

Bible study for this week 6/04/12~6/10/12

***June04(Monday),2012**{[Psalm 51:1~10](#)}Key: The Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. ([1 Samuel 16:7](#))“**Plausible Deniability**”Bible In One Year: [2 Chronicles 21~22](#); [John 14](#)

Answering media charges of scandal and impropriety, the guilty politician responded with the plea, “I have no recollection of those events.” It was yet another attempt of a public figure to apply a strategy called “plausible deniability.” This is when individuals try to create a personal safety net for themselves by seeking to convince others that they had no knowledge of the events in question. Someone else gets blamed and becomes the scapegoat for the guilty person’s wrongs.

Sometimes Christians have their own kind of plausible deniability. We claim ignorance of our wrong behavior, rationalize, or blame others—but God knows the truth. The Bible tells us: “Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” ([1 Sam. 16:7](#)). This is true whether the heart is pure or if it’s a corrupt heart robed in false claims of innocence. We may fool others who see us only on the outside, but God sees the reality of our hearts—whether good or bad.

It is wise, therefore, to humbly confess our faults to the Lord. He desires that we admit the truth ([Ps. 51:6](#)). The only way to escape the sin and restore our fellowship with God is to acknowledge and confess it to Him (vv.3~4).

*Meditate:*Dear Lord, be merciful to me; My sin has grieved Your heart; And strengthen my resolve, O Lord, From evil to depart.

*Aphorism:*We may successfully fool others, but God knows our hearts.

***June05(Tuesday),2012**{[2 Corinthians 5:16~21](#)}Key: All things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.([2 Corinthians 5:18](#))“**Undeterred Determination**”Bible In One Year: [2 Chronicles 23~24](#); [John 15](#)

A friend recalls: One of the great privileges of serving at Moody Bible Institute was hearing about graduates who had impacted the world for Christ. Their stories of sacrifice, perseverance, and passion for the gospel were inspiring.

In the late 19th century, Mary McLeod Bethune spent 2 years studying at Moody in Chicago, training to become a missionary in Africa. But after she graduated, no mission board would give her the opportunity, as an African-American woman, to serve on the mission field. Unable to fulfill her dream to go to Africa, she didn’t give up on her calling to serve Jesus. Undaunted, she started a small school for African-American girls in Florida that would eventually blossom into Bethune-Cookman College. She became a powerful force for change in the status of women.

Mary’s legacy was forged by her determination to serve Jesus even in the face of shattered dreams. She knew that God had entrusted to her “the ministry of reconciliation” ([2 Cor. 5:18](#))—and she wouldn’t give up.

That wasn’t just a mandate for Mary McLeod Bethune. Telling people they can be reconciled to God through Christ is a calling given to all of us. Look for a way to make a difference for Jesus today—right where you are!

Meditate: Wherever You have placed us, Lord, Give us the courage to proclaim To people who are lost in sin:“You can be new in Jesus’ name.”

*Aphorism:*One of the qualities God looks for in His people is a heart that is willing to

serve Him.

***June06(Wednesday),2012**{ [1 Peter 3:8~17](#)}Key: Do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.([1 Peter 3:14](#))“**A Hero Who Healed**”Bible In One Year: [2 Chronicles 25~27](#); [John 16](#)

Corporal Desmond Doss was the first conscientious objector to earn the Congressional Medal of Honor, the United States’ highest military award. A devout follower of Christ, Doss believed that it was not right for him to kill others, but he wanted to serve his country so he volunteered as a medic. During boot camp, his fellow soldiers ridiculed him for refusing to fire a rifle. They mocked him when he read his Bible and knelt beside his bunk at night to pray. But in combat, it was a different story.

During the World War II battle for Okinawa in May 1945, Doss repeatedly risked his life to rescue scores of wounded men. Through his unselfish actions, he earned the gratitude and respect of his former critics and of those whose lives he saved.

In the face of unjust criticism, Peter told his fellow Christians, “Even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. ‘And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled’ ” ([1 Peter 3:14](#)). He urged them to honor God in their hearts and be ready to give a respectful reply to anyone who asked about the hope within them (v.15).

May our response to a hurting world that’s often hostile to Christ be one that demonstrates God’s love.

Meditate: We’re told to love the enemies That in this life we face, For showing love that’s not deserved Reveals to them God’s grace.

*Aphorism:*To return good for good is human; to return good for evil is divine.

***June07(Thursday),2012**{ [1 Cor. 15:1~11](#)}Key: As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.([1 Peter 4:10](#))“**A Steward Of Grace**”Bible In One Year: [2 Chronicles 28~29](#); [John 17](#)

A friend recalls: Last week I had several opportunities to show grace. I wasn’t perfect, but I was pleased with the way I handled one situation in particular. Instead of getting angry, I said, “I understand how that could have happened. I’ve certainly made my share of mistakes,” and I left it at that.

According to my own grading scale, I deserved a high score. Not perfect, but close. Lurking in the back of my mind (I hate to admit) was the thought that maybe by being gracious I could expect to be treated that way at some future date.

