

Bible study for this week 5/21/12~5/27/12

***May21(Monday),2012**{[Philippians 2:1~11](#)}Key: Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit.[\(Philippians 2:3\)](#)“**I, Me, Mine**”Bible In One Year: [1 Chronicles 13~15](#); [John 7:1~27](#)

In 1970, the Beatles began work on a documentary intended to show how their music was made. But instead of revealing the process of musical creativity, the film pulled the curtain back on a display of self-interest and bickering. The band members were more concerned about their own songs than the advancement of the group. Shortly after the project was completed, the group dissolved in disharmony and broken friendships.

It's an age-old problem. In the first century AD, the apostle Paul feared that the believers in the church at Philippi would fall into the trap of selfishness. He knew that when the desire for personal advancement overrides concern for one another, attitudes quickly become disruptive and divisive.

To counteract this dangerous tendency, Paul wrote, “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others”[\(Phil. 2:3~4\)](#).

What would a documentary of your life reveal? Selfishness or selflessness? We must look out for one another, for selfless concern will prevent division and build unity in our church families.

*Meditate:*Lord, let me live from day to day In such a self-forgetful way That even when I kneel to pray My prayer will be for others.

*Aphorism:*A heart that is focused on others will not be consumed with self.

***May22(Tuesday),2012**{[James 4:1~10](#)}Key: The world is Mine, and all its fullness.[\(Psalm 50:12\)](#)“**I Shall Not Want**”Bible In One Year: [1 Chronicles 16~18](#); [John 7:28~53](#)

Before they were a week old, the eaglets were fighting over food. Neither was strong enough to hold up his head for more than a few seconds, so the pair looked like fuzzballs with bobble-heads attached. But whenever the parents brought food to the nest, the bigger eaglet was quick to peck down his brother to keep him from getting a single bite. His aggression would have been understandable if food was scarce, or if the parents couldn't be trusted to supply what he needed. But nothing could be further from the truth. The eaglets were being fed fish many times their size; there was more than enough for both of them.

The greedy eaglet reminds me of our own foolishness when we try to get for ourselves something that belongs to someone else ([James 4:1~5](#)). Conflicts erupt because we want something that God has given to a friend, colleague, relative, or neighbor. Instead of asking God for what we need, we try to get what He's given to someone else (v.2). But God has something good for each of us. We don't need what belongs to anyone else. And we certainly never need to harm anyone to get what we need.

Our loving heavenly Father has more than enough for everyone.

Meditate: The secret of contentment is To let the Lord supply; Just do your part and put God first And on His Word rely.

*Aphorism:*Our needs will never exhaust God's supply.

***May23(Wednesday),2012**{[1 Corinthians 2:6~16](#)}Key: Now we have received . . . the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us

by God. ([1 Corinthians 2:12](#))“**High-Tech Communication**”Bible In One Year: [1 Chronicles 19~21; John 8:1~27](#)

When it comes to communication, our world is becoming increasingly high-tech. The popularity of things like Twitter and Facebook might cause some to think the Bible is too old-school. The tech-savvy people of our world might feel deterred because there are no sounds and no nifty graphics in the Bible. But the truth is, there’s more high-tech power in God’s Word than in any cutting-edge communication tool our world will ever know.

It’s not uncommon for a pastor to be told, “When you said that in your message, it was just what I needed.” Somehow during the sermon, God spoke to the person’s heart with a message tailor-made for him or her. If you’ve ever read the Bible and sensed God speaking directly to you, you know what I’m talking about. God has hard-wired you with His Spirit, who illumines your mind to understand His Word.

Imagine getting a “text message” directly from the Creator of the universe telling you exactly what you need at exactly the right time. No matter how high-tech this world gets, you’ll never experience a more powerful mode of communication!

Rejoice in the reality that “we have received . . . the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God” ([1 Cor. 2:12](#)).

Meditate: Give me the insight, Lord, As I hear Your Word today, So I will truly understand Your message and Your way.

*Aphorism:*The Bible may be old, but its truths are always new.

***May24(Thursday),2012**{[Luke 18:15~17](#)}Key: Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.([Mark 10:14](#))“**Bring Them To Jesus**”Bible In One Year: [1 Chronicles 22~24; John 8:28~59](#)

A friend recalls:The Scripture reading from Luke 18 about children seemed unusual at the memorial service for David Holquist. After all, he was 77 when he died.

Yet the pastor said the verses fit David, a long-time college professor, perfectly. Part of his legacy was that he took time for children—his own and others’. He made balloon animals and puppets, and helped in a puppet ministry at church. When planning worship services with others, he frequently asked, “What about the children?” He was concerned about what would help the children—not just the adults—to worship God.

