

Food for Thought

For the week of June 23, 2013

(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. This week we saw the way that Joseph bloomed where he was planted despite the confusing and challenging situation he found himself in. Moses also faced some tough challenges, spelled out in Hebrews 11:24-29. Read the passage and then write down some modern-day equivalents to the challenges he encountered. Are there any you can personally relate to?

Hebrews 11:24-29

24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. 29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. [NIV]

2. When things don't work out the way they're supposed to, it can become increasingly difficult to continue doing the right thing. Below are some verses that reveal a very different way of looking at life than most of our world would look at it. After reading each verse, jot down how it differs from the way most of the world lives and thinks.

James 5:16

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. [NIV]

Psalms 112:6

6 Surely the righteous will never be shaken;
they will be remembered forever. [NIV]

Psalms 25:14

14 The Lord confides in those who fear him;
he makes his covenant known to them. [NIV]

Psalms 34:15

15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are attentive to their cry; [NIV]

Isaiah 32:17

17 The fruit of that righteousness will be peace;
its effect will be quietness and confidence forever. [NIV]

Isaiah 51:7

7 "Hear me, you who know what is right,
you people who have taken my instruction to heart:
Do not fear the reproach of mere mortals
or be terrified by their insults. [NIV]

3. Understanding who God is and how he is personally engaged in our lives is an important part of learning to live out our Christian life. Use Psalm 33:12-22 as a prayer guide to thank God for who he is, how he cares for you, and how he gives hope to all of us who commit our lives to him.

Psalm 33:12-22

12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people he chose for his inheritance.
13 From heaven the Lord looks down
and sees all mankind;
14 from his dwelling place he watches
all who live on earth—
15 he who forms the hearts of all,
who considers everything they do.
16 No king is saved by the size of his army;
no warrior escapes by his great strength.
17 A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;
despite all its great strength it cannot save.
18 But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,
19 to deliver them from death
and keep them alive in famine.
20 We wait in hope for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.
21 In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.
22 May your unfailing love be with us, Lord,
even as we put our hope in you. [NIV]