

Week 150 -w/c 22/9/19

Monday: Luke 17:1-19. The main principle Jesus is teaching in verses 7-10 is that we should not expect credit when we simply do what is expected of us as servants of God. Faithfulness is the way we demonstrate our obedience, and it seems that faith in God grows as we serve him (v5). How will you serve him cheerfully and faithfully today?

Tuesday: Numbers 11:1-35. Despite all that God had done and was still going to do for Israel, on at least 10 occasions they complained and grumbled about their circumstances (v1) How content are you with your current situation? Can you see God's hand of provision despite some difficulties? How prone are you to complain rather than be thankful and trust God to bring about change?

Wednesday: 2 Kings 15:1-38. This book was written during brutal days, as evidenced by the behaviour of Menahem (v16). In fact not one of the Kings of Israel (the northern kingdom of the Jews) was regarded as doing good in the sight of God, whereas some of the Kings of Judah are commended, including Azariah (v 3) and his son, Jotham (v34). What action will you take to attempt to do what is "right in the eyes of the Lord"?

Thursday: Proverbs 18:19-24. Which of these proverbs most speaks into your life today? How will you respond to what God says here? Thank God, that if we know Christ, we have someone who "is a friend who sticks closer than a brother".

Friday: Ezekiel 18:1-32. Two key principles are evident in this chapter: 1. We belong to God (v4) and are accountable to him for how we live our life. 2. God does not take pleasure in judging sinners (v23, 32). Judgement is necessary, but not enjoyable to the Lord. What does this tell you about God's character? How will you live today as one who belongs to him?

Weekend: 1 Timothy 2:9-15. v15 is probably written to counteract the heresy that existed at the time that women were saved by not having children. But this is a controversial passage regarding the role of women in the Church and must be understood in the light of the culture of the time and the teaching of the rest of the New Testament. But v9 is easily understood and follows on from God's instruction to men in v8. Christian women should dress with modesty, and men should be prayerful and not become angry or argumentative. Which of these apply to you?