

Weekly Study Guide

The week of July 20, 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	<p>Read Isaiah 31:1 and Psalm 20:7</p> <p>The Prophet Isaiah was busy trying to convince the people that in the face of the threat from Assyria, what they needed was not to spend time lobbying for help from Egypt, but to turn to the Lord. It seemed that it was only as a last resort that people would turn to the Lord for help. Do we ever fall into that trap? Make it a priority today to bring your heart first to the Lord!</p>
Tuesday	<p>Read Isaiah 36.</p> <p>Putting a city under siege was a long, drawn-out process that cost time and money, and so the Assyrians decided the best way to break their enemies was through propaganda, words that break them down. The half-truths of the world's taunts can take us down when we take our eyes off Jesus. What do you do when the world's taunts discourage you? What helps you find faith in the Lord?</p>
Wednesday	<p>Isaiah 37:1-20</p> <p>Hezekiah had been ignoring all the things Isaiah had been saying up until now. He had not wanted to believe that things would get to this point. But now, when he realized the situation, he humbles his pride, and turns to Isaiah, and ultimately to the Lord in prayer. He literally brings the threatening letter, and presents it to the Lord in prayer! Have you ever given a worry to the Lord in that way? What do you have to give him today?</p>
Thursday	<p>Isaiah 37:21-38</p> <p>Hezekiah was facing the Assyrian army alone, with no hope for survival. His people were discouraged, his army scattering, his allies had not appeared. He finally chose to surrender it all to God. The next day, Hezekiah found the opposing army had fallen overnight as result of a plague. In one night, it was all over. Have you ever experienced God's power to save in this way in your life, or the life of a friend? What do stories like this help us to see?</p>
Friday	<p>John 6:37-39, Luke 23:39-43</p> <p>Jesus came to do his Father's will, and the heart of the Father is that all who come to him will find life. Sometimes we see that promise in miraculous earthly stories like Hezekiah's. Sometimes, we only trust that hope and healing will come beyond what we can see as in the story of the criminal on the cross. How do these words of Jesus today bring comfort in the face of what we can't see?</p>
Saturday	<p>Isaiah 33:2-6</p> <p>Long before Hezekiah took his advice and turned to the Lord for help, Isaiah was preaching this text. "The Fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure!" This story helps us to see what Isaiah means! How can we who have seen the good heart of God through Jesus Christ grow in trusting the Lord first with our lives?</p>

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