

# Notes on Lectionary Readings - SEPTEMBER 27- OCTOBER 3, 2021.

## **God Is Present Even in Suffering**

[Extract from Disciplines 2021: Upper Room]

### **Read Job 1:1; 2:1-10.**

**Situation** - Job's story brings us face-to-face with the fact that living a godly life does not make us immune to suffering.

**Question** - What helps you to live with integrity?

**Prayer** - Dear Lord watch over me when I am at my wit's end. Strengthen me against bitterness. Forgive my gloomy outlook and open my eyes so I can see my situation differently. Thank you for being with me even when I don't want to be with you. Amen.

### **Read Psalm 26.**

**Theme** - Like Job the psalmist wonders why he suffers even though he lives according to God's standards.

**Question** - Do you feel free in your prayer life to honestly share with God all that you are feeling?

**Prayer** - Lord help me to approach You sincerely and honestly, holding nothing back. You know the yearnings of my inmost heart, so I give them all to you. Amen.

### **Read Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12.**

**Situation** - Jesus as the ultimate example of unwarranted suffering, yet because of his perseverance he is ultimately glorified.

**Question** - In what ways does God speak to us in our day?

**Prayer** - Jesus pioneer of my salvation, keep me faithful on this journey. Help me to trust in the work you have already done. Amen.

### **Read Mark 10:2-16.**

**Situation** - Some Pharisees test Jesus on the interpretation of the law concerning divorce. Jesus makes strong statements about marriage, but His larger concern is that their hearts have become hard. He contrasts them with little children, who model faith by receiving God with an open heart.

**Question** - What qualities found in children, do you try to cultivate in your spiritual life?

**Prayer** - Lord God I thank you for the way you hold me and indeed the whole world in Your hands. Lord Jesus I thank You for welcoming me with open arms. Lord Holy Spirit, I thank You for praying for me and with me. Amen.

**Note:** If anyone is interested, it is now time to order **Upper Room "Disciplines" for 2022: Regular Edition**. Please contact Andre Boshoff (cell) 074 930 2403 if you want to be part of a discounted bulk order or Africa Upper Room Ministries [fherron@aurm.co.za](mailto:fherron@aurm.co.za) and cell No. 072 200 2741 to place your individual order.