Luke 18 shows us the concern Jesus had for children. When people brought little ones to Him, the disciples wanted to protect Jesus, a busy man, from the bothersome children. But it seems that Jesus was not at all bothered by them. Just the opposite. The Bible says that Jesus was “greatly displeased” at the disciples, and said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them” (v.16). Mark adds that Jesus took them in His arms and blessed them (10:14~16).

Let’s examine our own attitude about children and then follow the example of David Holquist. Find some ways to help them come to Jesus.

*Meditate:*To those who are teaching the gospel, With love in their hearts for its truth, Comes the gentle reminder from heaven, “Forget not the children and youth.”

*Aphorism:*God has great concern for little children.

***May25(Friday),2012**{[John 5:1~9](#)}Key: Do you want to be made well? ([John 5:6](#))“**Becoming Whole**”Bible In One Year: [1 Chronicles 25~27; John 9:1~23](#)

John Steinbeck’s Pulitzer prizewinning novel *The Grapes of Wrath* begins with a scene in drought-ravaged Oklahoma during the Great Depression. With the crops dying and the land choked by dust, the women watched the men to see if they would break under the

strain. When they saw the men's will to carry on, they took heart. Steinbeck writes, "Women and children knew deep in themselves that no misfortune was too great to bear if their men were whole." The issue was not happiness, prosperity, or satisfaction, but wholeness. This is the great need of us all.

In the King James Version of the Bible, the word *whole* is often used to describe Jesus' work of physical healing. When the Lord encountered a man who had been an invalid for 38 years, He asked, "Wilt thou be made whole?" ([John 5:5~6](#) kjv). After Jesus healed the man, He challenged him to also embrace spiritual wholeness: "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you" (v.14).

If we only want something Jesus can do for us, our relationship with Him will be limited. When we want Jesus Himself, He brings completeness to our lives. Christ wants, first and foremost, to make us whole.

Meditate: I thank Thee for Thy precious Word Where Thou didst make me see My sinful self, my helpless soul, Made whole by trusting Thee.

Aphorism: Only Jesus can give wholeness to a broken life.

***May26(Saturday),2012**{[2 Kings 7:3~11](#)}Key: We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. ([2 Kings 7:9](#))**"Day Of Good News"**Bible In One Year: [1 Chronicles 28~29](#); [John 9:24~41](#)

A friend recalls:My Australian friend Graham wasn't born blind. He was blinded by a freak accident at age 9. Yet he never felt sorry for himself. Wherever he went, he shared what Jesus Christ meant to him. His last trip was to Thailand as a practicing physiotherapist. Besides using his professional skills there, he wanted to share the gospel of Christ.

The four lepers in 2 Kings 7 had some good news to share as well. They had stumbled into the Syrian camp and found it deserted. After helping themselves to the food and loot, they remembered the starving people of Samaria, shut in as a result of a Syrian siege. Their response was: "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent" (v.9). So they went and told their fellow Israelites about the provisions.

Despite their physical and social disadvantages, both Graham and the lepers thought about others. They were thankful for what they had found and considered it too good to keep to themselves.

Do you know someone who needs to know what Jesus has done? Don't make excuses for what you lack in abilities. Instead, share the good news of what the Lord has done for you, and your life will take on new purpose.

Meditate: Help us, Lord, to be a lifeline To a dying world today, Bringing hope to hopeless people, Telling them that Christ's the way.

Aphorism: When we are thankful for what we have, we want to share it with others.

***May27(Sunday),2012**{[James 2:1~9](#)}Key: If you show partiality, you commit sin. ([James 2:9](#))**"Garlic And Sapphires"**Bible In One Year: [2 Chronicles 1~3](#); [John 10:1~23](#)

In her fascinating book *Garlic and Sapphires: The Secret Life of a Critic in Disguise*, Ruth Reichl reflects on her 6 years as a *New York Times* restaurant critic. Because she was the most influential critic in the country, top restaurants posted her photograph so their employees could recognize her. Hoping to earn a high rating in the *New York Times*, the staff intended to provide her with their top service and best cuisine.

In response, Reichl developed a clever strategy. Hoping to be treated as a regular patron, she disguised herself. On one occasion, she dressed up as an old woman. The restaurant

made her wait a long time to be seated and then was unresponsive to her requests.

In the early church, James spoke out against favoritism: “[If] you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, ‘You sit here in a good place,’ and say to the poor man, ‘You stand there,’ or, ‘Sit here at my footstool,’ have you not shown partiality among yourselves?” (2:3~4).

When people attend our churches, are they treated impartially? Or do we show favoritism to the wealthy or elite? God calls us to show concern for and interest in all people, regardless of their social status. Let’s welcome all to join us in worshiping the King!

Meditate: Dear Lord, You welcomed us into Your kingdom, not because of who we are but because of who You are— our loving and merciful God. Help us to open our arms of fellowship to all who enter in. Amen.

Aphorism: God lets us into His fellowship. Who are we to keep others out?