

The Word For Sinners – Salvation of Evil Manasseh

This week – We learn that God will hear and answer the repentant prayer of the vilest sinner.

When He [Manasseh] was in affliction, He besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. 2 Chronicles 33v12.

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	2 Kings 21v1-18 (Manasseh's evil reign from age 12)	
Monday	2 Chronicles 33v1-10 (Manasseh's sin)	
Tuesday	2 Chronicles 33v11-20 (Manasseh forgiven)	
Wednesday	Romans 3v9-26 (We have all sinned!)	
Thursday	Romans 5v1-11 (We are sinners, but Christ died to save)	
Friday	Psalms 51v1-19 (A repentant sinner's prayer)	
Saturday	Psalms 32v1-11 (The blessing of forgiveness)	

Important Lesson for us Today: Salvation is individual! Manasseh had one of the godliest of men as his father, King Hezekiah; but this did not make him right with God. He wilfully rejected this godly example and lived as sinful a life as the people of Canaan around him, who had been expelled from the land by God in righteous judgement for such living. Being born to Christian parents does not mean that we will be accepted by God. The Word of God and the conviction of the Holy Spirit is needed to humble us, so that we see our unworthiness and that God's grace and mercy alone can save us. Manasseh was changed and transformed by its power in a matter of seconds. **Will we be changed?**

Hymn 1v2, (based on Psalm 1) tells of the blessing we can have if we walk obediently to God.

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| 1. I once despised and scorned the name
Of my Creator God,
Believing every boastful claim
Of those who spurn His word. | 2. I walked in bondage to the ways
Of this lost world below,
And spent my strength and passing days
In selfishness and show. |
| 3. Now in His Word my soul has found
All knowledge, truth and light;
Diffusing all my wondering mind
With unsurpassed delight. | 4. Secure in Christ, He keeps me by
A living stream of grace,
And turns the sorest trial or sigh
To fruitfulness and peace. |
| 5. Without His pardoning love would I
No place in Heaven find,
But be condemned, at death, to fly
As chaff before the wind. | 6. I'll trust His never-failing love
Who knows and keeps His own;
He guards my way to realms above
And watches from His throne. |

The Word for Sinners – The Salvation of Evil Manasseh.

- **Godly Hezekiah is Father to a Rebel! - Manasseh lived 697-642BC.**

From an early age Manasseh rejected both Hezekiah's, and God's authority.

- **He worshipped pagan gods and all the host of heaven.** Manasseh rebuilt all that Godly Hezekiah had destroyed, and as a deliberate insult to God, he even erected altars to these idol gods in God's Temple. In his heart he was saying, *"I would rather worship anything, and anyone, but God!"*
- **He opened the flood gates of wickedness.** Even sacrificing his own children to these idol gods and welcoming the practice of witchcraft in the land.
- **He abandoned justice.** Manasseh allowed the guilty to go unjudged, whilst their victims were left unprotected, leaving them to poverty, and death.

- **God's Work of Grace In Manasseh.**

God lovingly warned Manasseh despite his deserving immediate judgement; yet Manasseh would not listen. **So, God had to: -**

- **Afflict Manasseh.** Bringing him into desperate trouble - making him a captive of the Assyrian army, paraded like an animal through the streets and left to rot in prison. This gave Manasseh time to reflect on his sinful life. *Manasseh knew that he deserved this judgement of the holy God he had rejected.*
- **Humble Manasseh.** Arrogant and wilfully disobedient Manasseh was shown the horror and ugliness of his sin, feeling its full shame and guilt. *Manasseh knew that God could not overlook his sin and knew it must be punished.*
- **Forgive Manasseh.** In his despair and deep conviction Manasseh prayed to God as a sinner, naming his sin before God, and pleaded for His forgiveness. *God heard Manasseh's heartfelt prayer and graciously forgave him*
- **Change Manasseh.** God had Manasseh released and restored as a godly King *Manasseh displayed true conversion by bringing back God's laws and worship.*

- **Manasseh's blessing can be ours!**

- **Manasseh was blessed.** His vile sin was not punished as it truly deserved. Instead, he experienced total forgiveness of all his sin and full restoration to God; knowing the blessing of being numbered as one of His saved people.
- **No one deserves God's kindness.** Yet we can all experience His wonderful forgiveness through His undeserved mercy and grace, just as Manasseh did.
- **How? When the Lord shows us our sin we must earnestly pray for forgiveness, admitting the wrong we have done, trusting only He can save.**

Manasseh's ancestor, King David, had written, "Bless the Lord, O my soul who forgiveth all thine iniquities; He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him."