

Bible Readings week 116 - w/c 27/1/19

Monday: Luke 5:1-11. Peter was open to Jesus' teaching, and so made his boat available. But the personal miracle that he experienced resulted in him "leaving everything to follow Jesus". What has God done, or what would God have to do in your life in order for you to trust everything to Him?

Tuesday: Leviticus 13:1-28. The priest in the Old Testament period had great power in determining who was allowed to worship in the temple and who wasn't, because they were "unclean". We have one Great Priest, Jesus, who declares us clean to enter God's presence once we come to him in faith. What he declares as clean, nobody else can dispute, and even our own feelings and inadequacies are overruled.

Wednesday: 1 Kings 5:1-18. Solomon relied on the expertise of others to help build the temple (v6). In what areas of your life do you need others to help you? Thank God for the people who minister to us in these areas, and recognise that it is Him who has provided these people to meet your need.

Thursday: Psalm 89:19-52. The Psalmist's experience in vv 38-49 did not seem to compare with what he expected from the experiences of the past. He recites God's promises back to Him in vv 19-37, before crying out in prayer to God in vv 50,51 and concludes with a shout of praise in v52! How does his example help you to praise God even when you are struggling?

Friday: Jeremiah 43:1-13. How do you think Jeremiah felt when his call and ministry are made out to be a lie (v2)? Or when he was forced to go to Egypt despite God's clear directions to stay in Judah? How easily could you follow his example and continue to serve God faithfully despite such opposition?

Weekend: Philippians 1:27 - 2:4. Look again at verse 29. Do you recognise that suffering and faith are part of our calling to be disciples? How do you maintain faith in God's ability to save and deliver, while also holding in tension the fact that sometimes suffering is required to fulfil his plans and purposes? This was true in Jesus' experience, and in the lives of many other disciples! 2:1 makes it clear that Christ's experience should encourage us to stand firm, no matter what form our suffering may take.