



Daily readings, reflections and prayers

Monday 8th – Sunday 14th June

Mon 8th June –

Texts: Psalms 71:9-18; 1 Samuel 13:1-39

Focus – Psalms 71:9-18

Theme - **Finish well**

- The Psalmist is determined to finish well. He says, “do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone...
- even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation,
- Your might to all who are to come V9 & V18
- This is in contrast with his enemies who he hopes will perish in shame V13
- From the New Testament perspective, this is probably not the right way to pray for one’s enemies
- It does seem to be true at times that some people seem to perish in shame. It is a tragic way for anyone’s life to end
- The Psalmist differentiates himself from those who perish in shame
- He writes, “but as for me...V14.
- He wants to continue to be close to the Lord to the end of his life. In fact, he wants the end of his life to be even more fruitful than the beginning.
- The Psalmist says, “I will praise you more and more V14
- We have a responsibility of passing the baton to the next generation V18
- Success planning is a key part of finishing well. It has been said that it is important to pursue a Paul and train a Timothy, be mentored by a Mary and prepare a Phoebe

Reflection - what challenges are you facing?
How can God help? Pray

Prayer

- **Lord, help me to finish well and to declare your power to the next generation. May my mouth tell of your righteousness and proclaim your mighty acts.**

Tue 9th June –

Focus: Proverbs 14:15-24; 2Samuel 14:1-15:12

Theme: Pursue Loyalty to God in your plans

- Our loyalty is to God. God's favour rests on those who are God-loyal V19
- This proverb full of practical wisdom encourages us to be discerning about what we believe
- The gullible believe anything they're told but the prudent sift and weigh every word V15
- Wisdom is about how we relate to God
- The wise fear the Lord and shun evil V16
- Fearing God is about having the right attitude of healthy respect and loyalty
- It means involving him in your plans
- Being incredibly careful about the plans we make – that they are for good and not for evil
- V19, even the wicked will respect God-loyal people V19
- If we plan and do what is good, we will enjoy love and faithfulness V22
- The word for find is what is translated as show. Both are true
- Those who plan what is good not only find love and faithfulness, they show love and faithfulness as well
- This is at the heart of loyalty – to show love and faithfulness
- This is in contrast with those who selfishly plot evil and go astray

Reflect – Do we selfishly plot evil against other people? How do we respond when others are put down? From this Proverb - what do we want to put in place in our daily Christian lives?

Prayer

- **Lord, help me to be wise and to keep trusting and putting my loyalty in you. May we as a community and church of God, be a loyal people. Help us to plan and do what is good and find love and faithfulness. Amen**

Wed 10th June –

Texts: Psalms 71:19-24; 2Samuel 15:13-16:14
Theme: Restored after many troubles

At times life can be extremely hard. The psalmist has seen troubles, many and bitter V20. His problems, pressures and worries were not occasional or trivial. They were numerous and serious. This psalm gives us a model of how to respond in these circumstances

Keep trust

- How often do we put our trust in God when things do not seem to be going well?
- It is easy to trust in God when things are good
- The challenge is for us to keep trusting even when things are tough
- We must never stop believing in the goodness of God
- V19, "your righteousness reaches to the skies, O God, you who have done great things. Who, O God is like you?"
- We have also to keep trusting in God that we will continually see injustices comes to an end as we keep being the light of Christ
- Pray that Governments will govern by Godly example – loving their citizens

Keep hoping

- During the troubles there is hope.
- V20-21, the Psalmist says, "you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up. You will increase my honour and comfort me once again
- God will use our troubles for good. God will shape our character through them. As a result, he will increase our honour
- 2Cor 1:4, God will comfort us so that we can comfort others too

Keep Worshipping

- Keep praising God despite the troubles
- When we praise God, the presence of God in worship brings us peace and solace, especially in difficult times

Prayer

- **Lord, thank you that though we may see troubles many and bitter, you promise to restore our lives again. We praise you for your faithfulness. Amen**

Thurs 11th June –

Text: Psalms 72:1-20; 2Samuel 16:15-18:18

Theme: Providence & Prayer

- Prayer works and makes a difference?
- How often do you pray? What do you pray for?
- God is faithful and works out his purpose through history, yet God involves us in the process

- In this Psalms, David prays for his successor his son Solomon. It was a strong reminder of his high calling
- This is a psalm of blessing, on the king and through him that all the people will be blessed with prosperity V3

- The good leader will be concerned about poverty and justice
- Are we standing up for the poor? Are we helping the children of the needy? V4
- It is also a prayer that in his foreign policy, all nations will be blessed through him V17

- God's blessing on the leader will come as people pray for him
- How does this work? We do not know. But it shows that praying really does make a difference

- In his providence, God takes our prayers and uses them to bring blessing
- In her book *Journeying Out* – Ann Morrissey challenges the church to be outward looking and to reach out to the needs of the poor

Prayer:

- **Lord, thank you that prayer makes a difference. I pray for our leaders whom you have set over us. Give them grace and wisdom. Enrich their lives that they may be a source of strength and inspiration and promote your honour and glory. Amen**

Fri 12th June –

Text: Psalms 73:1-14; 2Samuel 18:19-19:43

Theme: Get God's perspective

- Despite finding life challenging, the Psalmist keeps his heart pure
- Facing temptations, doubt, fears, and anxiety of mind, he looks around at an affluent society that seems to be doing very well without God

- He almost slipped V2, "for I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked V3

- Everything changes when we enter the sanctuary of God V17 and see things, God's perspective
- The Psalmist had a complete change of heart, he understands his final destiny
- He understands between his destiny and their destiny V17

- The Psalms begins with the words; "surely God is good to Israel. To those who are pure in heart V1

- And it ends with the words, "but as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds V28

Prayer

- **Lord, may I enter your sanctuary and see things from your perspective. Thank you that you are good to those who are pure in heart. It is good to be near you. I have made you my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds. Amen**

Sat 13th June –

Theme: Reflection

We have studied the Psalms, there has been a lot learnt throughout the week. We have observed David's dependency on God and how he responds during testing and hardship.

- We have seen that one, David puts his trust in the Lord
- David does not give up, but keeps trusting in the Lord
- He prays for the future leaders, for the nations and for peace and justice.

Q1. Can you reflect on the readings you were given Monday through to Wednesday?

- What have you observed from these readings?
- Are there issues you were facing which needed addressing?
- If yes, did you find it helpful and encouraging to apply the word of God and pray?
- How do you see yourself moving on in the future?

Prayer:

- **Lord, I pray that our nation will turn back to you and that the name of the Lord will be respected again in parliament, government, schools and law courts. Help us to prioritise the poor and be kind to the needy.**

Sunday 14th June –

Final reflective conclusion

Today we end the past week and we start a new one afresh, excited about what the Lord has installed for us.

There is a Psalms to read through and to read and pray through –

- Psalms 73:15-28
- Amazing grace is the song we need to sing – I once was lost but now I am found
- to be rescued is to be saved, set free, delivered from danger, attack or harm. Jesus is the one who has rescued us and brought us into a spacious place (2Samuel 22:20)
- Pray Points –
- Pray for your family
- Pray for your health
- Pray for the UK
- Pray for the United States and pray for the World.

Before you pray the final prayer – reflect on the notes for Thursday and Friday – what stood out for you?

Let us pray:

- **Lord thank you that you have rescued me from the slippery slope and brought me into a spacious place. Amen**