

DO I LOOK FAT?
BE HONEST,
ZECHARIAH...

MMMMMM?!



ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING RENDERED
MUTE DURING YOUR WIFE'S PREGNANCY.

Memory Verse

“A soft answer turns away wrath,
but harsh words stir up
anger.”

- Proverbs 15:1

I have completed my Bible studies for the following days:

- ☐ Lord's Day & Monday
- ☐ Tuesday
- ☐ Wednesday
- ☐ Thursday
- ☐ Friday & Saturday

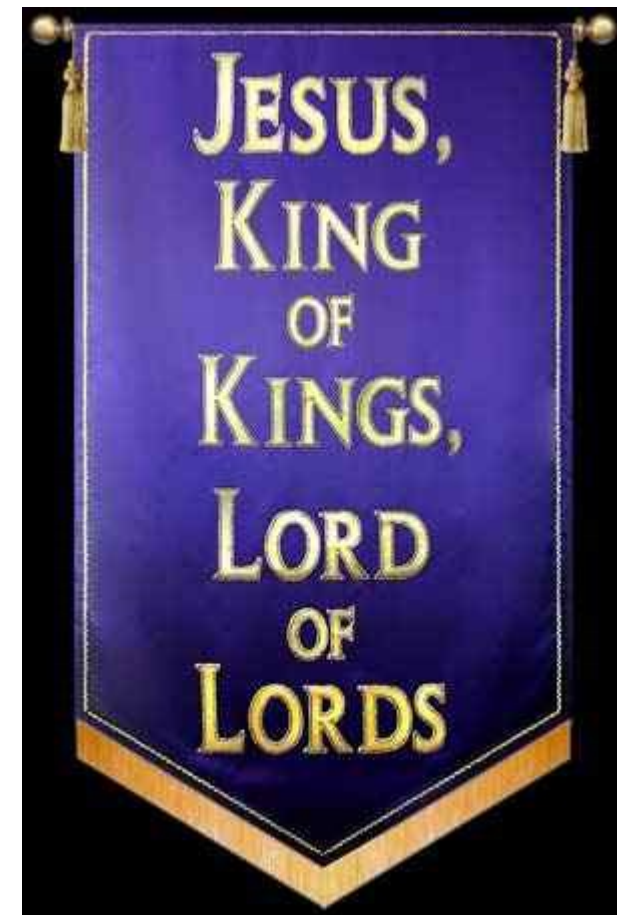
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Daily Bible Studies

July 14 - July 20, 2013

“Living Before THE King”

Ecclesiastes 8:1 - 8



The Lord's Day & Monday

Read **Ecclesiastes 8:1 - 8**.

Before we look more deeply into this week's text, take a minute and think about the people who have authority over you and that you must listen to. Maybe it is your piano teacher or school teacher. Maybe it is your baseball coach, your dad, or your mom. One day it might be your boss at work.

What do you do if one of those people does something that you think is wrong or unfair? What if you don't just think it's wrong, but you know it's wrong. What if one kid on the team or in the class misbehaved but the person in charge punishes every person severely? How should you react if you are doing a good job, but the person in charge always rewards someone who does not do a good job?

Well, this week's passage will help you think about and answer some of these questions in your own mind from God's perspective. And, believe it or not, how you react in situations like the ones written above are strongly connected to your obedience to God and to what you believe about God.

The most important thing to learn and remember this week and beyond is that ultimately there is only one person in charge and that is the King of Kings, Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

"Who is like a wise man? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine, And the sternness of his face is changed. I say, 'Keep the king's commandment for the sake of your oath to God. Do not be hasty to go from his presence. Do not take your stand for an evil thing, for he does whatever pleases him.' Where the word of a king is, there is power; And who may say to him, 'What are you doing?' He who keeps his command will experience nothing harmful; And a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment, Because for every matter there is a time and judgment, Though the misery of man increases greatly. For he does not know what will happen; So who can tell him when it will occur? No one has power over the spirit to retain the spirit, And no one has power in the day of death. There is no release from that war, And wickedness will not deliver those who are given to it."

Friday & Saturday Activity

Think of four ways that you can improve when it comes to showing respect towards those in authority.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Heavenly Father, thank you for your Word this week. I can see that I am at your mercy. You are all powerful and I am powerless. I am very thankful that you are indeed merciful and you love to exercise lovingkindness. Thank you for forgiving me. Amen."