The following Sunday morning our congregation was singing “Amazing Grace,” and suddenly the audacity of my attitude came through to me in the words, “Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.”

What in the world was I thinking?! The grace we show to others is not our own. The only reason we can “give” grace to anyone is because God has already given it to us. We can pass along only that which we have received from Him.

Good stewards look for opportunities to pass along to others what we have received from the Lord. May all of us be “good stewards of the manifold grace of God” ([1 Peter 4:10](#)).

Meditate: The fullness of God’s matchless love Shines forth from Calvary; What mercy, grace He showed to us When Jesus died upon that tree.

*Aphorism:*When you know God’s grace, you’ll want to show God’s grace.

***June08(Friday),2012**{ [Psalm 139:7~12](#)}Key: Let Your hand become my help. ([Psalm 119:173](#))“**Give Me A Hand**”Bible In One Year: [2 Chronicles 30~31](#); [John 18:1~18](#)

A friend recalls: Recently I was fishing with some friends and waded into a current that was too strong for my old legs. I should have known better; it's a well-known fact that you can wade into flows that you can't back out of.

I got that panicky feeling you get when you realize you're in deep trouble. One more step and I would have been swept away.

I did the only thing I could think of: I called out to a friend nearby who is younger and stronger than I. "Hey, Pete!" I shouted. "Give me a hand, will you?" My friend waded into the current, reached out his strong hand, and pulled me into quiet water.

A few days later as I read Psalm 119, I came across verse 173: "Let Your hand become my help." I thought of that day on the stream and other days when I have "waded" into difficult situations, overestimating my feeble abilities and putting myself or my loved ones in jeopardy. Perhaps you find yourself in that place today.

There is help nearby, a Friend much stronger than you and I—one whose hand can hold us ([Ps. 139:10](#)). The psalmist also says of Him, "You have a mighty arm; strong is Your hand" (89:13). You can call out to God: "Give me a hand!" and He will rush to your side.

Meditate: Fear not, I am with thee—O be not dismayed, For I am thy God, I will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, Upheld by My gracious, omnipotent hand.

Aphorism: When adversity strikes us, God is ready to strengthen us.

***June09(Saturday),2012{ [Psalm 103:1~10](#) }Key:** He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. ([Psalm 103:10](#)) "**It's Not Fair**" Bible In One Year: [2 Chronicles 32~33](#); [John 18:19~40](#)

"Not fair!" Whether you've said it or at least thought it, you've got to admit, it's hard to see someone get away with something and not get what they deserve. We learn this early in life. Just ask the parent of any teenager. Kids hate to see their siblings get off scot-free for the things they got spanked for. Which is why they so readily tattle on each other. But then, we never really grow out of this. To our way of thinking, fairness means sinners deserve God's wrath and we, the good people, deserve His applause.

But if God were into being "fair," we would all be consumed by His judgment! We can be thankful for this: "[God] has not dealt with us according to our sins" ([Ps. 103:10](#)). We should be glad, not grumpy, that God chooses mercy over fairness and that He is willing to extend grace even to those who are undeserving and hopelessly lost. And while we are thinking about it, when was the last time we let mercy trump fairness with someone who offended us?

It's not God's fairness but His mercy that drives Him to pursue us so that heaven can have a party when we are found ([Luke 15:7](#)). Personally, I'm thankful that God has not been "fair" with me! Aren't you?

Meditate: Favor to the undeserving; Love, when from God we have turned; Mercy, when His love we've spurned— That's God's grace!

Aphorism: We can show mercy to others because God has shown mercy to us.

***June10(Sunday),2012{ [1 Timothy 2:1~7](#) }Key:** [Pray] for kings and all who are in authority. ([1 Timothy 2:2](#)) "**Faithful Prayer**" Bible In One Year: [2 Chronicles 34~36](#); [John 19:1~22](#)

In June 2009, 95-year-old Emma Gray died. For over two decades, she had been the cleaning lady in a big house. Each night as she did her work, she prayed for blessings, wisdom, and safety for the man she worked for.

Although Emma worked in the same place for 24 years, the occupants of the residence changed every 4 years or so. Over the years, Emma offered her nightly prayers for six US Presidents: Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, and Carter.

Emma had her personal favorites, but she prayed for them all. She followed the instruction we read in 1 Timothy 2 to pray for “all who are in authority” (v.2). The verses go on to speak of how living “a quiet and peaceable life” and being a godly and reverent person “is good and acceptable in the sight of God . . . who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (vv.2~4).

Because God “hears the prayer of the righteous” ([Prov. 15:29](#)), who knows how He used Emma’s faithful prayers? In [Proverbs 21:1](#), we read: “The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.”

Like Emma, we are to pray for our leaders. Is there someone God is calling you to pray for today?

Meditate: No leader is beyond God’s grace
When righteous people pray;
For when God’s children intercede,
The Lord will have His way.

Aphorism: To influence leaders for God, intercede with God for leaders.