UPC Family Daily Devotional

November – Week 3

Memory Verse of the Week

“The fear of the Lord – that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.”

-Job 28:28

Nov 14 Sunday Job 24:1-25

In the beginning Job wonders why God does not do more and take up the cause of the oppressed. If God is all-powerful, surely He can correct all the injustice in the world in an instant. Yet, by the end of Job’s speech, he acknowledges that God does indeed punish sin. While humans want instant punishment, God promises to punish sin in His own time. Retribution is far better in the Lord’s hands than our own.

Share about a time when you felt like God’s judgment was not quick enough. Why should it encourage us to know that no evildoer can escape judgment in the end?

Nov 15 Monday Job 25:1-6

Bildad points out the lowliness of humanity, maintaining that we are nothing before God. He is so caught up in his observations and in trying to convince Job of wrongdoing that Job’s suffering is entirely absent from his mind. When we share in the suffering of those who are hurting, let us not get sidetracked by the desire to prove a point. Let us, rather, make it our aim to encourage them to fix their eyes on the God who cares for the hurting.

When have you experienced true comfort from a friend? How can you help those who are hurting to look to Jesus?



 Nov 16 Tuesday Job 26:1-14

Job’s friends portray God as predictable and His cations as conditioned by human righteousness and wickedness. Job’s words show that he believes God to be far greater and our knowledge of Him extremely limited. He does not require us to fully understand the perplexities of our trials. The same wise and powerful God who sustains the universe is able to sustain us. We can rest in His sovereignty, confident that what may seem mysterious to us is simple and straightforward in His sight.

What do you wish you understood about your trials, and why?

 

Nov 17 Wednesday Job 27:1-12

Amid great pain and deep spiritual turmoil, and under fire from friends who should have comforted him, Job casts himself upon God’s justice. It is apparent throughout the book that it is this hope that sustains him through adversity. Hope is grounded in our faith in God. Being convinced of His love, His power, and His promises, we are confident that all will eventually be well with us.

How has you hope in Jesus sustained you?

Nov 18 Thursday Job 27:13-23

Job responds to his friends’ accusations by warning them that it is they who stand in danger of God’s judgment. They know that God punishes the wicked, yet this does not prevent them from acting wickedly by pressing unfounded accusations upon Job. The Bible warns believers not to be quick to judge others. When we think something is not right with a fellow believer, we should first ask the Lord to reveal where there is something wanting in our own lives. After we have repented and received His forgiveness, we will be in a better position to help others.

Why is it so easy to fall into the temptation of judging others? Why is it important that we first examine ourselves in God’s light before confronting others?

 

Nov 19 Friday Job 28:1-11

Birds of prey rule the skies and fierce beasts the animal world, but both fall short of the abilities and accomplishments of humankind. They are unable to see the treasures we see or to set foot in the places we go. We often take for granted our dominion over creation and lose sight of the responsibility that God has given us as His image-bearers, who are called to extend His heavenly authority throughout the world. Part of what it means to follow Jesus as Lord is to recognize that truth and apply it to the creation around us.

What are our responsibilities and privileges as stewards over God’s creation?

Nov 20 Saturday Job 28:12-28

True wisdom is available to those who fear Him: those who are in right relationship with him, demonstrates it by shunning evil. We must not forget the opening verse of the book, which describe Job as just such a person. The path to wisdom for Job – and perhaps for us as well – leads through deep pain and suffering. But through our sorrows, we gain a priceless treasure: GOD HIMSELF.

How have pain and suffering brought you into a deeper relationship with God? Why is the wisdom gained through suffering worth the price?

