



Monday, August 1, 2011

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

Verses 1-6 are perfect for expressing our praise and thanksgiving to God for all his blessings. The 2nd set of verses recounts what God accomplished through Joseph, despite the suffering and trials experienced by Joseph showing that God can accomplish great things despite the works of sinful human beings.

REFLECT-

- Remembering the wonderful works God has done in your life (vs. 5) is important to do on a daily basis. We sometimes get so mired down in our troubles and the busyness of our lives, that we are not mindful of the ways in which God has blessed us. Take an inventory today and give thanks to God!

PRAY-

Lord, thank you for the many ways in which you have worked in my life. Help me to be a willing instrument of your love and compassion Amen.

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

READ- The Old Testament: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

The story of Joseph and his coat of many colors is a familiar one. How quickly Jacob forgot what it felt like for a parent to play favorites! The jealousy spawned by his special treatment of Joseph caused Jacob to lose his favorite son. Yet in the midst of this tragedy, God was still at work.

REFLECT-

- Everyone's family has troubles. Siblings and parents don't get along sometimes and the hurt runs deep, often causing much trouble for those involved. How have you experienced this in your own family? How have you seen God working in spite of those trials? What part might you need to play in healing old family wounds?

PRAY-

O God, forgive me when I have been the cause of hurt and difficulties in my family. Give me a willing and humble heart to forgive and reach out to those who need to be reconciled or forgiven. Amen.

Wednesday, August 3, 2011

READ- The Epistle: Romans 10:5-15

Paul emphasizes once again that we cannot earn righteousness with God. We may only be saved by our faith in Jesus Christ and his atoning act on the cross. Once we accept that salvation, then it is very important that we share this good news with all who will hear it.

REFLECT-

- Paul is speaking primarily to Jewish listeners here who are having difficulty letting go of the idea of trying to earn God's favor by keeping the laws of Moses. Paul stresses that it is only through our faith in Christ, that we come into God's righteousness. But Christ taught us our obedient response to that faith should be lived out in acts of love, compassion and justice.

PRAY-

Father, help me to remember that it not enough to simply say "I believe". Help my actions to be a reflection of the faith I say that I have. Amen.

Thursday, August 4, 2011

READ- The Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus' demonstrates compassion for people who are hungry – both for spiritual guidance and to meet their spiritual needs. He challenged the disciples' lack of compassion and taught them a lesson about how God can multiply the smallest of resources in ways we do not anticipate.

REFLECT-

- Sometimes the needs that exist all around us seem insurmountable. So many people out of work, hungry, homeless; violence, drugs, and crime run rampant in our communities. What can we do that can make any difference? We start with the resources we have and God will multiply them in miraculous ways. How have you experienced this in your life?

PRAY-

O God, help me to step out in faith and compassion with the resources I have and to trust you to with the outcome. Amen.

Friday, August 5, 2011

ACT-

Focus Verse: Romans 10:14

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard?

It is sometimes tempting to tell ourselves that there's no one in our circle of influence who doesn't know about Jesus Christ. Yet there are many who may know OF Jesus, but still have no real idea of his teachings and the miraculous ways in which he can change and shape our lives. There are people you know who need to hear what Jesus means to you, how his life and teaching and healing power has worked in your life in very real ways. By having the courage to share your faith story with someone you know, you can help them to KNOW Jesus Christ, not just KNOW ABOUT him. Take that opportunity today when the time comes.