

**经节：你既藐视我，娶了赫人乌利亚的妻为妻，所以刀剑必永不离开你的家。**

**（撒母耳记下十二章10节）**

神饶恕我们的罪，其必要的条件是什么？答案是悔改。但就算是悔改，也无法保证你能够挪去罪。这些罪的后果常提醒我们那可怕、毁灭的罪性。

大卫的色欲、淫乱、劫夺和谋杀的重罪，得到神的赦免。神完全赦免他，并且完全挪去他的罪（诗篇一零三：12）。然而，神并没有挪走他的痛苦，他还是得承受罪恶的后果。大卫淫乱所生的孩子得重病死了（撒母耳记下十二：14）；大卫的儿子暗嫩玷污自己的妹子他玛（撒母耳记下十三：14）；大卫的儿子押沙龙谋杀暗嫩（撒母耳记下十三：28-29）；押沙龙结民谋王位（撒母耳记下十五章）。在大卫的余生，他的王国与家庭充满了暴力，虽然大卫知道自己的罪已被赦免，但终其余生，还是得担负起自己所犯之罪的痛苦后果。

假设在你悔改的那一刻，神会除去你每个罪恶的后果，那你是太一厢情愿了。别以为每次你一为自己的罪行痛悔，神就会让所有的事情恢复原状。祂不见得如此行。有些罪是根源于个性上的弱点，如淫乱罪等。因着你的悔改，神会立即赦免你的罪，但要建立一个人的德行，得花上更多的时间。你的品格是神对你下一步作为的决定因素，与饶恕无关。

我们既然清楚不顺服的可怕下场，让我们竭力避免犯罪，并且「存心忍耐，奔那摆在我们前头的路程」（希伯来书十二：1下）。

### **God's Manner of Forgiveness**

***Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. 2 Samuel 12:10***

What is required for God to forgive sin? Repentance. But even repentance does not ensure the removal of the consequences of sin. The consequences often remain as a reminder of the terrible, destructive nature of sin.

David was forgiven for his grievous sins of lust, adultery, robbery, and murder. God forgave him absolutely and removed his sin from him completely (Ps. 103:12). God did not, however, remove the pain that David would endure as a result of his transgressions. The child born of David's adultery died (2 Sam. 12:14). David's son Amnon raped David's daughter Tamar (2 Sam. 13:14). David's son Absalom murdered Amnon (2 Sam. 13:28-29). Absalom brought the kingdom into rebellion (2 Sam. 15). For the rest of David's reign, violence filled his home and his kingdom. Although David knew he was forgiven, he bore the painful consequences of his sin for the rest of his life.

It is presumptuous to assume that God removes every consequence the moment you repent of your sin. Do not think that the instant you show remorse God will restore everything as it was. He may not. Some sins, such as adultery, come from a flawed character. God forgives sin immediately upon repentance, but it takes longer to build character. It is character, not forgiveness, that determines what God brings next to your life.

Because we know the devastating consequences of our disobedience, let us diligently avoid every sin and "run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1b).

**经节：圣灵对腓利说：「你去！贴近那车走。」（使徒行传八章29节）**

传道是神找到一些心向着祂的人，并且把他们放置在能够使祂的王国有不同的场所。历史上许多伟大的宣教士并没有长寿，但他们短暂的生命却戏剧化地影响永恒。

神曾经使用腓利。使徒行传记载了一段令人兴奋的故事，就是神如何使用腓利的生命，传福音到地极。腓利曾经大有权能地在撒马利亚城传福音（使徒行传八：5）。神使用腓利行了许多神迹和大异能，整个撒马利亚城的人惊奇神的作为（使徒行传八：6—8）。这是每位布道家所渴望最大的成就，也就是能够看到合城的人欢喜领受他的讲道。然而，腓利并不是以活动为中心，而是以神为中心的基督徒，他并没有一心一意扩展自己的名声，成为伟大的布道家或行神迹者。他在乎自己的生活是否仍以神的作为为中心。当他被指示离开自己大有果效的事工，一点也不犹豫（使徒行传八：27）。

神不断找寻一些像腓利一样，肯与自己同工传福音的人。神没有在各地掀起复兴浪潮，不是因为祂不能，也不是因为祂不愿意，而是祂要先寻找愿意彻底调整自己生活的人，那些人愿意由自我中心的活动，改变成以神在世界的活动为中心的生活。你是否看见神在你周围的作为？神正邀请你参与什么事工呢？你如何回应祂的邀请？

### **On Mission with God**

***Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." Acts 8:29***

Missions is God finding those whose hearts are right with Him and placing them where they can make a difference for His kingdom. Some of the great missionaries in history did not live long lives, but their lives dramatically affected eternity.

