

Day 1
June 12



Pray | Ask God to see truthfully who/what you are trusting in.

SOME THINGS ARE SO COMMON that they become invisible in spite of being plainly visible every day.

“IN GOD WE TRUST” began appearing on coinage in 1864. In 1956 it became the national motto of the United States and made a debut on paper currency in 1957. It got some musical stylings in 1988 when Christian heavy metal band Stryper released their album In God We Trust. The point of their song, and this introduction, is that in spite of seeing something every day it is only in the actual believing in Jesus Christ by which we are saved. For many of us (including the Israelites as they leave the period of the judges for the period of kings) some buts or ands get added. We believe in God but want _____ and also need _____ to feel secure that God has it covered.



Read | Romans 10: 9-13 & James 2:14-26



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Considering we started with money: How much would you need in the bank, your 401K, IRA, or those secretly stashed coffee cans in your back yard to feel a sense of security, and where should your sense of security come from? (See Philippians 4:19)

Romans addressed believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth. James covered works (actions) which are what show others what our faith is really in. What eternal consequences do actions that are inconsistent with our words have upon believers and non-believers we interact with?

Though you believe in God there may be some areas of your life where you want extra assurance to really accept that he has it under control and is working all things for your good. What personal reasons may be contributing to this feeling?

<https://www.treasury.gov/about/education/Pages/in-god-we-trust.aspx>
<http://www.stryper.com/Music> both accessed 5.10.17.

Day 2

June 13



Pray | That in the good and the bad times you seek God first.

SOME THINGS TRANSCEND TIME. Sayings along the lines of: It's just as true today as when it was first spoken/written/discovered etc. for example.

Tourniquet's song White Knucklin' the Rosary is perfect commentary on Israel's treatment of God. "...and when this mess is over-I don't need Him anymore / I'll put my God back on temporary ignore / If you will do what I need you to do / I'll find some time to praise you when this whole thing is through / If you get me out of this, Oh great Almighty

I promise I'll never do it again-well maybe..." It was written to address a problem with how some people approach God today but is no different than how the Israelites did things. It seems people have always had a God problem, choosing to reject and ignore him, except when they really need him. Israel is going to thumb their nose at God seeking what only God can provide through an earthly king. How wonderful that God's plans are not thwarted by our stupidity.



Read | 1 Samuel 8: 1-9



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Choosing God at our convenience versus following him always is admitting that God alone is not enough for us. Whether you are a believer or not: When do you seek God most earnestly- when things are falling apart or going well for you and why?

What does the elders of Israel, or more importantly, our seeking of God's approval for something we have already decided to do say about the importance we are giving him in that circumstance?

Think about references to God in the United States, then consider also the most recent election cycle. We either are living like a nation under God or we are seeking our own kings like all the other nations. Who is the true king of your life?

<https://tourniquet.bandcamp.com/album/crawl-to-china> accessed 5.18.17

Day 3
June 14

Read | 1 Samuel 8:10-18



Pray | Thank God that your failures are forgiven through Jesus' blood.

WHY ARE WE CONTINUALLY SURPRISED BY FAILURE, when it was the expected outcome all along?

Type what is a pre-nuptial agreement into Google and the first thing you'll get is this handy definition: "an agreement made by a couple before they marry concerning the ownership of their respective assets should the marriage fail." Can a relationship be built on trust when there is an escape clause? What about this one: "Son or daughter your mother and I really hope you won't have pre-marital sex but if you do be sure to use protection." It seems every product has a notice that it has been shown to cause cancer in the state of California, seriously go look! At God's instruction Samuel delivers a very, very unflattering picture of the realities of having a king to the elders of Israel. Not surprisingly they say OK, great so where do we sign up?





Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

List all the good things Samuel tells the Israelites a king will do for them. If you have ever made a decision knowing the probable outcome would be detrimental to you: Looking back on it where was God in your decision making process?

The cost to the Israelite's for getting a king is very steep indeed. Are there any things you have made into a king over your life, even if they started out as a good thing, and what have they or are they costing you?

We may be surprised by our failures, but God never is. He knows every time we will get it wrong. If you serve a king that is not Jesus, do you need to pray and ask God to show you what freedom through Christ is?

Day 4
June 15



Pray | Ask God to help you live different so others see Jesus lifted up.

EVERYTHING LOOKS THE SAME. To the un-initiated, un-caring, un-educated, un-trained, or generally un-prepared it is the perfect excuse.

A trip to Guitar Center to look at guitars though a shared experience is totally different to the beneficiary of the new guitar than for the parent paying for said guitar. Guitars may all look the same and sound the same as their child plays them but in the hands of a talented salesperson they become very different. Parents, however, will most likely only notice the differences in prices and not that there are brands, colors, or even several types of pickups available. From the time God miraculously delivered his people out of Egypt and began giving the Promised Land to them everyone knew, and had heard they were different, that their God was different. With their request of Samuel (and God) for a king the Israelites want to be just like everyone else.



Read | 1 Samuel 8: 19-22



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

If you ever pushed a parent or authority figure until they gave in and let you do something, even after warning you about how it would turn out: Did whatever it was live up to expectations or were you disappointed in your choice and why?

Seeing people choose to serve earthly kings and other things that will only enslave and harm them makes our hearts break. God experiences this numerous times throughout each of our lives. In what ways can this change how you see his incredible love for you?

The Israelite's desired to look just like the other nations. When we look just like, act just like, or talk just like everyone else how can we fulfill God's mission of telling the world that only Jesus Christ is the only perfect King of Kings?

Day 5
June 16



Pray | That you live life aware of who you are in Christ.

WHEN THE WORLD BEATS YOU DOWN, remember the most important thing.

God who delivered Israel again and again and gave them homes, lands, and crops they did not labor for has been abandoned by the very recipients of his blessing. Now his people are living the consequences of choosing to not follow God. Beaten down again and again (yet still rescued by God) they seem to have decided a human king like everyone else has will get things corrected. Instead they will get generations of oppression from their own human kings who will take, and take. Remember the most important thing. We have a better king in the Lord Jesus Christ than any earthly king in Israel or elsewhere. This king is both God and man and will rule forever. He is a king who gives everything for his people. God loves you!



Read | Romans 8: 31-39



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Your life may be filled with an unending list of bad things happening one after another. How can these verses bring you real hope?

Daily, possibly hourly, or even minute by minute we are choosing what to put our trust, faith, and hope into. Do you need to move from a God and some other things too relationship to a God only relationship?

What are some tangible steps you can take, starting immediately; to live like nothing can separate you from the love of God?

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