

Day One: 2 Kings 9

1. Summarize the young prophet's orders and how he carried them out (1-6, 10). What did he prophesy over Jehu (7-10)? Describe the aftermath of this encounter (11-13). How did Jehu begin to conspire against Joram (14-17)? Summarize his journey to Jezreel (17-20). What did Joram do (21-22)? Describe the conflict that ensued (22-26). What happened next with King Ahaziah (27-29)? Finally, describe Jehu's encounter with Jezebel (30-37).
2. This story is a picture of the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation. Re-read Jehu's words in verses 18, 22, and 32. Think about those who've wounded you. In these relationships, do you ever wonder, "How can there be peace?" What one thing does the Lord require of you at such a time? Ask God to help you to forgive "from your heart." Pray also for reconciliation, that you would eventually experience a peaceful relationship.

Day Two: Micah 7:18-20

1. What rhetorical question is found at this conclusion of Micah's prophecy (18)? In their sin and transgressions, how is the Lord gracious to his people (18)? Describe both God's anger and mercy (18). What will the Lord do again (19)? What imagery captures the power of God's forgiveness (19)? How does the prophet remind the Lord of his faithfulness and love (20)?
2. Recall times when you felt your sin was stuck to you and weighing you down. What were the circumstances? Why do you think you felt that way? Now, re-read verse 19. Imagine your sin hurled "into the depths of the sea." How does this make you feel? Praise the Lord for this compassion. How has it transformed your relationship with him? What about your relationships with others? In gratitude, tell God about these gains in your life.

Day Three: Matthew 6:9-15

1. What is Jesus teaching his followers to do (9)? When he prays, to whom is Jesus talking (9)? What does he say about God (9)? What does Jesus want to happen (10)? What would this mean (10)? What does he ask for each day (11)? Describe his request for forgiveness (12). What protection does he desire (13)? What happens when we forgive people (14)? What about when we fail to do so (15)?
2. Compare Jesus' prayer in verse 12 to Matthew 18:21-35, especially the final verse. Why do you think Jesus uses money and debt imagery when he talks about forgiveness? If he indeed forgives us according to the way we forgive others, what does that mean for you? Talk to God about any worry or relief this brings to your heart. Pray you would make room in your life for the hard work of forgiveness. How will you begin to walk this out?

Day Four: Matthew 26:26-30

1. Set the scene of this text (26). What did Jesus do (26)? What did he say about the bread (26)? What did he do next (27)? What did he say about the cup (27-28)? When will Jesus next drink from it (29)? What do you think he means by this? How do you think the disciples felt about these moments with Jesus? After dinner, what did everyone do (30)?
2. Communion is an opportunity to pause and remember that our sins are forgiven because of Jesus' sacrifice, not because we've earned it. The next time you take communion, reflect especially on that aspect: what the blood of the new covenant means for you. What about people who have wounded you; what does the new covenant mean for them? How can you incorporate forgiveness of others in to your time of communion?

Day Five: Luke 23:26-43

1. What did the soldiers make Simon do (26)? What did Jesus say to the mourners (28-31)? Describe the two other men being crucified and the setting of Jesus' death (32-33). What did he ask God to do about his captors (34)? Why (34)? Summarize the way people treated Jesus (35-39). How did the one criminal stand apart in his perception of Jesus (40-41)? What did he say directly to Jesus (42)? What was Jesus' reply (43)?
2. Even while dying, Jesus pleaded forgiveness for his enemies. Moreover, he pronounced forgiveness *and* reconciliation over one of the criminals. How does this make you feel about Jesus? How would you describe him in these final moments of life? How do you think Jesus wants you to follow in his footsteps in this regard? Even in incredibly painful situations, how can you forgive those who wound you? Pray for Jesus-style grace to forgive.