

## **Bible study for this week** 12/14/09~12/20/09

\***December 14 (Friday), 2009** { [Isaiah 9:1~7](#) } Key: The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. (Isaiah 2:11) “**“Little Rajah, Little King”**” Bible In One Year: [Joel 1~3; Revelation 5](#)

In an editorial printed in *Reaper* magazine, David G. Stewart wrote, “In India we used to chuckle about baby *pujah*, or baby worship. All the women would gather around the baby in arms, and cluck like broody hens with their approval, and note the supposed likeness to mom or dad, and hold the fingers, touch the cheek, kiss the feet. A favorite term to describe the young baby boy was ‘Little Rajah, Little King.’ Though they do not actually bow down and worship a new baby, those Indians give so much attention to a new infant that it’s no wonder they call it ‘baby worship.’”

When Jesus was an infant, He too received adoration and honor. He was adored by shepherds who left their flocks in the fields to worship a baby in a manger. Why? Because He was the King of kings.

I wonder, as this Christmas season progresses, are you able to focus your attention, even briefly, on the One whose birth we celebrate? Even more, are you willing to bow down in humility and give Him the adoration He rightly deserves? Isaiah prophesied long ago that His name would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (9:6). Jesus was no ordinary baby. He truly was the King of all kings!

**Meditate:** As you bring your gifts to His cradle And worship Him now as King, Do you bow your knees to His power? Is your life the offering you bring?

**Aphorism:** When we recognize Jesus’ kingship, we will give Him our worship.

\***December 15 (Saturday), 2009** { [Luke 9:51~56](#) } Key: Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21) “**Overcoming Evil With Good**” Bible In One Year: [Amos 1~3; Revelation 6](#)

Jesus was passing through Samaria on His way to Jerusalem. He sent messengers ahead to prepare a place, but the villagers rejected Him.

When James and John heard about the refusal, they fumed, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” (Luke 9:54). They had just been on the Mount of Transfiguration and had seen their Lord with Moses and Elijah. No doubt they recalled the story of Elijah calling down fire from heaven (2 Kings 1:9~12). But when they asked for a consuming fire, Jesus corrected them.

He told them, “The Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them” (Luke 9:56). It is not our business to seek vengeance. God treads the winepress of His wrath alone (Isa. 63:3). Our business is to bring the good news of salvation to the world.

Paul wrote, “Do not avenge yourselves . . . for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. Therefore ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Rom. 12:19~21). We must leave vengeance with God.

Jesus calls us to treat difficult people with kindness and to seek to bring them to Him.

**Meditate:** When anger springs up in my heart, dear Lord, Because of the evil I see, Help me to channel the wrath that I feel And do something noble for Thee.

**Aphorism:** God’s wrath and mercy are both seen in the cross of Calvary.

\***December 16 (Sunday), 2009** { [Matthew 8:1~4](#) } Key: Jesus put out His hand and touched him. (Matthew 8:3) “**Dirty Jobs**” Bible In One Year: [Amos 4~6; Revelation 7](#)

One TV personality seeks out the most dirty and grimy jobs he can find. Then he does those jobs on camera so we can all be grossed out.

The surprising thing that usually comes out of this excursion into grime is that the people who do these really nasty chores for a living seem happy to be doing them.

I wonder if that's the way it is among the people of God. In the church and in the community of God's people, there are definitely "dirty" jobs that God has called us to do.

For instance, where is the glamour in working in a homeless shelter, providing gospel hope and physical help to street people? Where is the intrinsic joy in walking into a hospital room to visit a patient who has just received awful news from the doctor? And how can it be easy to sit across the counseling room from an abused spouse and try to help her retain her dignity and piece her life back together?

Imagine how the crowds gasped when Jesus reached out and touched the leper. He was not afraid of "dirty" jobs. Jesus came "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). He was "moved with compassion" for the lame, the ill, the downtrodden (Matt. 9:36). Let's follow His lead and with love tackle the tough tasks around us.

**Meditate:** No matter what my daily chores might be To earn my livelihood, still may I see My job, the real position that I hold, Is bringing others to the Master's fold.

**Aphorism:** Work well done for Christ will receive a "well done" from Christ.

\***December 17 (Monday), 2009** { [Luke 2:1~7](#) } Key: There was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7) "A Gift Of Shelter" Bible In One Year: [Amos 7~9; Revelation 8](#)

Life was tough for Datha and her family. At age 39, she had a heart attack and bypass surgery and learned that she had coronary artery disease. A year later, her 15-year-old daughter Heather became paralyzed as the result of a car accident. Datha quit her job to take care of Heather, and the bills started piling up. Soon they would be facing eviction. Datha was so angry with God that she stopped praying.

Then came Christmas Eve 2004. A young girl knocked on Datha's door. The girl wished her a "Merry Christmas," gave her an envelope, and left quickly. Inside was a gift that would cover Datha's housing needs for the next year. The attached note read, "Please accept this gift in honor of the Man whose birthday we celebrate on this holy night. Long ago, His family also had a shelter problem."

