



Monday, February 28, 2011

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 99

This psalm is one of several which celebrate the Kingship of God, his power over all things, his goodness and his mercy to a people who were often disobedient. It emphasizes the importance of worship and our faithfulness to God's statutes so that we may live an abundant life.

**REFLECT-**

- How important is regular worship in your life? Is it a priority or something that is "optional" in your schedule each week? Are you really engaged during worship? Do you sing the songs or hymns, really listen to the scripture, prayers and sermon, and reflect upon their meaning for your life?

**PRAY-**

Lord, I thank you for the privilege of worship. Help me to remember that worship is about praising and honoring you for your great love. Amen.

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

**READ-** Old Testament: Exodus 24:12-18

As we prepare for Transfiguration Sunday this week, our scripture focuses on "mountaintop experiences". This one in which Moses is called up to the mountain to speak directly with God is one of several similar occasions found in Exodus. Notice that Moses spent significant time there, listening, waiting, and watching for God's message.

**REFLECT-**

- Often when we are trying to discern God's will for our life, we want it quickly and plainly. Yet, many stories in the Bible tell us that God's ways are not ours and God's timetable is not subject to desires. Continued prayer, searching the scriptures, worship and sharing with Christian friends are our best avenues to hear God.

**PRAY-**

Open my ears, my heart, my mind, O Lord. Help me to wait patiently for your voice and to respond in faith. Amen.

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

**READ-** The Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus went up to the mountaintop taking his three most trusted disciples where they witnessed him talking with Moses and Elijah, who represented the Law and the Prophets to the Jewish people. Their appearance was other-worldly and then the voice of God identifies Jesus as his Son. The disciples were confused and afraid, yet awestruck.

**REFLECT-**

- Remarkably, Jesus instructed the disciples not to tell anyone of this experience until after he had been "raised from the dead" (vs. 9)? Can you imagine how it must have felt for Peter, James and John to keep that kind of experience to themselves? And imagine how puzzled they must have been about Jesus being "raised from the dead". There was so much they did not yet understand.

**PRAY-**

Lord, we thank you for your holy scriptures which tell us miraculous stories of your unceasing and unchanging love for us. Thank you for sending your "Beloved Son". Amen.

Thursday, March 3, 2011

**READ-** The Epistle: II Peter 1:16-21

Peter, as one of the eyewitnesses to Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain, tells us here what was most important to him in that experience. He remembers God's words proclaiming Jesus as his "Beloved Son" with whom God is well pleased. Then Peter reminds us that not did Jesus come as Messiah, die on the cross and rise again, but he will return in that same glory and that we should live accordingly.

**REFLECT-**

- As Peter tells the story at this time, he now understands much which was still hidden from him at the time he experienced it. It is with the knowledge of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection that he now puts that experience in perspective and helps us understand what is yet to come – Christ's coming again in glory.

**PRAY-**

O God, help us to stay focused on that "lamp shining in a dark place" so that our hearts may be right when the day of Christ's coming dawns. Amen.

Friday, March 4, 2011

**ACT-**

**Focus Verse:** Matthew 17:5a

**This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!**

What is Jesus calling you to do today? Listen for his voice and take action. There is someone along your path today who needs a kind word, a listening ear, a helping hand in some way. There is someone who has not yet heard Christ's voice; help them to listen for it. Watch for the opportunity – Christ has work for you to do today.