

Notes on Lectionary Readings - OCTOBER 18 - 24, 2021.

Liberation

[Extract from Disciplines 2021: Upper Room]

Read Job 42:1-6, 10-17.

Situation - Job never fully understood his story but finally submitted his life to God in humility. In Job's case, God restored with abundance.

Questions - What are your happy and unhappy endings? How do you acknowledge both?

Prayer – Lord help me always to be mindful of my place in creation. Amen.

Read Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22.

Theme - The psalmist also rejoices that although the righteous may suffer, God brings ultimate restoration.

Questions -How does God deliver you from your fears? Recall a recent experience of this.

Prayer – Lord day after day grant me the desire to remain and to lean on You for all things. Amen.

Read Hebrews 7:23-28.

Situation - The reading from Hebrews continues celebrating Christ's role as the compassionate high priest. Unlike human high priests, who serve only for a time, Christ remains our priest forever.

Question - What distinction do you draw?

Prayer - Here I am Lord. Use me to Your glory. Amen.

Read Mark 10:46-52.

Situation - A man without sight in Jericho knows of Jesus' compassion and cries out for it, despite attempts to silence him. He asks Jesus for mercy, physical healing in his case, and Jesus grants his request because the man has displayed great faith.

Questions - How do you respond to Jesus' question between sacrifice and offering? "What do you want me to do for you?"

Prayer - Liberating God grant that I may never take Your goodness for granted. As You set us free, increase our desire to set others free and continue to prepare us for our contribution to your work. Amen.