

appnotes

DAY 1 READ GENESIS 37:12-28

1

It's a story for the ages! The hero has his life's purpose laid out for him. Then one setback after another makes that dream seem unattainable: death threats, slavery, and jail. The tension rises and we sit on the edge of our seats. But this isn't some Hollywood blockbuster. It's the story of Joseph, and escaping death at the hands of his jealous brothers, only to be sold into slavery, is just the first stage of a long journey. Yet through everything, Joseph trusted God. Being tied to a camel and dragged into Egypt was just the first step towards the fulfillment of God's plan. We don't always know how the now we see will turn out, but we can trust that God is for us and not against us. Whatever chapter your story is on, walk with integrity and joy, and trust in God!

DAY 2 READ PHILIPPIANS 2:14-18

2

Do you remember The Waltons? Grandma was always grouchy and snipping at Grandpa. She had her good moments, but in one episode she was as quiet as a mouse. She had been in the hospital, and Grandpa finally brought her home. He was eager to please but was getting underfoot. Grandma didn't respond. Everyone noticed she wasn't acting "right." The same thing happens when, in a world full of discontent and anger, we react with peace and joy. Paul tells us that reacting without grumbling will prove that we're children of God. People will see it. They'll wonder, "Where does this come from?" That gives us an opportunity to share what God has done in our lives! At the end of that Waltons episode, Grandma finally admitted she'd made a promise to God: if You get me home, I won't complain anymore. With all God has done for us, we can rejoice!

DAY 3 READ 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

3

Almost as long as there have been people, there have been governments, and almost as long as there have been governments, people have complained about them. It's no wonder, really: governments are run by sinful human beings. It's tempting to complain and worry about who will be President. Until we remember that God is sovereign over all things, and no one is placed in authority that God has not put there. Our leaders, whether at the city, state, or national level, have a stressful job full of responsibility. They weigh in the balance questions heavier than most of us can carry. Instead of worrying and complaining, we need to pray for our leaders, that they would have wisdom and that they'll ultimately have a relationship with their Creator. As Americans, we have a say in our government, and as Christians we have access to God's throne room: let's use both!

DAY READ JAMES 1:1-7

4

Have you ever known a child who didn't like vegetables? You know they need them, so you coax, plead, and argue. By bedtime, they've eaten a few bites, but you're both exhausted! Most adults will eat their greens, like them or not, because we know they're good for us. It's normal to try to avoid what we don't like. In his letter, James addresses the suffering the believers endured on a daily basis. These Christians had been driven out of their homeland. They were mocked and mistreated. James tells them to embrace this suffering, knowing it is ultimately for their good and God's glory. When we are faced with hardship, we need to remember that God is for our good. Whatever we face, it's good for us like lima beans!

DAY READ PSALM 135:1-21

5

Some people live disordered lives. Not me! I like certain things a certain way. Not that I measure the distance between knives and spoons like the butler in some British nobleman's house. I like to be in control of my environment, and when that's not possible, I sometimes get a bit queasy. Psalm 135 brings peace to those situations. Verse 5 says, "I know the LORD is great." Yes, He is! Verse 6 says, "Whatever the LORD pleases, He does." And Verse 14 promises He will have compassion on His servants. If that's not enough to calm me, Romans 8 will: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

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