



04

APRIL
2021

EZEKIEL 24:15-27

SACRIFICE FOR GREATER PURPOSES

God told Ezekiel that God would take away his wife from him. Not only that, God instructed Ezekiel not to mourn over the death of his beloved wife. Not being able to mourn for his wife would be a great sacrifice for Ezekiel and it caused a great pain for him in addition to his grief. Nevertheless, despite his sadness, Ezekiel did what God asked him to do.

What Ezekiel had to experience was actually a sacrifice for a greater purpose. God had a purpose that He wanted to show to the Israelites through what had happened. Speaking of sacrifice, in order to save us from eternal death, God sacrificed His Son, Jesus on the cross. Sacrifices are made for greater purposes.

When we give up something precious, we will feel the pain. However, we know that we have to do it in order to achieve something great. For example, in order to score with flying colours in our exam, we sacrifice our play time; in order to make our little sister happy, we sacrifice our last piece of cookies and give it to her.

As we grow in faith, we will be more ready to make more sacrifices in order to do what Jesus wants us to do. Remember that He has given the greatest sacrifice to save us all: Himself.

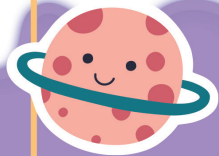
Key verse:

*Romans 3:25
God presented
Christ as a
sacrifice of
atonement,
through the
shedding of His
blood—to be
received by faith*

Prayer

*Dear God, I want
to offer my life to
You as a pleasing
sacrifice. Lord,
have Your way in
me. Amen.*





05

APRIL
2021

EZEKIEL 28:1-7

WE ARE JUST MERE MORTAL

Pride has been a source of problems from time to time. Through the prophet Ezekiel, God warned the leader of the powerful coastal city of Tyre against his pride. He said the king's pride would result in his downfall.

It is true that hard work, skill and perseverance contribute to your success at school. But in addition to all that, there are other things that contribute to your success such as favourable opportunities, unexpected circumstances, perfect timing and miracles. Those things are beyond our control as humans.

So, it is not right to boast on our own strength in our success. We don't have the power to control all the circumstances, possibilities, people around us and other events on which our success depends. All these things are under God's power and control. He is God while we are mere mortal.

We should be thanking God for our achievement and success. Continue trusting Him to provide for us, to lead and guide us. Have a daily encounter with God so that we become more delightedly humble and we will get rid of our own pride.

Key verse:

*Romans 1:21
For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

Prayer

Dear God, the more I get to know You, the more I understand that everything I have is from You alone. I worship humbly before You, Jesus. Amen.





06
APRIL 2021

EZEKIEL 31:1-13

WHO CAN COMPARE TO YOU, GOD?

God described Egypt as a great cedar tree that was tall, powerful, prominent and strong. Even the trees in the Garden of God could not compare to them. Yet, it became proud of itself and it came crashing down.

On the contrary, Jesus used a small mustard seed as a parable about the Kingdom of God (Mark 4:30-31). A mustard seed is usually about 1 to 2 mm. It's so tiny, but when it is well taken care of, it can grow into the largest of all trees in the garden, that can be useful for other animals, birds or even people around it.

When God is in control, one tiny element can be such a powerful influence while something that is great can become very small and insignificant. 1 Corinthians 1:27 says God chose the foolish and weak things of the world to shame the wise and the strong.

If you feel insignificant, remember that God can use you to accomplish great things for His kingdom. When you feel prideful, remember who you are compared to God's majesty.

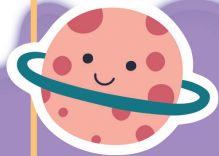
Key verse:

*2 Chronicles 20:6
Lord, the God of our ancestors, are You not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in Your hand, and no one can withstand You.*

Prayer

*Dear God, I know that with You in me, I can be a blessing to others.
Amen.*





07

APRIL
2021

EZEKIEL 33:11-16

DON'T LET THE CHANCE SLIP AWAY

Pamela had a tennis match last night at her school. For the first set, she lost by 3 scores to her opponent. However, in the 2nd and 3rd sets, she changed her strategy and watched closely on her opponent's moves. She finally won with 7-5 and 6-1. Although she did not do so well in the first set, she didn't get demotivated. Instead, she worked on how to change to a better strategy which resulted in her victory.

