

Notes on Lectionary Readings - OCTOBER 11-17, 2021.

The Limits of Human Power

[Extract from Disciplines 2021: Upper Room]

Read Job 38:1-7, 34-41

Situation - God has heard questions from Job and long-winded moralizing by three of Job's friends, who have pronounced that his misfortunes are divine judgment. Now God has heard enough and declares that God's perspective is superior to theirs. God has been there from the beginning.

Questions - How do you continue to hold on to believe in God's goodness when you are in a period of anguish?

Prayer - Loving God help me to understand the paradox that in surrendering, I find wisdom and power. Amen.

Read Psalm 104:1-9, 34-41.

Theme - No one should claim to know God's mind or speak on God's behalf.

Questions - How do you share in the creativity of God?

Prayer - Who created God? How wonderful and manifold are all Your works! Draw me so into love with You that I gave you all in service and devotion. Amen.

Read Hebrews 5:1-10.

Situation - Jesus made appeals to God as the ultimate high priest and thereby became the source of salvation for those who obey him.

Question - In what ways does the understanding of Jesus' willing vulnerability, while serving as high priest, affect the way you interact with others?

Prayer - Gracious God guide me to seek the Christian perfection that is possible through perfect submission to Your will. Amen.

Read Mark 10:35-45

Situation - Jesus specifies that His approaching act of submission and service will allow Him to become a ransom for us.

Questions - Where do you see genuine examples of servant leadership in your community?

Prayer - Empowering Lord give me the strength to be up to the task of discipleship and to remain steadfast in the face of opposition and difficulty. Amen.