



Monday, February 21, 2011

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 131

Think of the peaceful sleep of a baby who has been fed and is held close by her mother. The psalmist invites us to feel that kind of peace by staying close to God in trust and calm surrender. Our focus must not be on the things of this world, but on God.

REFLECT-

- What does it mean when we have our eyes “raised too high” and when we occupy ourselves with things “too great and marvelous” (vs. 1)? There are many things in our lives that distract us from our relationship with God. Sit quietly today, calming your mind, setting aside the worries of the day and allow God to comfort you.

PRAY-

Lord, I ask for the peace of a baby in her mother’s arms. Surround me with your comfort and peace so that I may feel your love for me. Amen.

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

READ- Old Testament: Isaiah 49:8-16a

The prophet writes words of hope and encouragement to a people in exile who feel their God has abandoned them. He assures them that God will “comfort his people” (vs. 13) like a mother comforts her child and would never leave that child.

REFLECT-

- Can you think of a time when you felt abandoned by God? Perhaps bad things happened or you or someone you loved were suffering. Perhaps it felt like your prayers to God were falling on deaf ears. As with the exiles, God did not always take away their suffering, but walked with them through it. How was God present to you in your time of difficulty?

PRAY-

Father, thank you for all the ways in which you comfort and strengthen us when times are hard, often through the words and actions of other people. Help me to be an instrument of your comfort and peace. Amen.

Wednesday, February 23, 2011

READ- The Epistle: I Corinthians 4:1-5

Paul describes himself here as not only a “servant” of Christ, but a “steward”. A servant does the master’s work and is obedient, but a steward has a larger responsibility to take care of the master’s business. Paul saw his calling as communicating the gospel of Christ to the world. He faced opposition in Corinth from persons challenging his authority and dividing the church into different factions.

REFLECT-

- Each of us are “stewards” of gifts God has given us to do the work of the church in the world and we are called to use those gifts fully and wisely. Are you being a good steward of the gifts God has given you to use in ministry to a hurting world?

PRAY-

Father, I thank you for all you have given me. Help me to use my time, my material resources, and my Christian witness to be a good steward for you. Amen.

Thursday, February 24, 2011

READ- The Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

Jesus’ words in this passage encourage us to trust God in everything, letting go of our concerns over things our culture tells us are important – status and material possessions. He points to nature and how God cares for all his creatures and the earth. If God loves and cares for those things, how much more will he provide for our needs if we trust?

REFLECT-

- It is often in our most difficult times when we have no control over our circumstances that we learn our best lessons of how to trust God completely to provide for us. Think of such a time in your life. Did God provide what you needed physically, emotionally, and spiritually? What do you need to trust God with today?

PRAY-

O God, help me to trust you completely and to feel your assurance in the things that worry me. Amen.

Friday, February 25, 2011

ACT-

Focus Verse: Matthew 6:24a

You cannot serve both God and wealth.

You may not think of yourself as wealthy, but in comparison with most people in the world and many in the community around us, you are rich. What about the way you use your resources needs to change to follow Jesus’ command? How might you simplify your life to be able to share more of what you have with those in need? In what ways are you holding on tightly to your material resources because of your worry about the future? Today, find one way in which you devote money you would have spent on something you do not need to something which benefits someone in need.