



## Week Four Devotions

Provided by the Ministry and Program Staff of  
The Presbyterian Church of Stanley

### Day 22

**Scripture: 1 Samuel 28:20-2 Samuel 12:10**

In 2 Samuel Chapter 7 we see that all was right with the world for David. Finally, after decades of running and hiding and struggling, he had secured the kingdom and he dwelt safely in the palace. His enemies had been secured. David desired to build a house for God. He did not think it right that he dwelt in a palace while God lived in a house of cedar. The logic is secure and sound--but God had a greater plan for David. David was not to build a house for God. That task would fall to Solomon, his son. God's plan was to build a house for David--one which stands even to this day--the Church, the body of Christ, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone. The Lord proclaimed to David, "When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish His kingdom...forever."

We all have our plans and the logic may be secure and sound--but God's plan is greater, many times far greater than we can ever imagine. We need to be certain to listen for His plan and be open to its execution in our life. Many times, in fact most time, it will follow when our plans have been broken.

Eric Laverentz, Senior Pastor

### Day 23

**Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:11-2 Samuel 22:18**

True repentance has nothing to do with harboring guilt for our sins. Feeling guilt, even deep guilt, for our disobedience to God is the Holy Spirit's way of convicting our hearts. Holding onto our guilt, on the other hand, is selfish and prideful and telling God His forgiveness is not good enough for us. David experienced the consequences for his sin, repented, and then worshiped God, leaving his sin and guilt behind and moving forward to God's ongoing plan for Him. If David would have harbored his guilt, he would have been caught in the vicious cycle of guilt-perpetuation, crippling his ability to grow in his relationship with God. In Psalm 51, we read about David's repentance and his worship. Repentance is a turning away from our sin and a moving forward towards God.

Bo Burgener, Associate Pastor for Mission & Evangelism

### Day 24

**Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:19-1 Kings 7:37**

1 Kings 3:28 "When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice."

This verse appears at the end of the great story of Solomon's wisdom and the two women who were fighting over a baby. It was an important moment as it demonstrated Solomon's wisdom that could only come from God to the people. The scripture says that the people held the king in awe after this event. God was present with Solomon in a very real way that actually impacted day to day decisions in his life and he became a witness to the people for God. The question for us then becomes, "Is God actively present with us or are we still trying to control our day to day life?" Do you commit each day to God believing that he is with you in every decision you make or are you still walking alone? Our God is the God of Wisdom and it is there for you to tap into through Him. You are not alone, God is with you everyday just as he was with Solomon he is simply waiting

for you to acknowledge him in your life. There is an old saying, "Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you'd have preferred to talk." Listen to God's voice and he will give you wisdom enough for the day.

Molly Jones, Associate Pastor for Discipleship

## Day 25

### Scripture: 1 Kings 7:38-1 Kings 16:20

1 Kings 4:29 "God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore."

God appeared to Solomon in a dream and told him he could ask for whatever he wanted. Solomon pleased God by asking for wisdom and insight rather than long life or riches. God was pleased by Solomon's request and not only granted him great wisdom but also great riches and possessions as well.

The wisdom that Solomon was seeking was more than knowledge. It was the ability to know right from wrong and to have a discerning heart. For many years Solomon reigned over Israel wisely and well. He became famous for his wise decisions and just treatment of his people. But sadly, Solomon started believing his own press releases. Fame and fortune went to his head and one bad choice led to another. He lost sight of his dependency on God rather than himself.

God is good to grant us wisdom when we seek Him. He will direct our path and give us a quality of life that is more than we ever hoped for. The key is to keep our eyes on Him and depend on his strength and wisdom rather than our own.

Jan Zimmerman, Children's Ministries Director

## Day 26

### Scripture: 1 Kings 16:21-2 Kings 4:37

We have more in common with men and women of scripture than maybe we realize. Maybe you have heard yourself utter something similar as Elijah, "I have had enough Lord he prayed." We all have had our moments when our spirit has been broken. We all have had moments when we want to scream to the heavens in frustration or perhaps we have had a last straw moment. But it is key to remember that God has ways to remind us of His Power and love. Though we have moments of exasperations "the man who puts on his armor should not brag. It's the man who lives to take it off who has the right to brag." It's easy to rest in your faith when everything is good, but it is even more important to rely on your faith when the last straw breaks your spirit. Do you have an Elisha to stand by you in these moments?

Harlan Harper, Youth Ministries Director

## Day 27

### Scripture: 2 Kings 4:38-2 Kings 15:26

2 Kings continues the history of Israel and Judah. Notice that when kings humbled themselves and followed God's will, the people prospered. You will read about the two prophets, Elijah and Elisha, and how God used them and protected them from harm.

In 2 Kings 6:8-23, Ben-Hadad, the Aramean king, discovered that Elisha was giving Israel his military secrets and he could not win. So, he sent his soldiers to capture Elisha. One morning Elisha's servant discovered they were surrounded by Ben-Hadad's army. To his surprise, Elisha was not disturbed. Elisha, having spiritual vision, saw the great invisible host of God around them and Elisha said, "Don't be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." What a statement and vision of faith!

Today we may be facing problems and situations that have no visible solution. When our eyes are on our circumstances we panic. When they are on God we are at rest. Ask God to open our eyes

of faith. By faith our inner eyes can see God's provision for us. We may not see our way out of our problems but we can trust God to encircle us with his presence in the midst of it! Remember Elisha's words: *Don't be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.*

Rev. Dr. Larry Thornton, Parrish Associate

## Day 28

### Scripture: 2 Kings 15:27-2 Kings 25:30

We continue to read about failure after failure of the Israelite people, to follow the covenant that God made with them—and the judgment that comes from that willful disobedience. Through this portion of scripture there were 13 Kings named and only two of them, Hezekiah and Josiah, *“did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.”*

Because of the wickedness of the people through that time, God was filled with anger. He gave them opportunity after opportunity to fulfill the covenant they had agreed to but they continued to ignore Him. He delayed the final judgment on Judah because of Hezekiah's request but in the end, all of Jerusalem was defeated.

My favorite verse in this section of scripture is 2 Kings 23:25: *“Neither before or after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.”* My prayer is that I can stand at the gates of heaven and hear that, during my life on earth I turned to the Lord with all my heart and soul and strength.

Debbie Miller, Finance/Stewardship Director