



Monday, July 26, 2010

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 107

This psalm of thanksgiving reminds us how important it is to be aware of God's hand working in our life; to remember the times we have been in need and God has provided for us in sometimes very unexpected ways. But we should not keep that to ourselves – it is important to share what God has done for us with others so they may have faith.

**REFLECT-**

- Take time today and think of a recent occasion when you have seen God working in your life or someone you know. Give thanks in your time of prayer, but also shared that testimony in some way with a friend, family member, coworker or even a stranger!

**PRAY-**

Thank you, Lord, for all the ways you fill me when I am hungry and thirsty, comfort me when I am hurting, and give me hope and peace. Amen.

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

**READ-** Old Testament: Hosea 11:1-11

Hosea expresses the pain God feels at Israel's unfaithfulness. In much the same way a parent would grieve over a wayward child, God shows anger, yet great tenderness and compassion toward his people.

**REFLECT-**

- In what ways do you reject God in the way you live your life? In what ways are you unfaithful to the ways Jesus taught us to live? Yet what great comfort we can receive from this passage that God loves us so much even while we are still sinful.

**PRAY-**

Loving Father, thank you for sending your son Jesus to take away our sin and to teach us how to live faithfully. He is the ultimate expression of your great love and compassion for us. Help me to be faithful today. Amen.

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

**READ-** The Epistle: Colossians 3:1-11

Accepting Christ brings with it a responsibility to change the way we live to reflect the example Jesus set for us. The way we treat other people, how we use our resources, and what comes out of our mouths must line up with Jesus' command of loving God and our neighbor.

**REFLECT-**

- This passage makes it clear that how we act and live matters greatly to God. What we do in this life is still important. A commitment to Christ is not only for eternal life after we die, but for every day we live on this earth. It starts with awareness of our actions, words, thoughts; not just blindly doing things the way we always have. Pay attention today and ask yourself, "Would this be pleasing to God?"

**PRAY-**

God, help me be sensitive today to shaping my will to fit the form Jesus gave us. Amen.

Thursday, July 29, 2010

**READ-** The Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

Jesus once again teaches about money and the dangers of greed for one trying to be faithful to God. Using your material resources responsibly, living simply, and sharing as much as possible with those in need was what Jesus taught over and over. His parable for the rich landowner showed the consequences of selfishness, greed and lavish living.

**REFLECT-**

- What have you done recently to share from what God has given you with someone who is in need? Are you building barns to store up things for yourself? Can you simplify your lifestyle so that you can share more of what you have with others?

**PRAY-**

O God, help me to make your priorities my priorities. Help me to live into Jesus' commands to love one another with my time and resources. Amen.

Friday, July 30, 2010

**READ-** Sermon Text: Acts 10:1-33

This story marks a dramatic turning point for Peter in his understanding of who Christ came to save. Up to this point, Peter and the apostles had focused their ministry on the Jews; now God has made clear that the Gentiles should hear the good news of Christ as well.

**REFLECT-**

- Who are people whom you would be reluctant to associate with? Peter, an observant Jew, had been taught not to associate with people who were not like him. Each day, we encounter people who are "not like us" who need to hear the good news of Christ. Be aware today of opportunities you have to share that witness.

**PRAY-**

Lord, help me to see other people through your eyes and be willing to share what you have done for me with those who need to hear. Amen.