This is how God's justice works on us. Just as a righteous person who ends up turning away from righteousness will be punished, likewise, a sinner who ends up turning away from his wickedness will be forgiven. That sounds more than fair. God always gives His people a chance to repent.

We might feel we are so bad because we've hurt people around us and we feel that we do not deserve forgiveness from God or others. The good news is, as long as we repent and decide to change, God will definitely forgive us. He gives us a second chance. A second opportunity. Don't let the chance slip away.

Key verse:

*Ezekiel 33:16
I will not
remember the
bad things they
did in the past,
because now
they live right
and are fair. So
they will live!*

Prayer

*Dear God, soften
my heart, to see
You in everything
I do and remind
me always that
You are more
than eager to
forgive when
I truly repent.
Amen.*





08
APRIL 2021

EZEKIEL 34:25-31

JESUS, MY GOOD SHEPHERD

Being a shepherd is not easy. His main job is to ensure the safety and the well-being of the sheep. A good shepherd will go an extra mile to take care of the flock of his sheep.

Sheep are not able to look after themselves thus they need a shepherd to guide them to the grassland and to the water, and to protect them from the enemies. If the shepherd fails to do his responsibility, the sheep will suffer.

Ezekiel declared that the shepherds of Israel had failed to fulfill their responsibilities to take care of them. These shepherds refer to the kings, nobles and religious leaders. They used their position for enriching themselves instead of helping the people.

Due to this, God said that He would take away their position and He Himself would take care of the sheep to guarantee they received good care. This is why He sent Jesus to be the good Shepherd who cares for you and me. Jesus, the good Shepherd who is willing to lay down His life for His sheep, like us.

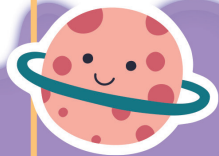
Key verse:

*Ezekiel 34:31
You are My sheep, the sheep of My grassland. You are only human beings, and I am your God." This is what the Lord God said.*

Prayer

*Lord Jesus, as You reign over all as King of kings, continue to shepherd me tenderly and closely as Your dear sheep.
Amen.*





09

APRIL
2021

EZEKIEL 36:24-31

HEART CLEANSER

One of the ways to clean a dirty basin is by using a sprinkle of baking soda and a cup of apple cider vinegar. Leave it for a few minutes and then clean it with a sponge. Rinse with water and the basin will look as clean as a new basin.

God told Ezekiel how He cleans people's hearts.

Firstly, He will sprinkle some pure water to clean us from any dirt and impurity. When we are baptized through water baptism, we let Jesus cleanse us from all our sins. Water baptism is a symbol of moving from an old life into a new one.

Secondly, He will give a new heart and a new spirit in us. It is like a heart transplant. He changes our old hardened heart into a new cleansed heart. A teachable heart that is willing to obey Him.

Thirdly, God will send His Holy Spirit to guide and lead us to live according to God's word and to obey Him daily.

Key verse:

*Ezekiel 36:29a
I will save you
from all your
uncleanness.*

Prayer

*Dear God, I
rejoice in the
new heart You
have given me.
Work on my new
heart to reflect
Your power to
others. Amen.*





10
APRIL 2021

EZEKIEL 37:1-11

CPR BRINGS BACK LIFE

There are ways to bring certain things that are already 'dying' to come to life again. For example, you can use a wet paper towel to soften the hard play-doh. You need some water to refresh a withered plant. CPR (an emergency procedure to restore spontaneous blood circulation and breathing in a person) is performed to help someone who is dying to be able to breathe again.

Ezekiel found that he could "perform CPR" on a bunch of dried bones by merely speaking God's word to them. The dry bones became alive. It proved how powerful and strong God's word is.

God's word is powerful, perfect and pure. His word brings life because Jesus is the Word of Life.

Dry bones represent hopeless situations. What dry bones are you having right now? Speak life to them and God shall restore your situation, from hopelessness to hopefulness. Command the dry bones to come back to life with God's powerful word.

Key verse:

*Ezekiel 37:3
He asked me,
"Son of man,
can these bones
live?"
I said,
"Sovereign
Lord, You alone
know."*

Prayer

*Dear God, I speak
Your word to stir
up the dry bones
or the hopeless
situation in my
life. Thank You
for equipping me
with Your power
through Your
word. Amen*

