



Monday, September 6, 2010

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 14:1-7

This passage confronts persons who live their lives as if there is no God and they will have no accountability on judgment day. It also challenges those of us who have all our material comforts if we do not reach out and help those who are needy.

**REFLECT-**

- Again in this passage, the psalmist emphasizes that God has special interest in the poor and needy. If helping those who are in need is God's special priority, should it not be ours as well? What do you do on a regular basis to share what you have with those in need?

**PRAY-**

Lord, make me aware of those in my community who are in need and give me a heart of compassion to help in whatever way I am able. Amen.

Tuesday, September 7, 2010

**READ-** Old Testament: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Jeremiah's prophetic vision of the destruction of the land of Judah by her enemies is devastating. Not only are the people punished for turning away from God, but the land in which they live will become barren and desolate. Jeremiah tells them that God has had enough – their destruction is eminent.

**REFLECT-**

- How do you think God feels about what is happening in our world today? Do you ever wonder about the destruction brought about, according to the prophets, by God's judgment and whether or not our time is ripe for that same devastation because we have turned away from God's way?

**PRAY-**

Father, the sin and evil in our world is overwhelming to me. I am just one person, but help me to do what I can in my own circle of influence to share the good news of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world. Amen.

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

**READ-** The Epistle: I Timothy 1:12-17

Probably written by a later disciple of Paul under Paul's name, this letter emphasizes how aware Paul was of the mercy shown to him by God since he was an avid persecutor of Christ's church and that he should serve as an example to us all of the great lengths God will go to in order to turn around the life of the lost.

**REFLECT-**

- Verse 16 says that Paul received mercy so that "Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience". Has Christ been patient with you in your unbelief, your sin, and your lack of obedience? Like a parent with a disobedient child, how much patience is appropriate before we are expected to make significant changes? Is now the time?

**PRAY-**

Gracious God, I often don't live into all I could be in your plan for my life. Open my eyes – help me to see and do your will. Amen.

Thursday, September 9, 2010

**READ-** The Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

Time and again during Jesus' ministry, we find him with those considered "sinners" and "outcasts" by the religious community and he was criticized for that. But he makes clear by these two parables that God not only has a special concern for the poor, but also for those who do not yet know or accept his love for them and we should as well.

**REFLECT-**

- How can we share the good news of Jesus Christ with those who don't yet know it unless we are willing to talk to and spend time with people who may be very different from us and whom we may like or approve of their choices? Jesus said it's important to do it.

**PRAY-**

O God, help me to put aside my judgment of other people and do what Jesus showed us – take care of their needs first, then tell them about God's love through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friday, April 9, 2010

**READ-** Sermon Text: Acts 16:1-5

Paul moves on in his journeys with new companions – Silas and Timothy – and shares the news with Jews and Gentiles alike of the decisions made in the Jerusalem Council about what is necessary for Gentile Christians in terms of the Jewish law.

**REFLECT-**

- Even within the body of Christian believers, everyone does not always agree. Paul and Barnabus parted ways after several years of ministry together. New people are grafted into ministry and more is accomplished in spreading the good news through them.

**PRAY-**

Lord, help me to be open to change and learn to work well with all kinds of people to accomplish your work. Amen.