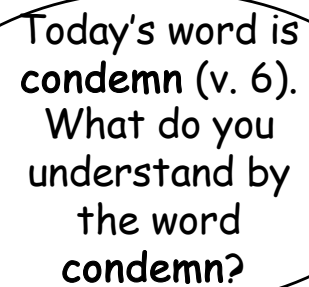


Daily Thoughts for week beginning 5th February 2024

Week 6

Monday 5th February

James had some general things to say about trials which we might face, and now he is finally ready to talk about how we might experience condemnation because of our beliefs. And it is tough. He is leading us to think about this unfair, undeserved, and cruel treatment from a wealthy, powerful, and evil group of people in the community.



Today's word is **condemn** (v. 6).
What do you understand by the word **condemn**?

Read: 1 Peter 3:17

Question: Suffering is part of God's will for your life, as well. This kind of treatment is impossible to avoid because:

- It's not popular to go against the wicked culture
- It's not cool in the world's eyes to live doing what God thinks is right
- Resisting sin isn't going to trend anytime soon

But God allows it anyway. It's part of God's will. Why?

God allows us to suffer because it draws us closer to Him.

And because it is likely that Christians will experience this at some point in their life, we need to know how to deal with it.

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And because it is likely that Christians will experience this at some point in their life, we need to know how to deal with it.

Prayer: Pray for the strength to be faithful in times of trial and suffering. Prayer for those who suffer.

Tuesday 6th February

Read: the first servant song: ISAIAH 42: 1-4

Thoughts: When Jesus Christ comes, His faithful people may be weak and their flame nearly extinguished. He will not break them down or snuff them out. He will heal their weaknesses. He will bind them up and restore their usefulness. He will rekindle their flame so their light shines bright again. The Messiah will not fail in His mission to redeem and restore His people.

Questions: We are told that the Lord's Servant "will not shout or cry or raise his voice in the streets" (verse 2). How do you understand this verse?

When you were a kid, were you ever asked the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

Some common childhood dreams include: Astronaut; Firefighter; Police officer; Athlete; teacher ... but there is one job that I have never heard a single child mention. Being a servant. No one says, "I want to grow up and become a servant." Yet one person did. One person's entire life mission was to be a servant.

If Jesus, who deserved to be served, lowered himself to become a servant, how much more should we? It is not our right to be served.

Do you identify as a servant? Jesus' core identity was a servant. We do not need to chase titles. We are called to serve. Let us take on the mentality of the one we follow and become a servant. A servant puts others' needs above his own. A servant takes initiative to do what needs to be done instead of waiting for others to do it. A servant lowers himself to take on the tasks others don't want to do. Serve your spouse. Serve your children. Serve your neighbours. Serve in church.' Take some time to reflect on this.

Wednesday 7th February

Reading: Isaiah 42:5-9

Thoughts: Note the word **Covenant** in verse 6 - A covenant is a promise, a contract. There are a number of covenants in the Bible. Noah's covenant is God's promise to Noah never to destroy the world by water again. The Mosaic covenant came in the form of the law. If God's people would obey the law, they would be blessed. The Davidic covenant was a promise that David's descendants would sit on the throne and reign over Israel.

The Abrahamic covenant includes God's promises to Abraham to increase his descendants and give him land. In this covenant, he also promised that in Abraham all the families of the earth would be blessed. The first promise covenantal promise in Scripture is in Genesis 3:15.

This is the first hint in Scripture that God planned to send a person to deal with the problem of sin. We see that same promise here in Isaiah 42:9.

I will give you a covenant - Note the words carefully. "You" refers to the servant, the Messiah. It doesn't say that He would bring a covenant, perhaps an updated law. The wording shows us that this servant is Himself the covenant. The Father will give Christ to the world as His covenant.

Jesus is the covenant. He is the promise. God the Father gave Jesus to the world as our salvation.

Simeon alluded to this in Luke 2:30-32 "for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles." In seeing Jesus, Simeon said that his eyes had seen "your salvation." Jesus is the salvation. He is the light promised.

"the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare."

The Mosaic law is part of the old set of former things. The law's purpose was to act as a mirror pointing to the fact that we cannot be saved by ourselves and need help. That is where Jesus comes in.

- He fulfilled the Old Testament covenant perfectly.
- He entered the holy of holies on our behalf.
- He goes in between man and God.
- Jesus brings us into a relationship with God based on His righteousness.

Jesus identified Himself as being the new covenant that God had promised.

Prayer: Pray about the promise God has made and the promises you have made. May you also be blessed by the Holy Spirit so he may give you strength.

Thursday 8th February
Let's dig a little deeper



It's easy to be tempted to be your own avenger for the wrongs done to you. Read Deuteronomy 32:35-39.
What observations can you make about God in this passage?



Put It into Practice!

Colossians 3:1-4 is a really helpful reminder of the kind of things we should be thinking about. What can you put into practice today to think right about the future, and God as the avenger of the wrongs done to you (and the wrongs still to come)?

I remember watching an old TV series called Funniest Home Videos. Many of these videos showed people falling off bikes, running into poles, crashing vehicles, dropping things on themselves, etc. Each time the studio audience would howl with laughter. I find it very hard to laugh at others' misfortune. The world mocks those who are silly, embarrassed, or make mistakes.

Let us not treat others like the world does. Instead, let us treat them how. When someone is embarrassed, let us come alongside and encourage them. When someone falls, let us be the first to pick them up. When someone is being bullied, let us stand in the gap and put a stop to it. When someone is struggling in their walk with the Lord, let us befriend that person, pray with them, and help them overcome. When someone is lost and without Christ, let us preach the gospel to them. Jesus lowered us to be a servant. We are followers of Jesus. Let us serve as He did.

Friday 9th January

Read Psalm 51:1-4.

Thoughts: Ask God to forgive your sins and help you realize how costly your sin actually is. Let God know how thankful you are for your salvation.

If you have not trusted in Christ for salvation, ask Jesus to give you faith to believe and for the help to turn from sin. Ask for help to stop fighting with others and with yourself. Ask for help to desire the right things and for sin to be less tempting. Ask God for wisdom to understand how to live His way.

Saturday 20th January

Listen to these hymns

The servant King

<https://youtu.be/E4963QPHAIM?si=yc4iombZ0q6DwgjH>



The servant song - <https://youtu.be/kdmgpMfnjdU?si=vKJdj6kdFiNJxF9h>

Read Matthew 6:19-24

Take sometime today to write out your prayer. You may want to begin by praising God for who He is as the one you can trust to make everything right!

In your prayer ask God to direct your heart to desire to please Him above anything else.

Ask that God would give you wisdom as you study His Word to understand how to pursue Him to the fullest during these days of "extra time."

Thank God for His gospel! This is a salvation that will never wear out.

It can never be stolen, and it will never be lost. There is nothing in all of creation that can undo what God has done for you in salvation!

That's pretty awesome!

***Love Being
A Servant***

