

May 6 | Sunday

Ownership of Outcomes: "My bad!"

Read [Luke 19:11-27](#)



07 | Mon – Something to consider | Read [Joshua 7:4-12, 19-23](#)

After 400 years of slavery in Egypt, the Hebrew people were learning how to live a new life as they obeyed God's instructions. Following the miraculous victory at Jericho, one man decided it wouldn't hurt to take some souvenirs for himself. See the tragic effect it had. Have you ever justified a questionable choice because 'what people don't know won't hurt them'? If you have to hide what you have done, as this man did, maybe you need to rethink your actions?

08 | Tue – Who me? | Read [Judges 6:1-11 and 7:19-22](#)

After Joshua's death, Israel turned away from God resulting in oppression by their enemies. As they admitted their sin and cried out for help, God raised up a deliverer. Then complacency set in and they would turn back to sin. This cycle was repeated multiple times. In Judges 6, the deliverer God chose was a timid man so lacking in self-confidence that he believed God made a mistake. It might be easy to identify a problem but harder to believe you could make a difference. Is that because, like Gideon, you don't see yourself the way God does?

09 | Wed – True greatness defined | Read [2 Samuel 12:1-14 and Psalm 51:1-12](#)

Without accountability, those in positions of power can slip into a sense of entitlement and take selfish actions that hurt innocent people. It happens, even to those who love God. In this story, the king was confronted by a brave man. What was the king's reaction? Have you ever been called out for wrong behavior that was hurting others? What was your reaction? It takes true humility to admit wrongdoing with a repentant heart. And it blesses your God!

10 | Thu – Second chances | Read [Jonah 1:1-17](#)

Jonah had very good reasons, at least in his mind, for his deliberate decision to go the opposite direction when God gave his next assignment. He found out you can't get away from God. A storm threatened to sink the ship, Jonah admitted his failure to the crew, and they threw him overboard. From the belly of the fish, Jonah cried out to God and was given a second chance. After a colossal failure, all God needs is an honest confession from a truly repentant heart and then He will do the impossible to restore you. Have you experienced this kind of grace?

11 | Fri – Retreat or advance? | Read [Esther 4:1-17](#)

Haman was second in authority only to the king. Mordecai, a Jew, offended him. His wounded ego could not be satisfied by destroying the person who offended him - no, every single Jew in the country must die. When Esther realized the outcome facing her people, she could have stayed silent, hiding in the relative safety of the palace. But she didn't. Has God ever asked you to do something you did not want to do? What was your response? And the outcome?

12 | Sat – A worthy future takes teamwork | Read [Nehemiah 4:6-23 and 6:15-16](#)

Jerusalem had been destroyed but after 70 years, as God promised, the people were allowed to return and rebuild. Years passed with very little progress. Nehemiah, a cupbearer to the king, was deeply grieved by the plight of his countrymen and was granted the resources to return home and help. In spite of adversity, the wall was rebuilt in 52 days as each family took responsibility for the section in front of their house. What motivates you to do God's work? Can you see what the future could become if you take responsibility and work with others?