

# Notes on Lectionary Readings - AUGUST 16-22, 2021.

## Abiding in God

[Extract from Disciplines 2021: Upper Room]

### Read 1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43.

**Situation** - God had prevented David from building a temple in Jerusalem but then permitted David's son, Solomon to build it. Solomon places the Ark of the Covenant in the holiest place, and God's presence descends. In the latter parts of the reading, Solomon intercedes for the foreigner, who has come to be in Israel because of the reputation of the Lord.

**Questions** - How does your faith inform the hospitality you show to friends? To strangers?

**Prayer** - Lord help me to love the strangers as you love them, to care for them as you care for them and to treat them justly. Amen.

### Read Psalm 84.

**Theme** - The psalmist rejoices in the Temple and would rather be in its courts than anywhere else, because that is where God dwells.

**Questions** - How do you find joy in the Lord? Recall a recent time when you felt a deep sense of this joy.

**Prayer** - O Lord, give me a daily desire for You. Amen.

### Read Ephesians 6:10-20.

**Situation** - The author of Ephesians compares living the Christian life to going into battle - the emphasis is on being "battle-ready" (i.e. prepared).

**Question** - How do truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and God's word help you live boldly as an ambassador of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

**Prayer** - Lord Jesus, help me to stand firm in your power. Amen.

### Read John 6:56-69.

**Situation** - The New Testament readings remind us that the people of God have always met with resistance. In this passage, Jesus also meets with resistance. His teachings are too hard for many to accept, so they abandon him. When we face resistance, therefore, we should not be surprised; but we are also not alone.

**Questions** - How do you respond to Jesus' question: "Does this offend you?" This teaching was hard for his disciples. Where do you struggle with it?

**Prayer** - O Lord, I want to abide in You and for You to abide in me, so that I may live abundantly as you intend for all your people  
Amen.