

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of February 10, 2019

THEME: "Jesus on Worship"

THE QUESTION

SundayRead Luke 17:11-19

"And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? But where are nine?" It was obviously moving that the one leper returned to Jesus to give thanks for his healing, but is it not surprising that he was the only one? Surely, the other nine were glad they were healed, but it seemed not necessary for them to give thanks to Jesus for what He had done for them. Unusual? Not really when you consider the attitude of most people in their reaction to what Jesus has done for us! If Jesus had reason to question why the nine did not come to Him with a heart of thanks, then He would have reason to question why most in the world do not come to Him with a heart of thanks for His paying the penalty of our sin to free us from spiritual darkness and from an eternity in hell. Some may say they didn't realize what He had done. That attitude is inconsistent with what God has told us in Romans 1:18-21: *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them: for God hath shown it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so they are without excuse: because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."* If God says that unbelievers are without excuse, then there is no excuse for failing to worship Him by coming to Christ, the Savior of the world, everyone in the world. Freedom from the eternal curse of sin is available, but comparatively few return to Jesus to give thanks! So sad! Tragic!

VAIN WORSHIP

MondayRead Matthew 15:1-9

"This people draweth nigh to me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men." That inner hunger for man to worship God will either be satisfied by doing it God's way or in ways created by man to satisfy that craving of the soul for God. Among the many ways man uses to fulfill that spiritual need is manmade religion. Within that forming of religions and even without is the creation of idols. Many religions, particularly those in ancient history came up with idols made with stone or some material objects. In our culture today, people use human heroes as idols, particularly from the world of entertainment or athletics. Their heroes become their idols. There are those who try, I might say unsuccessfully, to satisfy the inner craving of the soul by excesses in a habit, such as alcohol or drugs. The substitute that Jesus addressed in our Bible reading for today was the formation of religions, even under the umbrella of Judaism and Christianity. They substituted or amended God's truth as revealed in the Holy Scriptures with their own ideas. For the most part in these false religions, there was an emphasis on what they consider good works as the key to an eternity in heaven. They failed to realize that all humanity are condemned sinners as the Bible points out and are hopelessly lost apart from the mercy and grace of God. Jesus, and only Jesus, is the way to get to heaven.

CAIN'S WORSHIP

TuesdayRead Genesis 4:1-7

"And the Lord said unto Cain, Why are you angry and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?" Unacceptable worship had its beginning with the first human family. Apparently Adam and Eve had taught their sons about worship, a lesson they had learned directly from God in the Garden. They felt they could cover up sin with fig leaf coverings; but that was unacceptable to God! God had them replace the fig leaf coverings with coats of skin from a slain animal. In so doing, God provided us with the important lesson that He later specifically stated in Leviticus 17:11: *"Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission."* The penalty of sin is death, eternal death of the triune being that man is: body, soul, and spirit. If the penalty of sin is death, then the forgiveness of sin required death. That is why Jesus came! God so loved people that He wanted to pardon them from sin's penalty. Cain offered his handiwork; Abel brought a blood sacrifice. God sought out Cain to get things straightened out, and He posed a couple of questions to Cain. It appears that God was trying to help Cain get it right as opposed to

coming at him for getting angry. God has a heart of love and mercy. When we are wrong, God wants us to correct the wrong. God, who is very patient, was giving Cain a chance. Unfortunately Cain rejected and suffered the consequences!

BLIND MAN'S WORSHIP

WednesdayRead John 10:35-38

"Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on Him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast seen Him, and it is He that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshiped Him." What a picture of the people in the world and of the love of our Savior! Jesus restored sight to the blind man. Instead of the crowd giving praise to our Savior, they intensified their opposition and ostracized the man who had his sight restored. Now we see the love of Jesus in seeking the lost as He said in Luke 19:10 to be a reason for His coming to earth. Jesus went and found the man who had been abandoned by what he may have considered his friends. When He found the man, Jesus asked Him a question, a question all humans must answer: *"Do you believe on the Son of God?"* When the man realized who the Son of God was, he immediately testified of His faith, and instantly had a heart of worship. What a parallel this is for all who have come to know Christ. Spiritually speaking, all people are blind and need their eyes open to God's truth. In various ways, God seeks them out. All must answer the question that Jesus posed to the blind man: *"Do you believe on the Son of God?"* The answer to that question determines a person's eternal destination!

MARY'S WORSHIP

ThursdayRead Luke 10:38-42

"Now it came to pass, as they went, that He entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister, which also sat at Jesus feet, and heard His word...But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." These two sisters whose home Jesus visited gives us a picture of two important responsibilities of all believers: service and worship. Each has its place in the living out of our faith. Martha went about doing those things that a hostess would do to make a guest feel welcome; perhaps providing some snacks and bringing this, that, and the other thing. Mary sat at Jesus feet and listened to Him speaking about whatever. Martha complained to our Lord about her sister not helping with the serving. The response of Jesus was not a criticism of Martha having wrong priorities, but rather a gentle rebuke for her finding fault with her sister. Jesus knows serving is important; but He also advises us of the importance of worship. There is a time for both, and those times may be different for different people. The danger for any of us is to neglect one or the other. If all served on a Sunday morning, there would be none available to join in worship. Jesus pointed out that our Father seeks worshipers, but He also is honored by those who serve. A problem is criticizing others!

PETER'S WORSHIP

FridayRead John 21:15-21

"He saith unto him a third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him, Lovest thou me? And he said unto Him, Lord, thou knowest all things: Thou knowest that I love you. Jesus said unto him, Feed my sheep." Does this encounter with Peter not show us something wonderful about our Lord! Peter had left Him down at a critical time in the life of Jesus on earth. Peter had to be suffering in shame. Jesus, with not one iota of revenge, sought Peter out to restore fellowship. He blessed Peter with a wonderful catch of fish. He hosted Peter and his friends to a breakfast, at which time He posed a question to Peter. Peter responded favorably, and our Savior restored him to full fellowship and service. We know how God then mightily used this man!

WORSHIP IN HEAVEN

SaturdayRead Revelation 4:10-11

"The four and twenty elders fall down before Him that sat on the throne, to worship Him that liveth forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." The culmination of our worship will be realized when we get to heaven! One of the most inspiring experiences we have on earth, if not the most inspiring, is the worship service!

Can you imagine being engaged in worship in heaven in the very presence of the One whom we worship. Picture us with angels and some Bible heroes gathered around God's throne with Jesus at His right hand. For now, imagining that makes worship meaningful, but the day is coming what we can only imagine will be a reality! We will actually see the One who came and died for us as we worship Him. We will see the One who arose from the grave. Won't the singing of "Up from the grave He arose" suddenly take on new meaning as we look at our risen Savior? I Corinthians 13:12 will become a reality: *"Now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face."* He's coming! We'll be with Him!