God had access to Philip, and the Book of Acts gives the exciting account of how God used Philip's life to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. Philip was preaching powerfully in the city of Samaria (Acts 8:5). So mightily did God use him that the entire city was rejoicing at the miracles God was doing (Acts 8:6-8). This would be any evangelist's fondest desire, to see an entire city responding to the gospel through his preaching. Yet Philip was not activity-centered in his Christian life. He was God-centered. Philip was not preoccupied with expanding his reputation as a great preacher or miracle worker, he was concerned that his life remain in the center of God's activity. When he was instructed to leave his fruitful ministry, he did not hesitate (Acts 8:27).

God continues to seek those as responsive as Philip to go on mission with Him. The reason God has not brought great revival to more places is not that He is unable or that He is unwilling. He first looks for those willing to have their lives radically adjusted away from their self-centered activities and placed into the center of God's activity around the world. Have you seen the activity of God around you? What is God presently inviting you to do? How are you responding?

**经节：耶和華一萬軍之神啊，我得着你的言語就当食物吃了；你的言語是我心中的欢喜快乐，因我是称为你名下的人。（耶利米书十五章16节）**

倘若你收到国家领袖或名人的字条，你也许会存起来，当作纪念品。从神而来的信息，则更是珍贵！

有时候，我们发现自己没法控制环境。当马利亚与马大面对自己兄弟拉撒路的死亡时，就是这种心境。在这些时候，耶稣的一句话会带来许多喜乐（约翰福音十一：41~45）。其他的时候，耶稣的话则会更正我们。「撒但，退我后边去吧！」（马太福音十六：23）和「你这小信的人哪！」（马太福音十四：31）这两句话似乎不能带来喜乐。然而，耶利米说神的话语是他心中的欢喜快乐。

那圣洁的全能神居然开口对我们说话，实在令人难以置信！我们是何等地荣幸，神居然关心我们，愿意质询我们败坏的思想与行为。无论祂是赞美或责备，我们仍旧要喜乐。因为由我们的主那儿领受到改变生命的话语！

每回敬拜神，我们心里一定要预备聆听，全能神可能有话要对我们说。每当打开圣经，我们应当期待神在我们与祂相交时，有话对我们说。在祷告时，我们应该比自己想说什么话，更关心神要对我们说些什么话。当你从神那儿领受到一句话，不管是赞美或责备，要以全能神向你说话为乐。

### **Rejoicing in God's Word**

***Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart. Jeremiah 15:16***

If you were to receive a note from the leader of your country or someone famous, you would probably save it as a keepsake. How much more precious is a message from almighty God!

Sometimes we find ourselves in circumstances that are beyond our control. This was the case for Mary and Martha as they were grieving the death of their brother Lazarus. At these times a word from Jesus can bring much rejoicing (John 11:41-45). Other times when Jesus speaks, His words bring correction. "Get behind Me, Satan!" (Matt. 16:23) and "O you of little faith" (Matt. 14:31) do not seem to bring joy. Yet Jeremiah said that God's word brought him joy.

It is overwhelming to consider that holy, almighty God would speak directly to us! What a privilege that He would care enough to challenge our destructive thoughts or practices. No matter whether His words are praising us or chastising us, we ought to consider it joy to receive life-changing words from our Master!

Every time we prepare to worship the Lord, we ought to do so with anticipation that almighty God may have something to say to us. Whenever we open our Bibles, we should expect that God has something to tell us in our time with Him. We ought to be far more concerned with what God will say to us during our prayer times than with what we intend to tell Him. When you receive a word from your Lord, whether it be of praise or of correction, consider it joy that almighty God would speak to you.

5月27日（星期五）－ 标题：**神的法则**

**经节：祂使摩西知道祂的法则，叫以色列人晓得祂的作为。（诗篇一〇三篇7节）**

你是否仅仅知道神的作为就心满意足，或是你想要知道祂的法则？作为与法则，两者之间有很大的分别。在以色列儿女的生命与摩西的生命中，这个区别表明得十分清楚。以色列人亲眼看见神行的奇迹，他们与摩西一同走过红海干地，与摩西一同吃由天而降的吗哪与鹌鹑。他们满足于神的供应，却不认识神自己。摩西的视野则超越神的供应，他看到这位神。其它人像埃及术士也会行超自然的奇迹，但是没有一个人的作为能像神的法则（出埃及记七：11-12）。神作为的法则为我们开启了一扇窗户，认识神的本性。如果摩西以神的权能为满足，他大可接受让天使带领的安排，反正他可以得到个人的胜利（出埃及记三十三：15）。然而，摩西要更深刻地经历神自己，不仅是神的作为。

今日有些人也像以色列人一样。他们满足于经历神的作为，却不认识神自己。他们是祷告响应的接收者，却从来没有想要认识那位供应者。神护佑他们的家庭、财产、工作，他们很满足，却不想认识那赐福的源头。他们享受神保护的恩泽，却没有逐渐认识他们的守护者。

