bitterness inside. At 15, Jonah learned of God's love for him and became a believer in Jesus Christ.

Jonah, also known as recording artist KJ-52, admits that he used to live like a victim of circumstances. In an interview with *Christianity Today*, he explained how he began to experience healing: "You definitely have to acknowledge that, no, you're not okay."

He added, "You also have to reach a point of saying, 'I'm not going to dwell on everything of the past . . . on anger or bitterness or hurt. I'm going to move forward because God is going to give me the strength to do that.'" God helped him to forgive his parents. He wrote these lyrics to encourage others:

Understand you can always find strength in Christ; God has a plan for every single part of your lives. That might be hard to understand in your troubled times, But anywhere you go, He's there with arms open wide.

If we've been hurt badly, we may wonder how we can live with a painful past. God could take away our pain instantly and forever if He chose to. Often, though, He heals us slowly and scars remain. He carries us and gently leads us as a shepherd cares for His flock (Isa. 40:11).

Meditate: We may not be healed completely in this life, but we can count on God's promises. He gives "power to the weak" and increases their strength (v.29).

Aphorism: Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.

***October 13 (Tuesday), 2009** { [Psalm 104:31~35](#) } Key: He touches the hills, and they smoke. (Psalm 104:32) "The Universe Is God's" Bible In One Year: [Isaiah 41~42; 1 Thessalonians 1](#)

Rising 6.3 miles from its base on the ocean floor and stretching 75 miles across, Hawaii's Mauna Loa is the largest volcano on Earth. But on the surface of the planet Mars stands Olympus Mons, the largest volcano yet discovered in our solar system. The altitude of Olympus Mons is three times higher than Mt. Everest and 100 times more massive than Mauna Loa. It's large enough to contain the entire chain of the Hawaiian islands!

Long ago, David looked up at the night skies and stood in awe at the wonder of his Creator's universe. He wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork" (Ps. 19:1).

But the stars and the sky were not all that stirred the wonder of ancient writers. Earthquakes and volcanoes also inspired awe for the Creator. Psalm 104 says, "[God] looks on the earth, and it trembles; He touches the hills, and they smoke" (v.32). As space probes explore more of our solar system, they will continue to discover unknown wonders. But whatever they find is the work of the same Creator (Gen. 1:1). The wonders of the universe should move us to praise God, just as they moved a shepherd boy long ago as he gazed up at the heavens (Ps. 8:3~5).

Meditate: I sing the mighty power of God That made the mountains rise, That spread the flowing seas abroad And built the lofty skies.

Aphorism: All of creation bears God's autograph.

***October 14 (Wednesday), 2009** {[Matthew 23:1~12](#)} Key: Do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. (Matthew 23:3) “Careless Preachers” Bible In One Year: [Isaiah 43~44; 1 Thessalonians 2](#)

Some opponents of Christianity may not be so much against Christ as they are against the hypocrisy of His followers. Ironically, it hasn't occurred to them that no one was more opposed to hypocrisy than Jesus Himself.

We've all met scoffers who thoughtlessly parrot the phrase, “The church is full of hypocrites!” But let's not be thoughtless in our response and dismiss such pronouncements without taking heed lest they be true.

We tend to think that it's not true of us. But let's think again. Have we ever been like the Christian who glanced through her window, only to see a nosy, noisy neighbor approaching her door? Her young, impressionable children heard her as she growled, “Oh, no—not her again!” Whereupon she opened the door and gushed insincerely, “How very nice to see you!”

Our lips and our lives often preach a mixed message. In Matthew 23:1~12, Jesus described the hypocritical teachers of the law and warned His disciples, “Do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do” (v.3).

God forbid that some opponent of Christ would be influenced by careless hypocrisy in our lives.

Lord, help us to be “careful preachers.”

Meditate: You can fool the hapless public, You can be a subtle fraud, You can hide your little meanness, But you can't fool God.

Aphorism: A hypocrite will often pray on his knees on Sunday and prey on his neighbors on Monday.

***October 15 (Thursday), 2009** {[John 4:7~14](#)} Key: Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. (John 4:14) “Drink Up!” Bible In One Year: [Isaiah 45~46; 1 Thessalonians 3](#)

In 1981, Ida's Pastry Shoppe in Jenison, Michigan, advertised this special offer: “Buy one of our coffee mugs for \$4.79 and fill up your cup for a dime each time you visit.”

But the owners never expected that 25 years later, four longtime customers would still be getting their cup of java every day—for 10 cents.

