

Faith Comes by Hearing Bible Study – 1.14.26 (For 1.18.26)

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-6

¹Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from
afar.
The Lord called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named
my name.
²He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
³And he said to me, “You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”
⁴But I said, “I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing
and vanity;
yet surely my right is with the Lord,
and my recompense with my God.”
⁵And now the Lord says,

he who formed me from the womb to
be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be gathered to
him—
for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord,
and my God has become my
strength—
⁶he says:
“It is too light a thing that you should be
my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of
Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end
of the earth.”

1. Isaiah introduces us to the one called “the Lord’s servant.” How does this title and choice showcase God’s grace and character?
2. What purpose does this servant have? How will this servant fulfill this purpose?
3. Who will be impacted by the work of this servant? For what reason does God want this to be done?

Second Reading: James 1:17-25

¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

¹⁹Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to

speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a

doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵But the one

who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

1. James wants us to understand who our God is and how He acts towards His children. In verse 17, James puts this forth. What does James want us to capture about God?
2. How does James showcase how our character should line up with God's?
3. James showcases that these beliefs are to line up with our actions. What does he share that is meant to correct us and help us live with integrity? Why does this matter?

Gospel: John 14:6-12

⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the

Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

1. Jesus shares that He is three things. What are these three things and what do each of them mean?
2. What does Jesus' statement, "whoever has seen me has seen the Father," reveal about His divine nature and unity with God?
3. What are the "greater works" Jesus promised, and how are they connected to the Father and the Spirit?