

Bible Reading for Week of September 1, 2024

Monday, September 2 – I Samuel 18:1-5

Meditate on verse 1. Do you have anyone in your life to whom your soul is knit? What does such language imply about the friendship of Jonathan and David? Why do such deep friendships in our culture today seem to be few and far between? Twice we are told that Jonathan loved David “as his own soul” which led Jonathan to make a covenant with David, even giving David his robe, armor, and weapons. Do you have a friend who sticks closer than a brother (Prov.18:24)? Are you such a friend to others?

Tuesday, September 3– I Samuel 18:6-16

In contrast to Jonathan who loved David as himself, we are told in this passage that King Saul “eyed David from that day on.” Why did Saul have his eye on David? Where do we see such pride and jealousy today? God is holy and righteous and is not the author of sin and yet how does this passage demonstrate God’s comprehensive sovereignty over all things? What is the reason given for both Saul’s fear of David as well as for David’s success?

Wednesday, September 4 – I Samuel 18:17-30

How is Saul’s treatment of David in verse 17 similar to David’s future treatment of Uriah in 2 Samuel 11:14-15? What do you notice about Saul’s motivation throughout this passage, whether as a prospective father-in-law (vs.21) or in his choice of a bride-price (vs.25)? Meditate on verse 29. What is the connection here between Saul’s pride, his fear of David, and his constant opposition to him? How do Saul’s plans all backfire (see vs.30)? What should Saul have done instead, seeing that the Lord was with David?

Thursday, September 5– Leviticus 24:10-23

What makes the Lord’s name special? (Exodus 3:13-15, Numbers 6:27) Why does this sin require stoning? How does an “eye for an eye” protect both the victim and the wrongdoer? What difference does it make that retribution is done by the community and not just the witnesses (vs.16)?

Friday, September 6 – Matthew 5:38-48

The commands in vs.38-42 are in the singular (spoken to you – the individual) while the commands in vs. 43-48 are in the plural (spoken to you – the community). How does this help you understand Jesus’ radical commands in vs. 38-42? Is there a conflict between community justice and individual mercy?

Saturday, September 6 – Romans 12:9-21

When you are wronged, how can you avoid taking revenge? (vs. 19=20, 13:2,4) How does Jesus’ death, where he willingly gave his life, free you to have mercy on others today? To whom do you need to show mercy? Ask your Lord to help you today.