

**Day 15**

Psalm 35
Psalm 36
Psalm 37

"Avengers, assemble!" This phrase belongs to a multi-billion dollar film franchise that has mesmerized millions of people around the world as fictional heroes emerge to heroically and superhumanly address fictional enemies and problems. The films invite the audience to identify with the characters because people want to see justice, when evil is defeated and good prevails. However, when it comes to reality and our own lives, we want to take that justice into our own human hands. This temptation comes so clearly in the small things! For example, what is your response when someone cuts you off, falsely accuses you, or says something derogatory to you? You want to see that wrong corrected! Ask yourself this: are you willing to let the Lord fight your battles? Are you willing to turn away from your pride that always reacts with a crooked view in order to see the value that your Heavenly Father knows and sees these unjust matters? Are you also willing to perhaps never see those wrongs "corrected" in the way you may want them to be because you can trust that your Heavenly Father has a far more trustworthy understanding of justice? Let God's greatness and goodness shift your focus from vindication as you seek peace. God is just and He is wise. We can trust Him to give us wisdom and peace if we honestly seek Him and His perspective.

Day 16

Psalm 38
Psalm 39
Psalm 40

When you read Psalm 38 and 39, do you notice how the psalmist's situation mirrors Job's? We see similar confessions in the midst of intense suffering and contemplation on the brevity of life (39:4-5). Maybe you think of your own life as you read these psalms. Maybe you find yourself in a place where you, like the psalmist, say, "Come quickly to help me, my Lord and my Savior" (38:22). If so, read Psalm 40 and be refreshed. The first verse of the psalm says "I waited patiently for the LORD; He turned to me and heard my cry." Ask yourself today: "Am I waiting patiently?" That's hard to do, but it is worthwhile when we're waiting on the Lord. If you find yourself waiting on the Lord, remember that God is faithful to save in His way and on His time. He can also reveal to you and show you how to wait with patience. It isn't an apathetic endurance as time passes. Talk to Him and tell Him of your concerns. Ask Him in confidence for Him to show you what you need to understand and to practice in waiting patiently for Him and His timing. Pray for peace as you wait and the ability to release what you're unnecessarily holding on to. Then, you too, will one day say of God, "May all who you seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say, 'The LORD is great!'" (40:16). Amen.

**Day 17**

Psalm 41
Psalm 42
Psalm 43

Our western culture has a tendency to portray the Christian life as one of ease and prosperity. However, Scripture is very clear as to the certainty of suffering, even instructing us to "count it joy" when we do face trials of various kinds. Sometimes, those trials come in repeated waves. If you have been a Christian for any length of time, you probably have experienced what it's like to feel as if God is absent. Trying circumstances tempt us to become so overwhelmed with our own anxious thoughts and the seemingly endless waves of suffering and despair. We can begin to assume that God has forgotten us and that drowning is imminent. As he looked at his circumstances, even the psalmist despaired, believing the lie that God had forgotten him. One of the most awesome things about Scripture, specifically the Psalms, is the way it can speak to us right where we are. As we read the psalmist's raw emotions in 42 and 43, it can be very easy to forget that even these writings are inspired by the Spirit of God, and given to comfort and to teach us. As we read through today's chapters, consider how the Psalmist dealt with adversity. Think of the Psalmist's words in chapters 42 and 43 as a battle plan for the times when the waves of suffering seem to have no end. You can find comfort in knowing that "even the winds and the waves obey Him." God's way is not our way, but we can trust that He is always good. Today, command your soul as the psalmist did, to "hope in God!"

Day 18

Proverbs 7
Proverbs 8
Proverbs 9

Are you wise? It's easy to sometimes believe that wisdom is somehow a trait of our genetics. However, the author of Proverbs suggests that wisdom is something that ought to be pursued. He alludes to wisdom as a person who invites us to herself. Is the author suggesting that wisdom is somehow another god or deity for us to pursue and worship? No, the author is simply identifying the beauty of wisdom and how wisdom is essential to godly decision-making. In fact, Prov. 9:10 insists that at the foundation of wisdom is fear of the Lord. Therefore, true wisdom cannot exist outside of knowing God! As we grow closer to God, we are afforded the opportunity to experience the beauty of wisdom in our decision-making and to be a light to others. In what ways do we consider ourselves wise or unwise? Do you measure your wisdom by your education level, your status in society, or your professional qualifications? If so, remember these are simply not the ways that God invites us to see true wisdom. True wisdom is only gathered directly from the Lord as we continue in a growing relationship with Him.



Day 19

Psalm 44
Psalm 45
Psalm 46

What happens when you are following earnestly after the Lord and tragedy falls on you? What happens when your worldly circumstances become dire in light of your faithfulness? Chapter 44 in particular highlights the distress of the heart and mind that ultimately wrestles this question: how does God, Who is love, allow for suffering and pain to enter the lives of His faithful believers? While the psalmist captures this angst quite well, God's allowing suffering is simply not a direct sign of His leaving or forsaking His children. So much of this can be considered along with the story of Job. Remember when Job asks God to give an account for why he is experiencing this suffering? God's answer was simply a 10,000 foot view of all the complexity of all Creation, which humbled Job, showing that God's wisdom and decisions are far more developed, sound, and trustworthy than Job could ever imagine. Like Job, our job is not to interpret "bad" circumstances as punishment and "good" circumstances as rewards. These are simply realities that God puts in place because He is the ultimate wisdom and knows what is best for us and for His glory to be made known across the Earth.

Day 20

Psalm 47
Psalm 48
Psalm 49

Where should God be worshipped? In just the hearts and minds of believers? In just the churches when there are at least two or three gathered together? God should be worshipped everywhere on this Earth and it is our calling as believers to make His name known. As of this writing, 7,078 of the 17,034 people groups in the world lack enough followers of Christ and resources to share the Gospel with their own people. People in these circumstances are considered "unreached," and they comprise about 41.4% of our world's population. Nevertheless, as you read this passage, you can see the heart of the psalmist give glory and praise to God with the hope and anticipation that all people groups around the world will praise the one true God. As a believer, dedicate some time to pray and to seek God by asking what your role is in reaching those who are unreached with the beautiful Gospel that by your hearing and believing in Christ has saved your soul.

Day 21

Psalm 50
Psalm 51
Psalm 52

Challenge: After reading these three chapters, find a quiet place. Put your phone on airplane mode and if necessary, just go into your car or closet. Open to chapter 51 and read **very slowly**. Begin to just pray and meditate. Meditating does not mean to empty your mind. Instead, it means to focus your mind on the Scripture that you read and ask God to give you wisdom and insight into understanding He is speaking through it. Ask God to grant you an appreciation to simply sit in His presence and dwell on His Word.