你是否亲身经历神，更认识祂？当你观看神的作为时，你是否更进一步看到祂个性的启示？（创世记廿二：14；约翰福音六：35）

### **God's Ways**

*He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. Psalms 103:7*

Are you satisfied with merely knowing the *acts* of God, or do you also want to know His *ways*? There is a difference. This difference is illustrated in the lives of the children of Israel as compared to Moses. The Israelites witnessed the miracles God performed; they walked across the dry Red Sea just as Moses did. They ate the manna and quail from heaven even as Moses did. They were content to receive God's provision without ever knowing God Himself. Yet Moses saw beyond the *provision* of God to the *person* of God. Others, such as the Egyptian magicians, might perform miraculous acts, but no one else did things the *way* God did (Exod. 7:11-12). The way God acted provided a window into His nature. If Moses had been content with only God's power, he could have accepted the presence of an angel and been victorious in his efforts (Exod. 33:15). But Moses wanted to experience more. He wanted to experience God Himself, not just God's activity.

Some today, like the Israelites, are content to experience God's activity without ever coming to know God. They are the recipients of answered prayer, yet they never come to know the Provider. They are blessed by God's providential care over their families, their homes, and their jobs, yet they are satisfied not knowing the One from whom the blessings come. They benefit from God's protection, yet they never become acquainted with the Protector.

Have you come to know God more personally as a result of your experiences with Him? As you observe the acts of God, look beyond them to the revelation of His character (Gen. 22:14; John 6:35).

5月24日（星期二）－ 标题：**忠诚的纪念**

**经节：我实在告诉你们，普天之下，无论在什么地方传这福音，也要述说这女人所做的，以为纪念。（马可福音十四章9节）**

我们可能假设自己向神热爱的表达，对神来说是微不足道的。但在神的眼中，你的奉献可能比你所想象的，更有价值得多了。我们对基督的爱与奉献，可能成为将来历世历代对神的纪念。

这个女人发自内心深处向耶稣表达自己的爱。她如此做，不是要博得门徒或公众的好印象，也不是要得到耶稣的赞许。她只是单纯地想要向耶稣表达自己的爱。她没有做什么引人注目的壮观大事，她既没有行神迹，也没有讲深奥的道理。然而，耶稣为她无私的忠诚深深感动，祂认为这件事值得后世纪念。

我们不了解做什么事最能讨神喜悦，也不晓得神会向后世子孙特别称许我们哪一个爱的行动。亚伯拉罕并不知道那天自己甘愿献上爱子，会被后世纪念，且为听见此顺服事迹的世代，带来祝福。大卫也不晓得自己与神同行，能如此讨神欢喜，并成为仿照其榜样的后世之祝福。

神能够将你的忠诚，变成一项属灵的遗产，使它成为后人的祝福。除非到永恒的那一刻，你永远不了解谁会由你公义生命的榜样，而得到祝福。这就是每日向神表达热爱及奉献，为什么如此重要的原因了。

### **Memorials of Faithfulness**

*"Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her." Mark 14:9*

We may assume that our expressions of devotion to God are small and insignificant, but in God's eyes they may hold much meaning. Our love and dedication to Christ may even create memorials to God for future generations.

This woman performed a profound act of love for Jesus. She did not do it to impress His disciples or to gain public attention or to gain praise from Jesus. She simply sought to express her love for Jesus. She did nothing spectacular; she performed no miracles; she preached no sermons. Yet Jesus was so moved by her selfless loyalty that He deemed it worthy of remembrance throughout the remainder of history.

We do not know all that God finds most pleasing, nor do we know what acts of our love He may choose to honor through our children and future generations. Abraham could not have known that the day he demonstrated his willingness to sacrifice his only son would be memorialized and would bless many generations who heard of his obedience. David could not have known that his walk with God would please Him so much that David's example would bless generations who followed him.

God can take your faithfulness and begin a spiritual legacy, making it a blessing to others for generations to come. You will never know until eternity all who received a blessing because of your righteous life. That is why it is so important that you daily express your love and devotion to Jesus.

