

May 28, 2017
Scripture Reading

Eph 6:19,20 (NASU)

¹⁹ and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

2 Tim 1:7,8 (NASU)

⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the ^egospel according to the power of God,

Eph 6:19-20 (NIV)

¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,

²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

2 Tim 1:7-8 (NIV)

⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

⁸ So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,

Eph 6:19-20 (NLT)

¹⁹ And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.

²⁰ I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

2 Tim 1:7,8 (NLT)

⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

⁸ So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, either, even though I'm in prison for him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News.

Mark 8:38

³⁸ "For ^awhoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, ^bthe Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He ^ccomes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

Gen 12:1-13:1

12 Now ^athe LORD said to Abram,

¹Go forth from your country,
And from your relatives
And from your father's house,
To the land which I will show you;
² And ^aI will make you a great nation,
And ^bI will bless you,
And make your name great;
And so ^{1c}you shall be a blessing;
³ And ^aI will bless those who bless you,
And the one who ¹curses you I will ²curse.

^bAnd in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

⁴ So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and ^aLot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their ^apossessions which they had accumulated, and ^bthe ¹persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they ²set out for the land of Canaan; ^cthus they came to the land of Canaan. ⁶ Abram passed through the land as far as the site of ^aShechem, to the ¹oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite *was* then in the land. ⁷ The LORD ^aappeared to Abram and said, "^bTo your ¹descendants I will give this land." So he built ^can altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. ⁸ Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with ^aBethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and ^bcalled upon the name of the LORD. ⁹ Abram journeyed on, continuing toward ^athe ¹Negev.

¹⁰ Now there was ^aa famine in the land; so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was ^bsevere in the land. ¹¹ It came about when he ¹came near to Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "See now, I know that you are a ^{2a}beautiful woman; ¹² ^aand when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³ "Please say that you are ^amy sister so that it may go well with me because of you, and that ^{1b}I may live on account of you." ¹⁴ It came about when Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians ¹saw that the woman was very beautiful. ¹⁵ Pharaoh's officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and ^athe woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁶ Therefore ^ahe treated Abram well for her sake; and ^{1b}gave him sheep and oxen and donkeys and male and female servants and female donkeys and camels.

¹⁷ But the LORD ^astruck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸ Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, "^aWhat is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹ "Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, ¹here is your wife, take her and go." ²⁰ Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him; and they ¹escorted him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him.

Gen 20

20 Now Abraham journeyed from ^athere toward the land of ^bthe ¹Negev, and ²settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in ^cGerar. ² Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "^aShe is my sister." So ^bAbimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. ³ ^aBut God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, "Behold, ^byou are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is ¹married." ⁴ Now Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, ^awill You slay a nation, even *though* ¹blameless? ⁵ "Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she ^aherself said, 'He is my brother.' In ^bthe integrity of my heart and the innocence of my ¹hands I have done this." ⁶ Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also ^{1a}kept you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her. ⁷ "Now therefore, restore the man's wife, for ^ahe is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not restore *her*, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."

⁸ So Abimelech arose early in the morning and called all his servants and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were greatly frightened. ⁹ ^aThen Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? And ¹how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom ^{ba} great sin? You have done to me ²things that ought not to be done." ¹⁰ And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What have you ¹encountered, that you have done this thing?" ¹¹ Abraham said, "Because I thought, surely there is no ^afear of God in this place, and ^bthey will kill me because of my wife. ¹² "Besides, she actually is my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife; ¹³ and it came about, when ^aGod caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said to her, 'This is ¹the kindness which you will show to me: ²everywhere we go, ^bsay of me, "He is my brother."'" ¹⁴ ^aAbimelech then took sheep and oxen and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and restored his wife Sarah to him. ¹⁵ Abimelech said, "^aBehold, my land is before you; ¹settle wherever ²you please." ¹⁶ To Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your ^abrother a thousand pieces of silver; behold, it is ¹your vindication before all who are with you, and before all men you are cleared." ¹⁷ ^aAbraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech and his wife and his maids, so that they bore *children*. ¹⁸ ^aFor the LORD had closed fast all the wombs of the household of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Ex 2:14

¹⁴ But he said, "aWho made you a ¹prince or a judge over us? Are you ²intending to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and said, "Surely the matter has become known."

1 Kings 19:3

³ And he ¹was afraid and arose and ran for his ²life and came to ^aBeersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

Matt 26:69-74

⁶⁹ aNow Peter was sitting outside in the ^bcourtyard, and a servant-girl came to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." ⁷⁰ But he denied *it* before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." ⁷¹ When he had gone out to the gateway, another *servant-girl* saw him and ^{*}said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷² And again he denied *it* with an oath, "I do not know the man." ⁷³ A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Surely you too are *one* of them; ^afor even the way you talk ¹gives you away." ⁷⁴ Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know the man!" And immediately a rooster crowed.

1 Cor 2:1-3

2 And when I came to you, brethren, I ^adid not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you ^bthe ¹testimony of God. ² For I determined to know nothing among you except ^aJesus Christ, and Him crucified. ³ I was with you in ^aweakness and in ^bfear and in much trembling,

1 Cor 7:5

⁵ aStop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and ¹come together again so that ^bSatan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

2 Thess 3:1

3 aFinally, brethren, ^bpray for us that ^cthe word of the Lord will ¹spread rapidly and be glorified, just as *it did* also with you;

Acts 8:1

8 aSaul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death.

And on that day a great persecution ¹began against ^bthe church in Jerusalem, and they were all ^cscattered throughout the regions of Judea and ^dSamaria, except the apostles.