Luke 2 tells the story of Joseph and Mary as they searched for a shelter for Mary to deliver her baby. They found a place with the animals. Later in His life, Jesus said of Himself, "The Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head" (Matt. 8:20).

Jesus understood Datha's troubles. He brought her hope and met her needs through others who contributed funds.

We can cast all our cares on Him (1 Peter 5:7). In Christ, we find shelter (Ps. 61:3~4).

**Meditate:** God will take care of you still to the end; O what a Father, Redeemer, and Friend! Jesus will answer whenever you call; He will take care of you: trust Him for all!

**Aphorism:** You do the casting, God will do the caring.

\***December 18 (Tuesday), 2009** { [Lamentations 3:19~27](#) } Key: This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. (Lamentations 3:21) "Learning To Lament" Bible In One Year: [Obadiah; Revelation 9](#)

On February 14, 1884, Theodore Roosevelt's wife, Alice, died giving birth to their daughter, also named Alice. Roosevelt was so distraught with the loss of his wife that he never spoke of her again. But reminders of her absence haunted the family. Because the newborn had the same name as her mother, she was called "Sister"—never Alice. On

Valentine's Day, the holiday for sweethearts, few in the Roosevelt household felt inclined to celebrate it or Sister's birthday. Broken hearts made moods strained and stoic.

Burying our feelings doesn't help, but prayerful grieving can. Jeremiah's heart was broken by Israel's disobedience and the Babylonian captivity that followed. Memories of Jerusalem's destruction haunted him (Lam. 1-2). Yet he had learned how to lament. He identified what caused him grief, began to pray, and let his tears flow. Soon his focus shifted from his loss to the steadfast grace of the Lord's provision. "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness" (3:22-23). Grief gave way to thankfulness.

Learning to lament can give us a fresh vision of hope and begin the process of healing and restoration.

**Meditate:** I have been through the valley of weeping, The valley of sorrow and pain; But the God of all comfort was with me, At hand to uphold and sustain.

**Aphorism:** Grief is itself a medicine.

**\*December 19 (Wednesday), 2009** { [Philippians 2:5-11](#) } Key: You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21) "**Name Above All Names**" Bible In One Year: [Jonah 1-4; Revelation 10](#)

If you knew for certain that you were going to lose your voice and that you would never be able to speak again, what would you want your final words to be?

A man with throat cancer faced an operation that would save his life but not his voice. Just before surgery, he spent time with his wife telling her of his love. He did the same with his daughter.

Then he asked his doctor to let him know precisely when the anesthetic would make him unconscious. As the man was slipping off to sleep, he said distinctly, "Jesus! Jesus!" That was the last word he chose to utter in this life—"Jesus!"

How meaningful is the name of Jesus to us? Other names, like the names of those we love, are inexpressibly precious. But for those of us who are redeemed by God's grace, the name of Jesus is the most meaningful. And it is to our heavenly Father as well. He "has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, . . . and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:9-11).

Throughout the rest of our lives and into eternity, let's magnify that wonderful name—Jesus.

**Meditate:** Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! Let all heaven and earth proclaim: Kings and kingdoms will all pass away, But there's something about that name!

**Aphorism:** The name of Jesus is precious to those who know Him and profane to those who spurn Him.

**\*December 20 (Thursday), 2009** { [2 Timothy 3:14-17](#) } Key: From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, . . . able to make you wise for salvation through faith. (2 Timothy 3:15) "**The "Mom Box"**" Bible In One Year: [Micah 1-3; Revelation 11](#)

A person who says shares :Each Christmas I give both of my daughters a "Mom box." Each box contains items to encourage them to be the best mothers they can be. It might have craft books or special projects, devotional books or tapes geared toward young moms, first-aid kits, recipes for cooking with kids—and often something personal like bubble bath for a little pampering after a tough day of mothering! It's become a tradition that Rosemary and Tanya have looked forward to every year for the last decade.

Encouraging our children to be good parents can begin even earlier. The best way is to start equipping them with the Word of God while they are still young.

The apostle Paul wrote that “from childhood” Timothy had known “the Holy Scriptures” (2 Tim. 3:15). And 2 Timothy 1:5 mentions the “genuine faith” of Timothy’s mother and grandmother. That faithful teaching and spiritual influence helped to enable Timothy to be a godly man.

The Bible is our richest resource to help us raise children who will know and love Jesus. Nothing is more essential than “the Holy Scriptures” to equip them for all of life’s challenges.

What are you doing to make the next generation “wise for salvation through faith”? (3:15).

***Meditate:*** Parents, give your children guidance And instruction from God’s Word; Then with wisdom and compassion Teach them how to love the Lord.

***Aphorism:*** The character of our children tomorrow depends on what we put into their hearts today.