**Notes on Lectionary Readings - May 31 to June 6, 2021.**

**Deliverance among Relations and Nations**

[Extract from Disciplines 2021: Upper Room]

SCRIPTURE OVERVIEW: We sometimes struggle to believe in the power of a God we cannot see.
 **Read 1 Samuel 8:4-20**.
**Situation** - In the time of Samuel, the Israelites demanded a human king to lead them into battle. God was not enough for them.
**Questions** - How are you influenced by the culture around you? What helps you try to align your priorities with God's?
**Prayer** - Oh Lord remind us that we can lead in our own lives. Remind us of the model of leadership that respects everyone. Amen.

**Read Psalm 138.**
**Theme** - The psalmist declares that God is greater than any earthly king and will preserve us in the face of our enemies.
**Questions** - When you "walk in the midst of trouble," how do you remember God's presence with you?
**Prayer** - Gracious God thank you for the times you have delivered me. I will praise you in the presence of gods and kings and enemies. Amen.

**Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1**.
**Situation** -   Paul admonishes the Corinthians not to repeat this mistake. We should not think that what we see is the ultimate reality. What we see is temporary; what cannot be seen is eternal.
**Questions** - How do you find yourself being renewed today in spite of parts of your "outer nature" that may be "wasting away"?
**Prayer** - God help us in our "light and momentary afflictions”. Give us the gifts of reconciliation and hope in our circumstances. Amen.

**Read Mark 3:20-35**.
**Situation** - Jesus is not against family, but he is emphasizing that human families are temporary; spiritual family is eternal.
**Questions** - Who is your spiritual family? Whom do you identify as your brothers, sisters, mother, and father?
**Prayer** - God thank you for providing both family and food as I try each day to do Your will. Amen.

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