Pray for the Lord's Day service:

1. Pray that everyone would think it is important to come and be able to come.
2. Pray for Sunday School and Pastor Tim's sermon.
3. Pray that we would encourage each other to love the Lord Jesus.

Friday & Saturday

The last reading for this week is **Ecclesiastes 8:6 - 8**.

Earlier this week we saw the Bible tell us that the king does whatever pleases him. In other words, he does whatever he wants. Compared to other human beings, he has the most power so he is able to make happen whatever he wants to happen. When he compares his power to God's power however, things are not even close. The earthly king cannot come close to the power of our Heavenly King and so in reality the earthly king really cannot do whatever he wants. He must bow to and submit to God just like we do. With this in mind, consider that there are at least four areas that man has no control over and where he must trust the Lord.

1. Man has no control over his spirit. More precisely, man did not create his own spirit, rather it was given to him by God. Furthermore, man's spirit cannot be made alive to God nor can a man receive the Holy Spirit without God's blessing and gifting.
2. Man has no control over the day that he will die. God has appointed the day that you will die and you can do nothing to change it. Thankfully, you can face death confidently, if you believe that Jesus died to pay the penalty for your sins.
3. Man has no control over war. You have no power to cause war to end. They will continue until the Prince of Peace returns. Additionally, you have no power to win the war waged between life and death. You will eventually succumb to death just as every other human being before you has.
4. Finally, you have no control over wickedness. Unless you come to Jesus for freedom, you will always be a slave to your sin. You may think you have power, but if you die in your sins you will come face to face with him who has all power, the judge of the universe, Jesus Christ. Seek the Lord while he may be found. Today is the day of salvation.

The Lord's Day & Monday Activity

What have you learned so far from our study of Ecclesiastes?

Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Ask you mom and dad if they will pray with you. You could pray something like this: "Father, please teach me this week. Help me to understand and discern when it is right and wrong to obey those that have authority over me. Help me all week to bow to the authority of the Bible."

Pray for your family:

1. Dad and Mom
2. Brothers and Sisters
3. Grandpas, Grandmas, Uncles, Aunts, and Cousins

Tuesday

Today we will be reading **Ecclesiastes 8:1**.

The first verse of Chapter 8 is an interesting one. Read verse one carefully. How many people is Solomon talking about? One or two? Go ahead, read it again. Well, when I read it the first few times, I thought he was only talking about one person, but he might be talking about two people...a wise man and a king. It is a definite possibility, because in the following verses Solomon starts talking about kings.

If we think about a wise man and a king in verse one, the verse would read, *"Who is like the **wise man**? Who knows the explanation of a situation? A man's wisdom causes **the king** to show him favor so that the power of the king's face is redirected."*

So what does all of this mean? It's not exactly clear to us, but it is saying that when a man is wise and acts wisely, the powerful king will act in a way that is a blessing to the wise man. For example, perhaps the king is angry, but because the man acts wisely, the king calms down. Or maybe the king is planning some evil act, but the wise man is able to gently persuade and change the king's mind.

To make things clearer, think about Joseph and Daniel from the Bible. Both of them feared God and were very wise. They both lived under the rule of ungodly kings in very difficult circumstances, but because God made them wise, they patiently and humbly served the kings. Both of them found favor and were promoted to high positions where they were able to glorify the Lord.

I want to close today's study by asking you a question from the Bible. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" It is the Lord Jesus who rules over all the earth. If you must appear before a king or the President, there is no need to be afraid. God has made him king (or President) and he has planned your meeting with the king. Jesus also promised that the Holy Spirit will be with you when you stand before those in authority, if you are God's child.

"And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." - Luke 12:11-12

Thursday Quiz

True or False

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. God will bless me if I respect my leaders. | T | F |
| 2. There is never a time when I should disagree with my leaders | T | F |
| 3. We should seek God's approval first. | T | F |
| 4. I should always do what my leaders say even if it goes against what God says. | T | F |
| 5. Even Jesus obeyed his authorities | T | F |
| 6. When those in authority aren't doing right God can't do anything about it | T | F |
| 7. I can always trust God to give me wisdom. | T | F |

Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Lord, please give me wisdom while I am under earthly leaders. Help me to trust you when they don't seem to be honoring you and your Word, and when they fail to stand up for your truths."

