

The Week's Readings

Monday 25 September

Psalm 30
1 Chronicles 28:1-10
Mark 11:1-11

Tuesday 26 September

Psalm 36
1 Chronicles 28:11-end
Mark 11:12-26

Wednesday 27 September

Psalm 34
1 Chronicles 29:1-9
Mark 11:27-end

Thursday 28 September

Psalm 37
1 Chronicles 29:10-20
Mark 12:1-12

Friday 29 September

Psalm 31
1 Chronicles 29:21-end
Mark 12:13-17

Saturday 30 September

Psalm 42
2 Chronicles 1:1-13
Mark 12:18-27

The Week's Readings

Monday 2 October

Psalm 80
2 Chronicles 17:1-12
Mark 15:1-15

Tuesday 3 October

Psalm 89:1-18
2 Chronicles 18:1-27
Mark 15:16-32

Wednesday 4 October

Psalm 119:105-128
2 Chronicles 18:28-19:end
Mark 15:33-41

Thursday 5 October

Psalm 92
2 Chronicles 20:1-23
Mark 15:42-end

Friday 6 October

Psalm 95
2 Chronicles 22:10-23:end
Mark 16:1-8

Saturday 7 October

Psalm 97
2 Chronicles 24:1-22
Mark 16:9-end

Next Sunday (1 Oct)

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Next Sunday (8 Oct)

Isaiah 5:1-7
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

THE MIXING BOWL: Focus Tuesday's Readings

It has been a quick trip through 1 Chronicles, and as we travel through this week we see Solomon take over from David as king and on Saturday we see Solomon's strength and blessing from God for his reign. The detail of the week sits around the resting place for the Ark of the Covenant. David's desire is to see a temple built, and he readies the elements for Solomon to undertake the task. This is text is paired with Jesus having grave issues with the Temple's new purpose as the Messiah arrives in Jerusalem.

The temple of Solomon's time, and even In Jesus' time was the largest structure within Jerusalem's walls. It was a dominating part of the life of the people - imagine that the whole CBD was focused towards the Cathedral which was three times higher than any other building and the entire CBD was angled towards it?

Jesus' issue with the authorities extends to the use of the Temple. It is to house and remind of the covenant with God, but ends up being used for other purposes.

What space do you find best for you to worship God? How easy is it to be corrupted by other things, such as money, time-tabling, or problems with your neighbour?

THE MIXING BOWL: Focus Tuesday's Readings

Which path is easier to travel, the well defined path with ample lighting on a route that is designed by someone else, or the difficult cross country trek that takes us where we actually need to go?

On Monday we read about Jehoshaphat's reign which is followed through the week. We see Jehoshaphat as a king who fears God, builds and strengthens the kingdom, but does so for God's glory. With this, we see that God takes care of him in battle. We see that he respects God's wishes as it will allow the kingdom and the people to survive against adversity.

In Mark's account of Jesus' trial on Monday, we see Pilate failing in discernment. We know from historians of the time that Pilate was quite brutal, but unlike the other Gospel accounts Mark doesn't show a softer side to the Roman ruler. Rather than listening to his own instinct he decides on this one day to listen to the will of the crowds.

Usually the well lit path is one that we have trodden before. How can we find a path that brings us closer to God's plan? If it looks more difficult, how can we help our own decision to take a more difficult path?