



DOVER DAILY DEVOTIONS

On Sunday we considered 2 Kings 3:1–27 and saw that halfhearted reform cannot reconcile us to God, human plans cannot succeed apart from his will, and earthly victories cannot save. Jehoram removed certain idols while clinging to others, presumed to speak for God without first seeking his Word, and mistook divine mercy for divine approval. Yet God remained faithful to his word, supplied water in the wilderness, and showed mercy through the faithfulness of another king. The passage directs us to Jesus Christ, the righteous King and perfect Mediator who bears our guilt, gives us his righteousness, satisfies thirsty souls, and will bring his saving work to completion.

Monday: What Are We Still Clinging To?

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 3:1–3

Jehoram was not as wicked as his father and mother. He removed the pillar of Baal that his father had erected. Yet Scripture still says that he did evil because he clung to the sin of Jeroboam. His reform was real, but it did not reach the deepest allegiance of his heart.

We often judge ourselves by comparison. We notice that we are kinder, more disciplined, or more religious than someone else. But our neighbor is not the measure of righteousness. Christ is. When we see his perfect holiness, our respectable appearances cannot hide the sins we continue to protect.

True repentance involves more than removing the sins that embarrass us. It means surrendering the sins that still promise comfort, control, pleasure, or security. The Lord does not call us merely to become better versions of ourselves. He calls us to turn from sin and entrust ourselves wholly to Christ.

We need not hide when the Spirit exposes what we have been clinging to. Jesus has already borne the guilt of everyone who comes to him in faith. His grace

gives us courage to loosen our grip, confess honestly, and walk in new obedience.

Reflection Questions

1. Where am I tempted to compare myself favorably with others instead of measuring my life by Christ?
2. What sin, habit, resentment, or desire might I still be refusing to surrender?
3. How does Christ's finished work give me courage to confess that sin without hiding or despairing?

Prayer:

Holy God, I confess that I often excuse my sin by comparing myself with others. Search me and reveal what I am still clinging to. Thank you that Jesus bore my guilt and gives his righteousness to all who trust in him. Grant me true repentance and a willing heart. Teach me to surrender every part of my life to Christ. Amen.

Tuesday: Seek the Word of the Lord

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 3:9–12

Jehoram began his campaign without first seeking the Lord. When his plans failed and the armies ran out of water, he blamed God for the crisis he had helped create. He spoke confidently about God's intentions even though God had not spoken.

Jehoshaphat responded differently. He asked whether there was a prophet through whom they might inquire of the Lord. His question reminds us of a simple but necessary truth: we should seek God's Word before presuming to speak for God.

We may not claim to receive prophetic messages, but we can still place our own thoughts into God's mouth. We can assume that he must bless our plans, approve our desires, or arrange events according to our expectations. When circumstances turn against us, we may then accuse him of failing us.

God has not promised to explain every providence, but he has spoken clearly in Scripture. Above all, he has spoken through his Son. As we listen to Christ in his Word, our assumptions are corrected, our fears are steadied, and our steps are

directed by truth rather than impulse.

Reflection Questions

1. Have I made an important decision without seriously seeking wisdom from Scripture and prayer?
2. Where might I be confusing my own expectations with a promise from God?
3. What truth from God's Word do I need to hear and obey today?

Prayer:

Lord, forgive me for making plans without seeking your wisdom. Keep me from placing my own assumptions into your mouth. Thank you for speaking clearly through Scripture and finally through your Son. Give me humility to receive your Word even when it corrects my desires. Lead me in the path of faithful obedience. Amen.

Wednesday: Accepted for the Sake of Another

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 3:13–14

Elisha told Jehoram that he would not have regarded him apart from the presence of Jehoshaphat. Jehoram received help because he did not stand alone. The faithfulness of another king opened the way for mercy.

This scene gives us a faint picture of our need before God. We cannot approach the Holy One on the strength of our record. Our good works cannot erase our guilt, and the sincerity of our faith cannot serve as a payment for sin. Left to ourselves, we have no righteousness with which to stand before him.

But believers do not stand alone. Jesus Christ stands for us. He is the sinless King who gave himself as our ransom, bore the judgment we deserved, and rose again as our living Advocate. We are received by God because we are united to his beloved Son.

Our assurance therefore rests outside ourselves. On days when our faith feels strong and on days when it feels weak, Christ remains righteous, sufficient, and faithful. The Christian's hope was, is, and always will be Christ alone.

Reflection Questions

1. What part of my own record am I tempted to use as a reason God should accept me?
2. When my faith feels weak, where do I ordinarily look for assurance?
3. How would resting in Christ's righteousness change the way I approach God today?

