

Week 128 – w/c 21st April 2019

Monday: Luke 8:26-39. Verse 37 must be one of the saddest in the whole Bible. Dealing with the demon-possessed man in a dramatic way had left the people fearful despite the positive outcome, and so they asked Jesus to leave – and he did! What causes you to push Jesus away instead of drawing near to him in faith and trust?

Tuesday: Leviticus 22:1-33. When animal sacrifices were offered in the temple as worship in the Old Testament, they had to be unblemished and in good health. It was never acceptable to offer up animals of least value. So Jesus Christ offered himself as the most valuable offering, to bring us forgiveness, and our response in worship should reflect our generous, best and extravagant offerings.

Wednesday: 1 Kings 16:1-34. While the southern half of Israel (Judah) experienced stability during Asa's reign, the same was not true of Israel. This chapter outlines the Kings in Israel, none of whom walked with God. But verse 33 makes it clear that Ahab was the worst! Whatever state our nations is in, God still sees and fulfils his purposes. Today, pray for the UK that as a nation we might turn back to God.

Thursday: Psalm 98:1-9. Can you praise God for his judgements, even as the Psalmist does? He worships God for his love and faithfulness (v3) but also his judgements, which are fair and right (v9). Recognise that His judgements are as praiseworthy as his love and grace. All are an expression of his character and worthy of our worship, whether we understand his ways or not. Use this Psalm as your worship today!

Friday: Lamentations 2:1-22. Jeremiah weeps and grieves over what has happened to Judah because it has failed to follow after God and so has experienced his destruction and judgement. Do you care enough to weep and grieve for those who are not believers, and who are living under God's sentence of judgement? Will you do all you can to share your faith with them and call them to repentance?

Weekend: Colossians 3: 1-17. Make a list of everything these verses tell you to do in order to "take off the old self" of your non-Christian ways (v9) and to "put on the new self" (v10). How do you clothe yourselves with the characteristics mentioned in verses 12-14? Does the list in verses 15-17, give you an insight into how this might be worked out in your life?