

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 - Day 6 of Lent

Open in Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I am truly sorry for the moments yesterday where I missed the mark, where I did not do what you asked me to do. I ask your forgiveness and that you might give me the strength to better follow you today. May your mercies be new today, and may I give you the glory you rightly deserve.

Read Genesis 49:8-12 (NIV)

Judah, your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons will bow down to you. You are a lion's cub, Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his. He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk.

Answer the following questions:

Jacob has been speaking a prophetic word over his family from his deathbed. He lets some know that their future will be full of violence and broken heartedness. For others, he speaks a word over their future which will see them find success and blessing. For some prosperity, but for others poverty. For some victory, but for others defeat.

1. What future did he speak of for Judah, his fourth son?
2. What did he say about Judah's reign?
3. What was Jacob foretelling when he spoke this line (which I love), "His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk"?
4. In Revelation 5:5 and 5:6, John the Apostle shares his vision of heaven, in which he points to the Lion of the tribe of Judah, and then describes the Lamb that was slain. Why would God use two such drastically different images for Jesus? The Lion of Judah, and the Lamb that was slain?
5. What do we need to learn about God's strength?

In your moments of weakness, in those times you feel broken, in those seasons of heartbreak, in those times of hardship, remember that Jesus experienced each of those things for you, so that you might experience the blessing of his reign in your life. He is the Lion of Judah who was slain for you, so you might have life and life abundant.

Close in Prayer

Almighty God, your power is on display. You reign in power, and yet you show your power through service. You reign on high, and yet you show your leadership through humility. You are exalted but choose to show your truth through sacrifice. Help me to be humble and to sacrificially serve others this Lenten season. I ask this in your name, Jesus...Amen.