Eph 6:19-20

¹⁹ and ^apray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me ^bin the opening of my mouth, to make known with ^cboldness ^dthe mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ^aambassador ^bin ¹chains; that ²in *proclaiming* it I may speak ^cboldly, ^das I ought to speak.

John 15:20

²⁰ "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, ^bthey will also persecute you; if they ^ckept My word, they will keep yours also.

Matt 5:11-12

¹¹ "Blessed are you when *people* ^ainsult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for ^ain the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

John 6:44

⁴⁴ "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me ^adraws him; and I will ^braise him up on the last day.

Matt 13:1-14:1

13 That day Jesus went out of ^athe house and was sitting ^bby the sea. ² And ¹large crowds gathered to Him, so ^aHe got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach.

³ And He spoke many things to them in ^aparables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow; ⁴ and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ "Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. ⁶ "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ "Others fell ¹among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. ⁸ "And others fell on the good soil and ^{*}yielded a crop, some a ^ahundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. ⁹ "A He who has ears, ¹let him hear."

¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ ¹Jesus answered them, "A To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. ¹² "A For whoever has, to him *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. ¹³ "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while ^aseeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ "1 In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says,

^{12a} YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, ³ BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND;

⁴ YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;

¹⁵ ^aFOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR,

AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES,
OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES,
HEAR WITH THEIR EARS,
AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN,
AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'

16 "aBut blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.

17 "For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

18 "aHear then the parable of the sower. 19 "When anyone hears a the 1word of the kingdom and does not understand it, bthe evil *one* comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. 20 "The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the 1word, immediately he 2afalls away. 22 "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of a the 1world and the bdeceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 23 "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

24 Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "aThe kingdom of heaven 1may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 "But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed 1tares among the wheat, and went away. 26 "But when the 1wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. 27 "The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? 1How then does it have tares?' 28 "And he said to them, 'An 1enemy has done this!' The slaves *said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' 29 "But he *said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 'Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but a gather the wheat into my barn.'""

31 He presented another parable to them, saying, "aThe kingdom of heaven is like b a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; 32 and this is smaller than all *other* seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that a *THE BIRDS OF THE 1AIR* come and *NEST IN ITS BRANCHES*."

33 He spoke another parable to them, "aThe kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in b three 1pecks of flour until it was all leavened."

34 All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak to them a without a parable. 35 *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through the

prophet: "aI WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; I WILL UTTER THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD."

³⁶ Then He left the crowds and went into ^athe house. And His disciples came to Him and said, "^bExplain to us the parable of the ¹tares of the field." ³⁷ And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is ^athe Son of Man, ³⁸ and the field is the world; and *as for* the good seed, these are ^athe sons of the kingdom; and the tares are ^bthe sons of ^cthe evil *one*; ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is ^athe ¹end of the age; and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ "So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at ^athe ¹end of the age. ⁴¹ "aThe Son of Man ^bwill send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom ¹all ^cstumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, ⁴² and ^awill throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place ^bthere will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ "aThen *THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN* in the kingdom of their Father. ^bHe who has ears, ¹let him hear.

⁴⁴ "aThe kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and ^bsells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, ^athe kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, ⁴⁶ and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, ^athe kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering *fish* of every kind; ⁴⁸ and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good *fish* into containers, but the bad they threw away. ⁴⁹ "So it will be at ^athe ¹end of the age; the angels will come forth and ²take out the wicked from among the righteous, ⁵⁰ and ^awill throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place ^bthere will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all these things?" They ^{*}said to Him, "Yes." ⁵² And ¹Jesus said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old."

⁵³ aWhen Jesus had finished these parables, He departed from there. ⁵⁴ aHe came to ¹His hometown and ^bbegan teaching them in their synagogue, so that ^cthey were astonished, and said, "Where *did* this man *get* this wisdom and *these* ²miraculous powers? ⁵⁵ "Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not ^aHis mother called Mary, and His ^abrothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ "And ^aHis sisters, are they not all with us? Where then *did* this man *get* all these things?" ⁵⁷ And they took ^aoffense at Him. But Jesus said to them, "^bA prophet is not without honor except in his ¹hometown and in his *own* household." ⁵⁸ And He did not do many ¹miracles there because of their unbelief.

1 Cor 3:8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will ^areceive his own ¹reward according to his own labor.

Philem 6

⁶ *and I pray* that the fellowship of your faith may become effective ¹through the ^aknowledge of every good thing which is in you ²for Christ's sake.

1 Cor 3:5-7

⁵ What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? ^aServants through whom you believed, even ^bas the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one. ⁶ ^aI planted, ^bApollos watered, but ^cGod was causing the growth. ⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

Luke 8:1

8 Soon afterwards, He *began* going around from one city and village to another, ^aproclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him,

John 14:15

¹⁵ *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."*

Luke 2:8-11

⁸ In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And ^aan angel of the Lord suddenly ^bstood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, *"Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a ^aSavior, who is ^{1b}Christ ^cthe Lord."*

Luke 19:10

¹⁰ *"For ^athe Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

John 20:21

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, *"^aPeace be with you; ^bas the Father has sent Me, I also send you."*

2 Tim 1:7-8

⁷ For God has not given us a ^aspirit of ¹timidity, but of power and love and ²discipline.

⁸ Therefore ^ado not be ashamed of the ^btestimony of our Lord or of me ^cHis prisoner, but join with *me* in ^dsuffering for the ^egospel according to the power of God,

James 1:22

²² ^aBut prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

NASU