

One Year Bible – Week 37

Summary: 2 Corinthians Reading

In the tail end of the book of 2 Corinthians, Paul speaks a great deal in a personal manner. This is very different from the first letter to the Corinthians. Paul gives a defense of himself and honest reflection into his own struggles.

Summary: Song of Songs / Isaiah Reading

The Song of Songs is a peculiar book. It is a book about intimacy in an explicit, even erotic sense. In the Song of Songs one sees a vivid picture of the type of love that God intends for marriage, but also on a deeper level, the type of love that God shows to us.

Isaiah was a prophet in Judah during the time when Israel was separated into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern Kingdom of Judah. Isaiah's time spanned from before the northern kingdom collapsed to the Assyrians and the southern kingdom alone stood to represent God's People. The book of Isaiah is written in several sections with the first being chapters 1-12.

Things to Look For and Questions to Ponder as You Read:

- OT – “Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.” (SS 2:7b)
Often relationships outside of marriage progress quickly. The writer of Song of Songs here gives a caution that love is so valuable and so wonderful that it should not be awakened until the proper time. Don't rush it prematurely. Don't offer close intimacy before the context of marriage relationship is ready to sustain it.
- OT – Some people may mistakenly believe that when they turn to God that he expects them to not think critically but simply to live in faith. In Isaiah 1:18 God invites us to reason with him. Critical thinking is not checked at the door once someone turns to God. – Sept 8
- OT – Jesus was prophesied about many times in the Old Testament. In Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah talks of God giving a sign: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel” (Immanuel means “God with us”). Isaiah chapter 9:1-7 also talks of the child that is born who will be the messiah. It is amazing to think that the book of Isaiah was written 700 years prior to Jesus' coming to Earth. – Sept 10

Small Group Questions:

- 1) OT – Read SS 2:16a. How would you describe the point of this verse in your own words? How is this picture of relationship different or similar to common attitudes of intimate relationship today? What exactly does a relationship consistent with this verse look like? – Sept 6
- 2) OT – Read Is 6:1-8. In a rare occurrence, the prophet Isaiah sees the Lord. What do we learn about God from this passage? What observations do you make about Isaiah's response? Why do you think Isaiah responded in this way? What do we learn about sin in this passage? What do you find significant about verse 8? Why? – Sept 10
- 3) NT – Read 2Co 9:6-15. If you were to summarize what Paul is saying in this passage in one word, what word would you use? Why? What is Paul saying about giving in this passage? How does Paul's explanation about giving here relate to our lives today? On a scale of 1-10, where would you rate your own actions and attitudes in comparison to what Paul talks of here? Are there changes that you can make in your life to live out this passage of Scripture more consistently? – Sept 3
- 4) NT – Read 2Cor 12:7-10. Describe in your own words what Paul is saying about our weaknesses. What is a proper perspective according to Paul? Why? How does reading this passage make you feel? Why? – Sept 11

Journal the Psalms this week:

Read Psalm 51:10-12. What do you observe about this prayer of the Psalmist? Can you relate to these words in prayer? How would you describe the heart of the Psalmist in these verses? Journal your answers to these questions; then, journal the words of the Psalmist as if they you're your own. – Sept 7

Reading Schedule:

SS = Song of Songs / Is = Isaiah / 2Co = 2 Corinthians / Ps = Psalms / Pr = Proverbs



Sept 6 – SS 1:1-4:16 / 2Co 8:16-24 / Ps 50:1-23 / Pr 22:22-23
Sept 7 – SS 5:1-8:14 / 2Co 9:1-15 / Ps 51:1-19 / Pr 22:24-25
Sept 8 – Is 1:1-2:22 / 2Co 10:1-18 / Ps 52:1-9 / Pr 22:26-27
Sept 9 – Is 3:1-5:30 / 2Co 11:1-15 / Ps 53:1-6 / Pr 22:28-29
Sept 10 – Is 6:1-7:25 / 2Co 11:16-33 / Ps 54:1-7 / Pr 23:1-3
Sept 11 – Is 8:1-9:21 / 2Co 12:1-10 / Ps 55:1-23 / Pr 23:4-5
Sept 12 – Is 10:1-11:16 / 2Co 12:11-21 / Ps 56:1-13 / Pr 23:6-8