Pray for the leaders of our government. As always, pray that they would fear and honor the Lord Jesus with the decisions they make.

1. James Boser, Cattaraugus County Legislature
2. Joseph M. Giglio, New York State Assembly
3. Charles E. Schummer, US Senate

Thursday

Today you should read **Ecclesiastes 8:5 - 6**.

Today's Scripture reading teaches us that there is a blessing in obeying the command of the king or authority. We are promised that if we keep the command of our authorities we will not experience anything harmful.

Does this mean that the authority's commands will *appear* to be perfect and beneficial for you? The answer is no. Sometimes, maybe even many times, obeying your authorities' commands will be painful or cause you apparent loss. Once again however, we must remember that Jesus rules over our authority. He has allowed the authority to make the decision that *appears* to be harming you. In God's plan the "harm" that you experience by obeying will really be a blessing. For example, if the government ordered you to give all of your money to them, obedience to the command would appear very harmful and painful. In reality though it may be God's way of teaching you that he is your provider and source of strength. Obeying that particular command would help you to overcome the love of money in your heart and that would be a tremendous blessing.

So we have seen that we are to obey our authorities and also that we will be blessed for obeying our authorities. Yesterday, we saw that we can not obey our authorities if they are forcing us to sin against God. These seem like pretty good "rules of thumb," but sometimes there are situations where we are just not sure what to do. You think to yourself, "Hmmm...my authority wants me to do this. I won't be sinning myself if I obey, but I will be encouraging or helping others to sin if I obey. What do I do?" Well, these "sticky situations" require God-given wisdom that comes from reading the Bible and praying. God has a perfect time for everything.

Tuesday Quiz

1. How many people do you think Solomon is talking about? Why?

2. Read Proverbs 15:1-2. How do these verses relate to Eccles. 8:1

3. What are some ways that you can act wisely towards those in authority?

4. Read Proverbs 22:29. How do you think this verse applies to men like Joseph and Daniel?

Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Here is an idea of what you could pray: "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Please help me to be wise. Help me to learn that, like Joseph and Daniel, I too can act in a wise manner that will affect those in authority over me. Thank you for your word teaching me about Wisdom."

Pray for your church family:

1. Mr. and Mrs. Orcutt and Kayleigh
2. Mrs. Gayle Rockwell
3. Mr. and Mrs. Stefanone

Wednesday

Please read **Ecclesiastes 8:2-4**.

What should a Christian do when he believes that the government is making bad decisions? Should he obey or should he disobey what the government wants him to do?

In order to answer that question biblically, you must first remind yourself that the Bible teaches in Romans 13 that the Lord has established all earthly governments. That's right. President Barack Obama is the President because our holy God wanted him to be.

Once we acknowledge this fact, we naturally conclude that to disobey the government is to disobey God and to obey the government is to obey God.

Now, before you get too carried away or upset, let me clarify. If the government is not forcing you to sin against God, then you must obey it. If however, the government is trying to make you sin against God, then you must disobey the government.

When the high priest told Peter to stop talking about Jesus, Peter said, "We ought to obey God rather than men." Also remember that when a law was passed forbidding Daniel from praying to the true God, he disobeyed and prayed anyway. The Lord wants you to obey Him and after that obey the government.

Finally today, the Bible teaches us not just to obey our leaders but to respect them as well. When our leaders make a decision that we disagree with and don't like, we should not pout and throw a temper tantrum. That will not change anything, because the king or government has the power. We do not have the power. Humbly submit to those in charge and once again remind yourself that God has put the people in charge. He is able to guide their hearts and decisions for his own purposes.

"The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will." - Proverbs 21:1

Wednesday Quiz

1. If we disagree with a leader we can be disrespectful towards them. T or F
2. We should try to live peaceably with all men. T or F
3. Governments are ordained by God for our destruction. T or F
4. God is the ultimate authority over leaders and governments. T or F

Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Here is an idea of what to pray: "Dear God, please help me to pray for those in authority. Help me to understand that I am obeying you when I treat them with respect. Thank you for giving me leaders to watch over me and guide me. Thank you Jesus that you were an example of respect towards authority while here on earth."

Pray for missionaries who tell others about Jesus:

This week's missionaries are the Doyles. They are ABWE missionaries in training to Nicaragua.

