

Bible Readings Week 255 - w/c 26/9/21

Monday: Acts 24:1-27 Paul gave Felix and Drusilla a 3 point sermon for why they should repent and believe in Jesus Christ: righteousness, self-control and the judgement to come. He focussed on yesterday's sin, today's temptations, and tomorrow's judgement. Felix's response was to procrastinate. Why is procrastination one of Satan's most powerful weapons in deterring the spread of the gospel?

Tuesday: Job 37:1-24 Elihu cited God's greatness in terms of His control of creation through the seasons. Elihu's closing words remind us that, even though we can't fully understand God, we know that He is great and just and doesn't afflict men for no purpose. Which season reminds you most of God's greatness? Why that one?

Wednesday: Esther 5:1-14 Haman was honoured by both the king and queen of Persia and yet the disapproval of one man, Mordecai, was enough to make him feel worthless. This is an accurate description of how empty the rewards of this world are. God intended that this hunger for acceptance would ultimately be fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Praise God that we are accepted before God because of who we are in Jesus.

Thursday: Song of Solomon 5:1-16 In response to the warm appeal of the beloved, the maiden answered only with excuses. She was comfortable in her bed, so he could not come in. She could not be bothered with the inconvenience of dressing herself and preparing herself for sleep again. Read Revelation 3:20. What stops people from inviting Christ into their lives?

Friday: Zechariah 13:1-9 The church is a defiled people who need to repent and be cleansed, but we have a faithful God who will forgive our sins and purify us (1 John 1:9). God often has to put us through the furnace of suffering for us to call on Him and seek His face. Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. How will you respond to this today? Praise God that he is a God of grace and forgiveness and he will heal our land.

Weekend: Revelation 17:1-18 Throughout history, political systems have "used" religious bodies to further their political causes. When dictators are friendly with religion, it is usually a sign that they want to make use of religion's influence and then destroy it. Satan's counterfeit religion is subtle. Pray for the church that we will not conform to "popular religion" and abandon the fundamentals of faith.