

January
15/16

SAT/SUN

2005



Let the children come to me. . . . For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.

MATTHEW 19:14 NLT

Jesus wanted little children to come because he loves them and because they have the kind of attitude needed to approach God. He didn't mean that heaven is only for children, but that people need childlike attitudes of trust in God. The receptiveness of little children was a great contrast to the stubbornness of the religious leaders who let their education and sophistication stand in the way of the simple faith needed to believe in Jesus.

Depend on the Lord the way a child depends on a parent.

January

17

MONDAY

*Martin Luther King Jr.'s
Birthday (Observed)*2005

God is our refuge
and strength, a very
present help in
trouble.

PSALM 46:1 KJV

The psalmist says that even if the world ends, “We need not fear”! It seems impossible to face the end of the world without fear, but the Bible is clear—God is our refuge even in the face of total destruction. He is not merely a temporary retreat; he is our eternal refuge and can provide strength even in the face of global destruction.

Let God be your strength and refuge in your present troubles.

*January***18**

TUESDAY

2005



So be ready all the time. For I, the Messiah, will come when least expected.

LUKE 12:40 TLB

Christ's return at an unexpected time is not a trap, a trick by which God hopes to catch us off guard. In fact, God is delaying his return so more people will have a better chance to follow Christ. During this time before his return, we have the opportunity to live out our beliefs and to reflect Jesus' love as we relate to others.

Be diligent in serving Christ while you wait for his return.

*January***19**

WEDNESDAY

2005



How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him.

1 KINGS 18:21 NASB

Elijah challenged the people to take a stand—to follow whoever was the true God. Why did so many people waver between the two choices? Perhaps some were not sure. Many, however, knew that the Lord was God, but they enjoyed the sinful pleasures and other benefits that came with following Ahab in his idolatrous worship. If we just drift along with whatever is pleasant and easy, we will someday discover that we have been worshipping a false god—ourselves.

Don't drift along; take a stand for God.

*January***20**

THURSDAY

2005



Rejoice greatly, O my people! Shout with joy! For look—your King is coming! He is the Righteous One, the Victor! Yet he is lowly, riding on a donkey's colt!

ZECHARIAH 9:9 TLB

The Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21:1-11) is predicted here 500 years before it happened. Just as this prophecy was fulfilled, so the prophecies of his second coming are just as certain to come true. We are to be ready for his return, for he is coming!

Look forward with joy and excitement to the day of Christ's return.