

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE Reading for April 2:

Deuteronomy 21:1-22:30:

As Moses continues in these two chapters to explain in more detail some of Israel's laws, we discover a number of application points: Human life is valuable, not to be treated lightly (21:1-9); even those taken in war are to be treated well (21:10-14); wives are to be treated fairly (21:15-17 [this passage does not condone polygamy, but does prohibit mistreatment when this practice does take place. God's ideal is one man for one women, Genesis 2:24]); rebellion of children against parents is no small sin in the eyes of God (21:18-21 [see also Micah 7:6; Malachi 4:6; Romans 1:30; Titus 1:6; 2 Peter 2:10]); a man who was executed and hung on a tree is there because he is cursed, a foreshadowing of the One who would be hung on a tree to take our curse (21:22-23, Galatians 3:13); we should treat others as we want to be treated—valuing their possessions and life (22:1-4, 8); we should not in any way devalue the differences in the sexes (22:5); and we should practice sexual purity in all relations—as first set forth in the sixth commandment (22:13-30).

Luke 9:51-10:12:

With 9:51 there is a distinct movement in the book of Luke from this point on toward Jerusalem and the cross. Much of the material in this central or travel section of Luke (9:51-19:27) is unique to this book. In today's reading we see Jesus rejected by Samaritans (9:51-56); the cost of following Him (9:57-62); and His sending out of disciples on mission (10:1-12). We are reminded that Jesus is living out mission and we are called to do the same. Are you willing to take risks for Christ by telling others about Him?

Psalms 74:1-23:

This psalm is lamenting the destruction of the temple—most likely during the Babylonian captivity. (We must keep in mind that the psalms cover a wide range of time) In these 23 verses we get a good picture of how to cry out to God in times of anguish. The psalm ends with a concern for the glory, the cause of God (22-23). Such should be our passion in the midst of times when it seems God's people are not fairing well.

Proverbs 12:11:

The biblical proverbs often celebrate hard work and chide laziness. Working hard for the glory of God and as a sense of calling is at the heart of the Puritan or Protestant work ethic, in part since Proverbs emphasizes this so much.