

Weekly Scripture Readings July 21, 2024

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, instructed us to "stay in love with God" by worshipping, studying scripture, attending Communion, fasting and through public and private prayers. In order to help facilitate daily scripture reading and prayer, this insert contains readings for each day as well as a prayer for the week. The scriptures from Monday through Wednesday reference the readings for the prior Sunday, and Thursday through Saturday reference the scriptures for the following Sunday. We hope that these daily scripture readings and prayer will help you to deepen your relationship with God as we seek to live into our call to be disciples of Christ.

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 (NRSV)

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Matthew 5:21-24 (NRSV)

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not murder"; and "whoever murders shall be liable to judgement." But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, "You fool", you will be liable to the hell of fire. So, when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

Psalms 89:20-37 (NRSV)

... I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
my hand shall always remain with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him.
The enemy shall not outwit him,
the wicked shall not humble him.
I will crush his foes before him

and strike down those who hate him.
My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;
and in my name his horn shall be exalted.
I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.
He shall cry to me, "You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"
I will make him the firstborn,
the highest of the kings of the earth.
For-ever I will keep my steadfast love for him,
and my covenant with him will stand firm.
I will establish his line forever,
and his throne as long as the heavens endure.
If his children forsake my law
and do not walk according to my ordinances,
if they violate my statutes
and do not keep my commandments,
then I will punish their transgression with the rod
and their iniquity with scourges;
but I will not remove from him my steadfast love,
or be false to my faithfulness.
I will not violate my covenant,
or alter the word that went forth from my lips.
Once and for all I have sworn by my holiness;
I will not lie to David.
His line shall continue forever,
and his throne endure before me like the sun.
It shall be established forever like the moon,
an enduring witness in the skies'....

2 Samuel 7:1-14a (NRSV)

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.' But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off

all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, July 22

Psalm 61
2 Samuel 7:18-29
Hebrews 13:17-25

Tuesday, July 23

Psalm 61
2 Samuel 8:1-18
Acts 20:17-38

Wednesday, July 24

Psalm 61
2 Samuel 9:1-13
Luke 15:1-7

Thursday, July 25

Psalm 14
2 Samuel 10:1-5
Colossians 1:9-14

Friday, July 26

Psalm 14
2 Samuel 10:6-12
Colossians 3:12-17

Saturday, July 27

Psalm 14
2 Samuel 10:13-19
John 4:31-38

Prayer for the week: In your compassionate love, O God, you nourish us with the words of life and bread of blessing. Grant that Jesus may calm our fears and move our hearts to praise your goodness by sharing our bread with others. Amen.

Next Sunday: The scripture readings for Sunday, July 28, are Numbers 14:17-20; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21 and John 9:1-41. Next Sunday will conclude our series on The Gospel in Pixar, and the message, "I spent decades protecting my family from *your* mistakes" will be on the passages from Numbers and John and the movie Coco. We will show the movie on Wednesday at 6:30 and it is also available on our website. Next Sunday is a contemporary service.

Questions to help you prepare: Are there things, both good and bad, that have been passed down through generations in your family? What are they? Why these things? Are there things that have been stopped? How is the grandmother's behavior destructive to the family? How is it helpful? What role does God play in our generational issues?

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