Prayer:

Righteous Father, I have no goodness of my own that can erase my guilt. Thank you for giving your Son to be my Mediator and Advocate. Teach me to rest in his obedience rather than my performance. When my faith is weak, direct my eyes again to the finished work of Jesus. Receive me for his sake and keep me near to him. Amen.

Thursday: Trusting the Promise in a Dry Valley

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 3:15–20

The valley was dry, the armies were thirsty, and there was no sign of approaching rain. Yet the Lord promised that the streambed would be filled with water. The people had nothing visible upon which to rest except the word God had spoken.

The Lord fulfilled his promise without wind or rain. Water arrived exactly as he had said. What seemed impossible to the three kings was a light thing in the sight of the Lord.

Faith does not require us to pretend that the valley is already full. It teaches us to acknowledge the dryness while trusting the God who speaks. His promises do not become uncertain because our circumstances are bleak, nor do they become stronger because we feel confident.

God has given us his greatest assurance in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The crucified King lives, death has been defeated, and everyone who belongs to Christ will be raised with him. Even in the driest season, we may live in obedience because the God who promised is faithful.

Reflection Questions

1. What circumstance currently feels as barren or hopeless as the dry valley?
2. Am I grounding my hope in visible improvement or in something God has

actually promised?

3. What act of obedience can I undertake today because I trust God's faithfulness?

Prayer:

Faithful God, you speak truth and never fail to accomplish your purposes. Forgive me for allowing visible circumstances to rule my heart. Fix my hope upon the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Help me obey you even when I cannot yet see how you will provide. Sustain me by your promises until faith gives way to sight. Amen.

Friday: Living Water for Thirsty Souls

Scripture Reading: John 7:37–39

God supplied water for the armies in the wilderness, but their thirst would return. The deeper thirst of the human soul cannot be satisfied by earthly victory, possessions, approval, or comfort. We were made for communion with God, and nothing less than God can finally satisfy us.

Jesus stood and called the thirsty to come to him and drink. He did not direct them toward a religious technique or a program of self-improvement. He offered himself. To come to Christ is to trust him as the crucified and risen Savior who alone gives eternal life.

John tells us that Jesus was speaking about the Holy Spirit. Christ does not merely pardon us and leave us empty. He gives his Spirit to dwell within us, assuring us that we belong to God and producing new life where sin had left only barrenness.

We often return to dry wells because they promise immediate relief. Yet Christ remains the true fountain. We may come to him honestly, bringing our weariness, disappointment, guilt, and longing. Everyone who drinks of his grace receives what this world cannot give.

Reflection Questions

1. What earthly thing have I been expecting to satisfy a thirst that only God can satisfy?

2. What would it look like for me to come honestly to Christ with my present weariness?
3. Where have I seen the Holy Spirit producing new life in an area that was once barren?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, my soul was made for you, yet I often seek satisfaction in lesser things. Forgive me for returning to wells that cannot give life. Thank you for bearing my sin and giving your Spirit to everyone who trusts in you. Refresh my dry and weary heart with your grace. Let your life overflow through me for the good of others and the glory of your name. Amen.

Saturday: Mercy Is Not Approval

Scripture Reading: Romans 2:1–4

Jehoram received water and military success, but God's mercy did not mean that God approved of his heart or his conduct. Jehoram appears to have mistaken temporary deliverance for divine endorsement. He received exactly what the Lord had promised, but his presumption carried him beyond the promise.

We can make the same mistake. Health, prosperity, success, or escape from hardship does not prove that everything in our lives pleases God. His kindness is not permission to continue in sin. As Paul teaches, God's kindness is meant to lead us to repentance.

We must also resist the opposite mistake. Suffering does not necessarily mean that God has abandoned us. Jehoram thought God was against him when God was preparing mercy, and he assumed God favored him when judgment was near. Providence is often mysterious, but God's character and saving promises remain clear.

At the cross, mercy and judgment meet. Jesus bore the wrath our sin deserved so that guilty people might receive pardon without God compromising his holiness. Therefore we neither presume upon grace nor despair of receiving it. We repent, believe, and entrust ourselves to the King who will finish what he has begun.

Reflection Questions

1. Have I treated God's patience or kindness as permission to continue in a known sin?
2. Have I interpreted a painful circumstance as proof that God has abandoned me?
3. How does the cross teach me to take both God's holiness and his mercy seriously?

Prayer:

Merciful Father, forgive me for presuming upon your patience. Let your kindness lead me into honest and lasting repentance. Keep me from judging your favor solely by my circumstances. Thank you that your justice and mercy meet perfectly in the cross of Christ. Help me trust your promises, submit to your Word, and wait for the complete victory of my risen King. Amen.