

Welcome to Rev Darren King's Bible Study – 25 August 2024

PENTECOST 14

BACKSLIDING

Opening Prayer (please pray together)

Holy Spirit, grant us all the fruits of our loving God: brotherly love, joy, peace, patience, goodwill and faithfulness. May the Holy Spirit speak by the voice of your servants, here and everywhere, as they preach thy word, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.

Welcome 🙏

Q 1 What do you understand by the term backsliding?

It was a word that was used often You hardly hear the word today. Please discuss

Read Psalm 84 together

¹ How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty!

² My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

⁴ Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

⁶ As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

⁷ They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

⁸ Hear my prayer, LORD God Almighty; listen to me, God of Jacob.

⁹ Look on our shield, O God; look with favour on your anointed one.

¹⁰ Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favour and honour; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

¹² LORD Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.

Worship 🎵

Sing a few of your favourite hymns together

Word: John 6.56-69

⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.”

⁵⁹ He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

Many Disciples Desert Jesus

⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

⁶¹ Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! ⁶³ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. ⁶⁴ Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. ⁶⁵ He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”

⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

⁶⁷ “**You do not want to leave too, do you?**” Jesus asked the Twelve.

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.**”

COMMENTARY **What intrigues people who don't have any concept about Christianity is its absurdness. It was either the biggest joke or it had to be true. I think that the absurdness of Christianity, (which we may often take for granted) is part of what makes the WORD hard. Jesus is bread! Jesus is bread that came down from heaven! We are to chew on his flesh to have life! Upon hearing such statements for the first time, we might have exclaimed, "Good God, what kind of lunatic is this man!**

Q 2 Many people follow Jesus because of what they think they can get out of it, yet often their commitment is luke-warm. How can we have a more genuine faith?

Q 3 People love excuses. We have thousands as to why we can't make church on a Sunday. How important do you think it is to nourish your faith. How do we keep the flame burning bright in our lives?

Q 4 There are many temptations daily that can take us away from a relationship with Christ. How do we remain strong when we find ourselves backsliding – please discuss

Works

Pray for our world and for each other. Pray that God will be a vital part in our lives again.

Ending Prayer (please pray together)

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.

Shalom Rev Darren King (Roots on the web, The Message)

Definition -

Backsliding: relapsing, reverting, regressing, going back to your old ways)