

Devotional Diary 20 - 26 January 2014

Readings for Sunday 26 January 2014, Third Sunday after the Epiphany Ordinary Time
with thanks to <http://www.gbod.org/>

Isaiah 9:1-4 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." A word of hope for a land where Israel (Samaria) and Syria had fought most of their major battles in the past and were about to fight (or had already begun fighting) Judah without regard for the good of the people who called that land home.

Psalms 27:1, 4-9 This Psalm works as a response to the first reading if we join it as a prayer of those who live in a "land of deep darkness."

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Paul says, "I appeal to you ... that there be no divisions among you ... be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ... Has Christ been divided?"

Matthew 4:12-23 Jesus begins to announce the kingdom of God by the Sea of Galilee, healing, teaching, and calling fishermen to be his disciples.

Monday:

Adoration Focus: "O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works Thy hand hath made... Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art..."

Confession: This week our confessional focus is our thought life. Our prayer is that our thoughts may reflect the Spirit of God and that we may always be conscious of God's immediate presence with us. Today, focus on your double mindedness. What draws you away from your focus on God? Pray that God's Spirit may cleanse your thoughts.

The Word: See readings above or use your own devotional aids.

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week pray for the schools of our land. Today focus on children as God's children and pray that they may be seen as such by all.

Personal prayers: (Use this section to list people you need to pray for or situations of personal concern that you need to bring before God in prayer)

Dedication: God in all: In your walking – God; In your talking – God; In your life – God; In your strife – God; In your seeing – God; In your being – God; In your days – God; In your ways – God; In your night – God; In your plight – God; In your reason – God; In every season – God; With God I'm bound all around. (David Adam)

Tuesday:

Adoration Focus: "I see the stars I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed... Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art..."

Confession: See Monday's Confession. Today focus on restless thoughts that need to find their peace in God. Pray that God may fill you with His peaceful thoughts.

The Word: See readings above or use your own devotional aids.

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week pray for the schools of our land. Today focus on all those called to care for and teach children. Pray that they may be filled with God's love and encouragement.

Personal Prayers:

Dedication: God in all: In your walking – God; In your talking – God; In your life – God; In your strife – God; In your seeing – God; In your being – God; In your days – God; In your ways – God; In your night – God; In your plight – God; In your reason – God; In every season – God; With God I'm bound all around. (David Adam)

Wednesday:

Adoration Focus: "When through the woods and forest glades I wonder, And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees... Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art..."

Confession: See Monday's confession. Today focus on revengeful thoughts. Pray that God may break the bonds that tie you to these thoughts and release the object of these thoughts into God's hands. Now pray that God fills you with a deep sense of forgiveness and freedom.

The Word: See readings above or use your own devotional aids.

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week pray for the schools of our land. Today pray for schools that lack organisation and resources. Pray that the children may not lose hope.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: God in all: In your walking – God; In your talking – God; In your life – God; In your strife – God; In your seeing – God; In your being – God; In your days – God; In your ways – God; In your night – God; In your plight – God; In your reason – God; In every season – God; With God I'm bound all around. (David Adam)

Thursday:

Adoration Focus: When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art..."

Confession: See Monday's confession. Today focus on impure thoughts that crush God's joy in your life. Pray that your focus may be on the purity of God and that in Him you may find your joy.

The Word: See readings above or use your own devotional aids.

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week pray for the schools of our land. Today pray for children that are struggling emotionally, mentally, spiritually or physically. May they know the sustaining presence of God.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: God in all: In your walking – God; In your talking – God; In your life – God; In your strife – God; In your seeing – God; In your being – God; In your days – God; In your ways – God; In your night – God; In your plight – God; In your reason – God; In every season – God; With God I'm bound all around. (David Adam)

Friday:

Adoration Focus: "And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in. Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art..."

Confession: See Monday's confession. Today focus on thoughts that distract you from the task immediately at hand. Pray that God may give you the gift of focus, to seek first the Kingdom of God.

The Word: See readings above or use your own devotional aids.

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week pray for the schools of our land. Today pray for children who are abused at school or at home. Pray that the root issues may be dealt with and that healing may come.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: God in all: In your walking – God; In your talking – God; In your life – God; In your strife – God; In your seeing – God; In your being – God; In your days – God; In your ways – God; In your night – God; In your plight – God; In your reason – God; In every season – God; With God I'm bound all around. (David Adam)

Saturday:

Adoration Focus: "That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin. Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art..."

Confession: See Monday's confession. Today focus on selfish thoughts. Pray that God may enable you to be free to see life through the eyes of your fellow human beings and to care deeply for them without being crushed by their sorrows.

The Word: *See readings above or use your own devotional aids.*

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week pray for the schools of our land. Today pray for children that are caught up in substance abuse (drugs, alcohol, etc.) Pray that they may receive the help and care needed.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: God in all: In your walking – God; In your talking – God; In your life – God; In your strife – God; In your seeing – God; In your being – God; In your days – God; In your ways – God; In your night – God; In your plight – God; In your reason – God; In every season – God; With God I'm bound all around. (David Adam)

Sunday:

Adoration Focus: "Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art..."

Confession: See Monday's confession. Today focus on thoughts that prevent you from praising God. Thoughts that see your praise as insignificant; self-conscious thoughts; thoughts of doubt and thoughts that question. Pray that God may give you release and fill your mind with thoughts of praise.

The Word: *See readings above or use your own devotional aids.*

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: Today pray that everyone at our schools may know that God is always close to them and that they may find life and strength in Him.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: God in all: In your walking – God; In your talking – God; In your life – God; In your strife – God; In your seeing – God; In your being – God; In your days – God; In your ways – God; In your night – God; In your plight – God; In your reason – God; In every season – God; With God I'm bound all around. (David Adam)