You won't find many deals like that anymore. But Jesus offered something far greater to the woman at the well (John 4:10). He said, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but . . . the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (vv.13~14).

The woman at the well was ready to listen. None of her many personal relationships had ever filled up her emptiness. Then Jesus offered her “water” that would soothe her parched life and give her something more—the promise of eternal life.

That same promise is ours as well. Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

God's grace and love come from a bottomless reservoir. Drink from the water He offers, and you will never thirst again.

Meditate: Gracious and Almighty Savior, Source of all that shall endure, Quench my thirst with living water, Living water, clear and pure.

Aphorism: Only Jesus, the Living Water, can satisfy the thirsty soul.

***October 16 (Friday), 2009** {[Hebrews 4:14~16](#)} Key: The Word became flesh and dwelt

among us.(John 1:14)“The Empathy Factor” Bible In One Year: [Isaiah 47~49; 1 Thessalonians 4](#)

A person who says shares :In the summer of 2005, I led a group of high school students on a missions trip to Jamaica. Our goal was to build a playground at a school for deaf children in that beautiful island country.

Many of our students had previously visited the school and played with the kids. But one of our teenagers had a special connection to the Jamaican children. Chelsea too grew up in a world of quiet. Deaf since birth, she didn't hear a sound until she was 11, when she received a cochlear implant. Now able to hear about 30 percent of the sounds around her, Chelsea understood the deaf in ways our other students could not. She had true empathy.

Empathy is a strong emotion. It can drive us to come alongside those who are in similar situations. It can cause us to care in a deeper way for those with whom we share a concern or a difficulty.

The most important example of empathy is the Lord Himself. He became one of us (John 1:14). Because He did, He understands our struggles and weaknesses (Heb. 4:15). Jesus knows what we are going through, for He endured this life Himself. As we receive His grace in our time of need, we are better able to come alongside others.

*Meditate.*God lived as man, as one of us, And understands our need for grace; He is not distant nor detached From all the trials that we face.

*Aphorism.*No one understands like Jesus.

***October 17(Saturday), 2009**{[Psalm 119:14~24](#)}Key: Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.(Psalm 119:18)“Tapping The Treasure”Bible In One Year:[Isaiah 50~52; 1 Thessalonians 5](#)

Stephen May discovered a treasure while teaching literature at the University of Northern Colorado. In the library, he found 150 boxes of letters, manuscripts, journals, outlines, and notes given to the school by James A. Michener.

Surprisingly, no one was using those materials to write a biography of the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, known for his historical novels. After years of research and writing, May produced a new account of the life of Michener from that great treasure.

Each day, you and I are writing the story of our lives by what we say and do. Are we using the great, but often neglected, wealth of the Bible? The psalmist wrote: “I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches. . . . Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law” (Ps. 119:14,18).

The Bible is the written record through which we get to know Jesus Christ, “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:3). Its nuggets of truth are available to us all.

A life well-lived is directly related to a Bible well-read. As we live out our life story, let's be sure to tap the treasure of God's Word every day.

Meditate. My Bible to me is a treasure house, Where I can always find Whatever I need from day to day For heart and soul and mind.

*Aphorism.*The Bible's treasures are found by those who dig for them.

***October 18(Sunday), 2009**{[Luke 10:30~37](#)}Key: He, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”(Luke 10:29)“God Put You In My Way”Bible In One Year: [Isaiah 53~55; 2 Thessalonians 1](#)

In the movie *The Four Feathers*, Harry Faversham left England in the 1880s to search for his friends in the King's army in the Sudan. In his quest, Harry got lost and was near death in the vast deserts of Africa. Then, as his life was ebbing away, he was rescued by an African, Abou Fatma, who cared for him.

Stunned by the man's kindness to a stranger, Harry asked why his new friend had done so much for him. Fatma's response was direct: "God put you in my way!"

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, a priest and a religious scholar, whose calling was to help the downtrodden, ignored the need of a fallen traveler who had been left to die on the Jericho Road. A hated Samaritan, however, gave his time and resources to help the hurting man, displaying Christ's compassion. He bandaged his wounds, brought him to an inn, "and took care of him" (Luke 10:34). The ravaged man had been put in the way of all three travelers, but only the Samaritan responded.

As we move through life, we are challenged to respond to the needs of people. We will either show them Christ's love or be indifferent. How will we respond to those God chooses to put in our way?

Meditate. Lord, I need Your help even to see the needs of people around me and then to know how to care for them. Give me a heart of compassion like Yours and opportunities to express Your love.

Aphorism: Compassion never goes out of fashion.