

# Notes on lectionary readings - 25<sup>th</sup> January to 31st January 2021.

## Foundations for the Faith Community

### Read Deuteronomy 18 verses 15 to 20.

**Situation** - The Lord pledges to raise up a Prophet.

**Questions** - in Acts 7 verse 37, Steven used this OT passage to support his claim that Jesus Christ is God's son, the Messiah. Could it be that Jesus Christ coming to earth was more than just an afterthought? Could it be that his coming was all part of God's original plan?

**Prayer** - Dear Lord, in these misleading times, may we affirm your son Jesus, as part of your original plan for all. Amen.

### Read Psalm 111.

**Theme** - All that God does is good. Reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom.

**Questions** - How do we become wise - is it through experience and academic knowledge alone? What part does God play to complete our earthly wisdom and take us beyond?

**Prayer** - Dear Lord as we seek You, may we discover You afresh as our sure Foundation in making wise decisions and good choices. Amen.

### Read 1 Corinthians 8 verses 1 to 13.

**Situation** - Instructions on Christian freedom. Food sacrificed to idols. Christian freedom does not mean that anything goes. Our salvation is not determined by good deeds / rules but by the free gift of God. Christian freedom then is inseparably tied to Christian responsibility.

**Questions** - When it comes to sensitivity towards other professing Christians, are we prepared to regard our personal Christian freedom as less important, especially when it comes to strengthening the faith of a brother or sister in Christ?

**Prayer** - Lord help us to teach correctly from Your word. Help us to understand what is wrong and right in Your eyes. Show us how we can have varied opinions on issues and still be unified. Amen.

### Read Mark 1 verses 21 to 28.

**Situation** - Jesus teaches with great authority.

**Questions** - In our daily living, what authority do we accord Jesus of Nazareth?

**Prayer** - At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow. Every tongue confess him king of glory now. It is the Father's pleasure that we should call him Lord. Who from the beginning was the mighty Word. Thank you Lord that even the spiritual underworld recognises you as the Messiah. Amen.