5月25日（星期三）－ 标题：**伤痛的祷告**

**经文：耶稣极其伤痛，祷告更加恳切，汗珠如大血点滴在地上。**

**（路加福音廿二章44节）**

该如何祷告并不难了解，问题是很难动手去做。上回你整个人的身心灵陷入极大痛苦地为人代求，是什么时候的事了（希伯来书五：7）？

我们是一个竭尽全力避免痛苦的世代，这就是现今极其缺乏代祷者的原因。大部分基督徒停留在肤浅的祷告阶段，然而，神要带领我们进入更深刻的代祷生活，这种经验只有少数人体验过。深入且长时间的代求是痛苦的。当其它人已经走开或睡着了，你仍然侍立在神的面前（路加福音廿二：45）。为了一些不断悖逆神的人，你会经历到与神隔绝的痛苦。我们之间有哪些人曾经历过这种热切的代求呢？

我们渴慕自己的生命及教会能拥有五旬节的经历，但没有客西马尼园和十字架，就没有五旬节。我们如何拥有成熟的祷告生活？借着祷告。当我们觉得不想祷告的时候，就是我们应该祈祷的时候。祷告没有快捷方式。读有关祷告的书籍、参加祷告研讨会，或背诵一些鼓舞人心的格言，都不能使我们变成代祷者。只有愿意摆上自己的时间和精力祷告，才能使我们成为代祷者。

何不接受神的带领，成为代祷者呢？不要让自己满足于肤浅及自我中心的祷告。安静在神的面前祷告，直到进入祂要领你去的祷告深度。

### **The Agony of Prayer**

***And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. Luke 22:44***

Prayer is not difficult to understand. It is difficult to do. When was the last time your heart so grieved for those you were interceding for that your entire body agonized along with your mind and heart? (Heb. 5:7).

We are a generation that avoids pain at all costs. This is why there are so few intercessors. Most Christians operate on the shallowest levels of prayer, but God wants to take us into the deep levels of intercessory prayer that only a few ever experience. Deep, prolonged intercession is painful. It involves staying before God when everyone else has gone away or sleeps (Luke 22:45). It involves experiencing brokenness with the Father over those who continually rebel against Him. How many of us will experience this kind of fervent intercession?

We long for Pentecost in our lives and in our churches, but there is no Pentecost without Gethsemane and a cross. How do we become mature in our prayer life? By praying. When we do not feel like praying is precisely the time we *ought* to pray. There are no shortcuts to prayer. There are no books to read, seminars to attend, or inspirational mottoes to memorize that will transform us into intercessors. This comes only by committing ourselves to pray and then doing so.

Why not accept God's invitation to become an intercessor? Don't allow yourself to become satisfied with shallow, self-centered praying. Stay with God in prayer until He leads you to pray at the level He wants.

5月26日（星期四）－ 标题：**最小的一个**

**经文：我实在告诉你们：凡妇人所生的，没有一个兴起来大过施洗约翰的；然而天国里最小的比他还大。（马太福音十一章11节）**

施洗约翰的角色是在耶稣的事工兴盛时，使自己的名声衰微（约翰福音三：30）。约翰让自己的门徒离开自己，去跟随耶稣。在他被非法关入监狱，并且被残暴的君王突发异想地死之前，他的事工总共不过是六个月。然而，耶稣说在约翰之前，天国中没有人高过约翰的。摩西曾经分开红海；以利亚曾使死人复活及吩咐火从天降；以赛亚写了圣经中令人崇敬的一卷书，而约翰短短六个月的事奉，居然能与天国中最伟大的人物相匹配！

更令人难以置信的是，耶稣说我们有机会成为天国中比施洗约翰更伟大的人物。施洗约翰宣告耶稣的来临，而我们现在的基督徒，拥有基督内住在我们心中，我们一定要铭记在心，事奉神是人一生中能够得到的最大特权。即使是最卑贱的方式来服事主，也远比我们所得到的要荣耀得多。约翰只有半年不到的时光来完成他的任务，他竭尽全力的事奉。而我们有机会让耶稣借着我们的生命来执行耶稣的工作。我们若如此行，比施洗约翰所完成的工作还要伟大，我们的任务与施洗约翰一样就是高举耶稣，否定自己。我们要以施洗约翰相同的热情来事奉的神。

### **Whoever Is Least**

***"Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." Matthew 11:11***

John the Baptist's role was to decrease in prominence while Jesus' ministry increased (John 3:30). John allowed his disciples to leave him in order to follow Jesus. His ministry lasted only about six months before he was wrongfully imprisoned and executed on the whim of a cruel monarch. Yet Jesus said that no one who had come before John was any greater in the kingdom of heaven. Moses had parted the Red Sea; Elijah had raised the dead and brought down fire from heaven; Isaiah had written a revered book of Scripture; yet in the brief time of service granted to John, he had matched them all for greatness in the kingdom of heaven!

Incredibly, Jesus said that we have the opportunity to be even greater in the kingdom of heaven than John the Baptist. He announced the coming of Christ, but we, as Christians, have Christ living within us. We must remember that service to God is the greatest privilege we can receive in life. To serve God in even the most menial way is an honor far greater than we deserve. John was given less than a year to complete his assignment, and he did so with all that he had. We have the opportunity to allow Jesus to carry out His work through our lives, so that greater things are done through us than were ever accomplished through John the Baptist. Our mandate is the same as John's: to lift up Jesus while denying ourselves. Oh, that we would do so with the same fervor as John the Baptist!