

# Notes on Lectionary Readings - JULY 19-25, 2021

## Just As I Am

### [Extract from Disciplines 2021: Upper Room]

SCRIPTURE OVERVIEW: The Bible is filled with the stories of imperfect people. David is a classic case. Like us, David was a fallen person who needed God's extravagant mercy

#### Read 2 Samuel 11:1-15.

**Situation** - David uses his power to have sex with another man's wife, tries to cover it up, and then plots the murder of her husband.

**Questions** - Where in today's world do you see the selfishness of powerful people bringing tragedy for people with less power?

**Prayer** - Holy Spirit we need you here with us as we contemplate the violence humans create in this world. Hold us; heal us; help us. Amen.

#### Read Psalm 14.

**Theme** - Given our reading above, we ask how can this be the same man who penned this week's psalm, which decries the foolishness of people who act in a godless way?

**Questions** - Do you number yourself among the wise who "seek after God"? Why or why not?

**Prayer** - God our refuge, hold us close in our despair. Hear our stories as we cry out to you. Restore our fortunes in impossible times. Amen.

#### Read Ephesians 3:14-21.

**Situation** - . We read of this same extravagance given through Christ, whose power can do what we cannot – namely, redeem all of us who are also foolish and fallen.

**Questions** - How does "being rooted and grounded in love" manifest itself in your life?

**Prayer** - Fill me God with your fullness. Help me to accomplish in love, the work you have set before me. Amen.

#### Read John 6:1-21.

**Situation** - The Gospel author demonstrates the power of Jesus through what he describes as "signs," which Jesus performed, not primarily to amaze the onlookers but rather to point them to His identity as the Son of God.

**Questions** - Where do you see yourself in this story?

**Prayer** - Thank you God for the plenty of food that is found in Your Kingdom. Help me to be generous with what I have and confident that you will provide. Amen.