

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of March 10, 2019

**THEME: "Questions People Asked: What?"
THE JAILER'S QUESTION**

Sunday Read Acts 16:25-34

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" This is a question that God loves to hear someone ask one of His ambassadors! What prompted the jailer to ask this all important question? Here he was about his daily duties when his life would be forever changed. Why? The reason is that God was working in such a way to get a family into His forever family: that jailer and his household. The fact that he included in his question the thought of being saved means that he must have heard about getting saved somehow. Perhaps because he had a couple of Christians in his prison. Apparently, these two men capitalized on what we would call misfortune. The fact that they were in prison singing praises to God at midnight is an indication that they were rejoicing and not bemoaning their incarceration. Had these two men verbalized a witness to the jailer? Had the jailer heard about being saved from another inmate who had been challenged by Paul and Silas? Who knows, but we do know he heard somehow, and God responded to the singing of Paul and Silas by sending an earthquake that opened the door of the prison giving prisoners the opportunity to be set free. The jailer feared the worst and was about to commit suicide for apparent negligence while on duty. Paul convinced him that the prisoners were there and there was no need to harm himself. So impressed was the jailer with the testimony of these men of God that he wanted what they had. As a result of his question, he and all his house became Christians. Yes, God can use the most difficult of circumstances for His eternal good and glory.

ANDREW'S QUESTION

Monday Read John 6:5-12

"What are these among so many?" Here is an example of a believer asking the question "What?" The Lord Jesus had been approached by a great multitude of people because of His marvelous works. Realizing that they were hungry, Jesus mentioned to His disciples that they needed to provide food for the thousands. Philip expressed disbelief that getting enough food to feed such a crowd of people was beyond reason. Andrew did mention that there was a lad that he noticed had five loaves of bread and two fishes; but he said that would be nowhere near enough to feed so many people. Jesus did not waver! The people needed to eat, and eat they would. So He ordered the people to sit down for a meal. Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks to His Heavenly Father. He then had His disciples take the five loaves and two fishes to share with the crowd. Well, everyone ate until they were full, and Jesus then ordered His disciples to gather what was left over, which they did. As it turned out they gathered the left-overs, and that amounted to more than that with which they started. Almighty God is not limited in what He can do! That is our God who promises to meet our needs!

LITTLE IS GREAT

Tuesday Read Mark 4:30-32

"And He said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what comparison shall we compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth. But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs..." It is good for us to realize that our God can make a great deal out of a little. That is vital because there are so many of us who probably consider that we have so little to offer. Jesus knew that and shared this parable about the great things that God can do with little things. Our Lord mentioned that the smallest seed, the mustard seed, when planted results in great things. The only question is whether the planter has enough faith to plant the seed. Whatever we have, if placed into God's hands, is enough for Him to do great and mighty things. On another occasion, Jesus had taught a parable mentioning three people to whom were entrusted different talents. Each was expected to use the talent given to him. Those who used whatever talent they had were rewarded by investing the talent they had, however great or small. God was equally honored, not so much by what seemed to be the result, but by the investment of the talent. God made each of

us with the talent He wanted us to have. He expects us to invest that talent to be used for His glory, however much or little; and He will distribute rewards on our faithful use of the talent He has given us. He can do great things with little!

PILATE'S QUESTION

WednesdayRead John 18:33-38

"Pilate saith unto Him, What is truth?" The Roman governor had this important question for our Lord during the trial preceding His crucifixion. The adversaries of Jesus had trumped up charges that Jesus declared Himself to be a King and was a threat to the Roman Caesar, guilty of treason. In His response, Jesus did not deny that He was a King, but did indicate that His kingdom was not of this world and, consequently, He had no intention of overthrowing the Caesar at this time. Jesus did tell Pilate that His purpose on earth at this time was to reveal God's eternal truth, the truth that is recorded in Holy Scriptures. The Bible is God's eternal truth, totally reliable for us to know the origin of things, the meaning of things, and the future of things. To know the Bible is to know the thinking of God; it is truth! That truth of God revealed that the Messiah would come as the Lion of Judah to set up an eternal kingdom from the throne of David, but the truth also revealed that the Messiah would first be the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world. That is the truth. Jesus' first appearing was to be the sacrificial Lamb of God. He is coming again to be the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

TEMPORAL VS. ETERNAL

Thursday Read Romans 8:5-9

"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh: but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit." The question Pilate asked is a clear illustration of the fact that people by nature have a temporal perspective on things, and only a temporal awareness. Eternal things seem to be of little or no consequence. That is extremely sad because eternity and eternal values are so much more important, both in our current life and the life to come. God created man as an eternal being, after His likeness. Man has an eternal destination: heaven or hell. Christ made it possible to have a living eternal spirit by His becoming the Lamb of God to take away sin and its penalty of death. When a person receives Jesus as Savior, eternal life is restored as pointed out in Romans 6:23: *"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* When a person receives Jesus, he or she has spiritual life, giving the believer both a temporal perspective and an eternal perspective. Without Christ, people are limited to the temporal; eternal things are a mystery. Praise God for the abundant life we have by our faith in Christ: understanding the ways of God!

TOWNFOLK'S QUESTION

Friday Read Mark 11:1-5

"And certain of them that stood there said unto them, What do ye, loosening the colt?" When Jesus was setting the stage for the inauguration of God's new covenant, He sent a couple of His disciples ahead to get a donkey on which He would make His entrance into Jerusalem. He had advised the men on how to respond when they were questioned about taking the donkey from where the owners had tied him. Although I imagine the ones chosen for bringing the donkey back to Jesus were somewhat concerned about taking a colt from strangers, they obeyed orders and did what He had asked them to do. Sure enough, they were questioned about their taking the colt, and they followed the orders given to them. It worked out just as Jesus said it would, and they brought the donkey back for Jesus to make His entrance into the city. What a blessing that must have been to the men whom Jesus had entrusted to do this for Him. Jesus knows how people will react. Just as God had a plan for including these men in this all important event, so it is with all of us. Maybe some would think that getting this donkey was comparatively minor to the throngs to whom Paul preached, but I think those whom Jesus called to do this "simple" task would disagree. Some day in heaven, we can ask them!

GOD'S ORDERS

SaturdayRead Psalm 37:23-28

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delighteth in His way." God has given all believers orders for how we should live our lives, anywhere from our lives in our homes in family relationships to the workplace and as citizens in the country in which we live. God is pleased

when we follow His orders and is displeased when we don't. The question for all believers is whether or not we will follow the orders of our God or whether we will do things our way. That means the question is whether or not we will obey and honor God or disregard what He has told us to do. Obviously, God's way is best whether or not it is different from our plans. There is nothing wrong with having personal plans or ambitions, but they are wrong if we insist on them when they are different from what God has planned for us. His way is best! Even the Lord Jesus, when faced with the crucifixion, suggested the possibility of another way; but He yielded to the plan of His Father in heaven with the words, that all of us would do well to say: *"Not my will, but thine be done."*