**Readings 21 June 2020**

*Romans 6*

Dead to sin, alive in Christ

**6**What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? **2**By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? **3**Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? **4**We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

**5**For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6**For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans+6&version=NIVUK#fen-NIVUK-28075a)] that we should no longer be slaves to sin – **7**because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

**8**Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9**For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. **10**The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

**11**In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*Genesis 21*

Hagar and Ishmael sent away

**8**The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. **9**But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, **10**and she said to Abraham, ‘Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.’

**11**The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. **12**But God said to him, ‘Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+21&version=NIVUK#fen-NIVUK-526b)] will be reckoned. **13**I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring.’

**14**Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.

**15**When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. **16**Then she went off and sat down about a bow-shot away, for she thought, ‘I cannot watch the boy die.’ And as she sat there, she[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+21&version=NIVUK#fen-NIVUK-530c)] began to sob.

**17**God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, ‘What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. **18**Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.’

**19**Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

**20**God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. **21**While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

*Matthew 10*

**24**‘The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. **25**It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

**26**‘So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. **27**What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. **28**Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. **29**Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+10&version=NIVUK#fen-NIVUK-23447b)] **30**And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **31**So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

**32**‘Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. **33**But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

**34**‘Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35**For I have come to turn

‘“a man against his father,
    a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law –
**36**    a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.”[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+10&version=NIVUK#fen-NIVUK-23454c)]

**37**‘Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. **38**Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. **39**Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.