

Bible Reading for the Week of May 1, 2022

Our Father in heaven, we confess that our prayers are lacking. They are too slow in coming to you and when they come they are often riddled with unbelief, hard-heartedness and blindness. They are much too selfish and self-serving and are not filled with godly sorrow for our sins and zeal for your kingdom.

Forgive our foolish prayers. Pardon our lack of faith in you, hope in your power, and love for your kingdom. Please open our eyes to see Jesus in all of his beauty and to pray with sincere hearts for His kingdom to come and His will to be done. This we ask in His Glorious Name. Amen.

Monday 2 Kings 18:9-25

Put yourself in Hezekiah's place as his world seems to come crumbling down before his eyes. What might that look like for you? At first, Hezekiah grasps wildly at human solutions of tribute and alliances and troops before turning to the Lord. What human solutions might appeal to you in your hour of trouble? Remember it is only the Lord who saves! (2 Kings 19:35-37)

Tuesday 2 Chronicles 32:1-8

Hezekiah does the responsible thing of organizing a defense. It's hard to know if his actions were driven by godly dependence, human self-reliance, or a mixture of the two. When is it wise and legitimate to plan for the Lord's kingdom?

Wednesday Isaiah 22:8-14

Many commentators believe that Isaiah is critiquing Hezekiah's defensive measures as a form of inward self-reliance. When can your human plans look pious on the outside but in reality become the true source of your hope? Once again, look to the cross and place all your plans before the King.

Thursday Psalm 123

Why should you expect contempt (Genesis 3:15)? Wring out all the ways you resemble a servant looking to the hand of his or her master. How will you pray like a servant: submissive, confident and persistent?

Friday 1 Peter 4:12-19

Why is it reasonable to expect to suffer contempt as a follower of Christ? In what ways do you suffer for righteousness' sake? What blessing buoys you up in suffering (v 14)? What empowers you to live by faith in suffering (v 19)?

Saturday Psalm 124

Prepare for worship by worshipping now the God who is for us (vs 2, 8)?