

Week 142 w/c 28/7/19

Monday: Luke 13:1-17. In verses 6-9, Jesus uses a parable to warn people that God would not forever tolerate a lack of productivity. Things which do not bear fruit need to be: a) examined (v7), b) dug around and fertilised (v8), c) cut down if still unproductive (v9). How should this principle apply in your life and ministry?

Tuesday: Numbers 4:21 - 5:10. Numbers 5:5-10 reveal an interesting principle of “making things right” when we have wronged or taken from others. Confession to God brings forgiveness (see 1 John 1:9), but restoring what was taken (plus interest) gives us the assurance that we have done all within our power to “make things right”. Is there something you should put right even though God has forgiven you?

Wednesday: 2 Kings 7:1-20. Verses 8-10 illustrate an important principle. At first the lepers keep their “treasure to themselves” before coming to their senses and realising that not sharing the good news with others was wrong. How does this apply to us as we share the good news of Jesus? Who is there you should be sharing with but have not, and so are simply enjoying the benefits for yourself?

Thursday: Psalm 106:1-23. Read v15 again. Sometimes we are so focussed upon what we want that we are blind to what God wants. In the desert, Israel was more concerned about immediate physical gratification than lasting spiritual satisfaction. If you complain enough, God may give you what you ask for, even if it is not the best for you. If your prayers are not answered it may be that God knows what is best for you.

Friday: Ezekiel 10:1-22. Ezekiel’s visions of the Cherubim (angelic beings) made a lasting impression on him, but more important was his experience of the glory of God. The New Testament tells us that “knowing God’s glory” is bound up in “the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Cor 4:6). What is your experience of God’s glory? Are you seeking the face of Jesus sufficiently?

Weekend: 2 Thessalonians 1:6-12. List the four (or more) things that Paul prays for the Church in verses 11 and 12. Pray for those in your cell group, friends at Church, and other Christians, in a similar way “so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in them”.