

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of September 20, 2020

THEME: "Book of Memories"

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

SundayRead Luke 22:12-20

"Then He took a loaf of bread; and when He had thanked God for it, He broke it, in pieces and gave it to the disciples saying, This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." The epitome of times of remembrance in the Christian faith is the Communion Service, of which today's Bible reading speaks. There are things we should never forget, particularly the things that God has done because of His indescribable love. At the top of the list is what Jesus did on the cross at Calvary where He paid the penalty of sin as a substitute for all sinners, which is the entire human race. This provided a way for God to grant a pardon to sinners who would acknowledge their sin and receive the Lord Jesus as personal Savior. Jesus became the unblemished Lamb of God to offer His blood as a sacrifice for sin as required by the law of God. When we gather at the Lord's table, we are remembering His great sacrifice of love to honor Him. Another book of remembrance kept by God is recorded in Malachi 3:16: *"Then they that feared the Lord spoke often one to another; and the Lord heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord and that thought upon His name."* I wonder how many such books are there in heaven. Memories are precious to God!

TIMES OF WORSHIP

MondayRead Hebrews 10:22-25

"Nor forsaking the assembling of our selves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." As we reflect on the past, I am sure all of us can remember special times of worship, both recent and from long ago. These gatherings are important to God, our Father in heaven, and precious to all of us, both those on which we look back and those yet to come. All of these gatherings are special, but certain ones stand out in our minds for some reason; maybe because we met someone who has greatly impacted our lives or because of something by which we were greatly influenced. All these times of worship and fellowship on Sunday morning and evening are the highlight of every week, but some turn out to have a strong bearing on us that etches our memories forever. Times of worship are special to God, and it will be interesting to see what He may have recorded in the eternal records in heaven. I believe we will be sharing with other believers many memories of special worship services.

TIMES OF FELLOWSHIP

TuesdayRead John 20::19-21

"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst of them, and saith, Peace be unto you." It is interesting that God includes in the Bible many life experiences of His people. Many think of worship services as God's work, and they certainly are; but they are just part of the Christian life. There is so much more! Christianity is a whole life experience that includes many times of fellowship activities where Christians are just able to enjoy each others company. In so doing they are building each other up and practicing the Biblical mandate to edify one another. In today's Bible reading, we see one of those times where a group of believers got together with fellow believers. And Jesus was one of them. It wasn't a planned service. This group of believers simply wanted to be together. Such times are highly encouraging and can be life changing in that all of us need a support system in this

world of darkness. It is refreshing! Yes, there are and should be scheduled times of fellowship, but the spontaneous ones are also valuable!

SMALL GROUPS

Wednesday..... Read Matthew 18:19-20

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." We can see from Jesus' comment that small gatherings are part of His plans for us. He makes it clear that He is present. If there are only two or three present for whatever, there need be no apology; it is a Divine plan. As a matter of fact, there are a lot of advantages in having only a few people. It establishes an atmosphere where those present have an opportunity to express themselves in a way that would not be practical in a larger gathering. The intimacy is beneficial, and people can take away things that would not have otherwise happened. And God takes special notice as we can see from what He chose to record in Holy Scripture for our instruction. I wonder how many other small gatherings are recorded in heaven like those in Malachi 3:16!

PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS

Thursday Read Luke 17:11-16

"And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God." Here is a situation where we can see that God was highly impressed with a private conversation. So impressed was God with this individual's testimony of thanks for what Jesus had done that He included it in Scriptures for our instruction. In reflecting back, it is obvious that God has accomplished much in private conversations, particularly in reaching lost souls. There is no question in my mind that private conversations resulting in the conversion of lost souls are among my most precious memories, and I think many believers would testify of that. Not only do the fellow believers benefit from the comments of individuals, the Holy Spirit has often used them to bring people into the family of God!

PRAYER MEETINGS

Friday Read Acts 1:10-14

"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication." The importance of prayer meetings cannot be overstated. The first thing done by those who witnessed the ascension of Jesus was to have a prayer meeting. Being left on their own, someone suggested the idea of prayer, and they went directly to a home to join hearts in prayer. If the Church began with a prayer meeting, I think that tells us something of the urgency of prayer meetings. This is a time when people can express their adoration of God and seek His direction in moving ahead. Prayer brings an accord among believers, a unity that Jesus emphasized during His time on earth. He mentioned it at least five times in His intercessory prayer in John 17. There is no question that one of the very important ways to get harmony and unity among believers is to spend time together in prayer. It brings God into our conscious level and results in His demonstration of Divine power. It could be argued that the prayer meeting may well be the most important time in the week for a local church!

PRAYER VIGILS

Saturday..... Read I Kings 8:22-29

"And Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands unto heaven." There are times that

a special time of prayer should be scheduled, both to praise God and put His Divine power on display. This is what Solomon did back in the days of the Kingdom of Israel after the completion of building the temple. His prayer was that God would receive all the glory! There are times when it is most appropriate to call for special prayer meetings. We are approaching one such event in our own nation. We have made it a practice in our local church to schedule an Election Eve Prayer Meeting before our Presidential election. Is it not important that we ask the Ruler of the Universe and our Father in heaven to intervene in such an important decision for the nation? What a high privilege and huge responsibility for Christians!