

# Notes on Lectionary Readings - MARCH 15-21, 2021.

## Brokenness and Belonging

**SCRIPTURE OVERVIEW:** We can maintain outward appearances for only so long. At some point, what is in our hearts will come to the surface - God understands this.

**Read Jeremiah 31:31-34.** This is the reason for the promise in Jeremiah. .

**Situation** - God promises a day when God's law will no longer be an external standard that we are trying to follow but will be written on our hearts.

**Questions** - What are the covenant relationships in your life? How do you fulfil your part of the covenant with God?

**Prayer** - Dear Lord thank you for Your steadfast presence. Thank you for offering us freedom again and again. Help us to live in to that freedom and to dwell in Your love. Amen.

**Read Psalm 51:1-12.**

**Theme** - In the aftermath of his sin with Bathsheba, David cries out in Psalm 51 for God's forgiveness and a new heart.

**Questions** - What are the things that clutter your heart, limiting your availability to fully love?

**Prayer** - Precious God, please renew us today. Our spirits are willing and we long for newness. De-clutter our souls so that we may bask in Your presence - with a joy and gladness of all that is holy. Amen.

**Read Hebrews 5:5-10.**

**Situation** - Jesus the great high priest.

**Questions** - When have you offered your prayers "with loud cries and tears" as Jesus did? How does knowing Jesus' vulnerability impact your life of faith?

**Prayer** - O Lord you hear our cries and see our beauty. You love us as your beloved children. Help us to grasp our belonging to you and to embrace the power that comes with weakness. Be with us in our suffering and growing maturity. Amen.

**Read John 12:20-33.**

**Situation** - Jesus explains why He must die.

**Questions** - How does this example of the grain of wheat help you to understand Jesus' crucifixion and death?

**Prayer** - God of new life, help me to dwell among the fallen wheat. Give me the courage to die daily, trusting in your everlasting life. Draw me towards the margins where I can commune with Your Son. Amen.