



Monday, June 27, 2011

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 45:10-17

This psalm is written to the king and his potential queen. Although the king is praised, there is also a reminder that it is God who anointed him king. The woman who would be queen is praised for her beauty and the prospect of providing sons as heirs to the throne.

REFLECT-

- In most parts of the world, the place of women in society has changed greatly from the time of the psalmist. Women were property, useful for serving and providing heirs. Yet many women in middle eastern and third world countries still live with such oppression. Pray for change and for their freedom and equality.

PRAY-

Lord, Jesus taught us that your desire is for freedom and justice for all your children, regardless of their gender or race. We pray that change may come so that may be a reality in all places. Amen.

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

READ- The Old Testament: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Abraham's servant is sent back to the old country to find a wife for Isaac. He asks for God's direction in finding the right woman and God provides. Rebekah, Isaac's cousin, is at least consulted by her family and agrees to the arranged marriage. Fortunately, it brings happiness to all.

REFLECT-

- This story is full of examples of faithfulness, obedience, trust and the amazing ways in which God works out his plans in the lives of human beings. Learning to look for God's direction, trust and submit our will to God's is a lifelong process. In what area of your life do you need to trust and obey God more fully?

PRAY-

O God, show me your will for my life and help me, like Abraham's servant and Rebekah, to be obedient and faithful. Amen.

Wednesday, June 29, 2011

READ- The Epistle: Romans 7:15-25a

Even the apostle Paul struggled with sin in his life. We can all identify with his frustration and shame at doing wrong in God's sight. We are powerless over sin without the strength and salvation provided to us through Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit.

REFLECT-

- We all need the rescuing power of Christ's love to lift us from the sin and evil all around us. What is your greatest temptation? What is the sin with which you struggle most often?

PRAY-

Father, please forgive me when I fail, when I do wrong, when I give in to temptation. Through the power of the Spirit, help me to live to overcome those things that would separate me from you. Amen.

Thursday, June 30, 2011

READ- The Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Neither John the Baptist nor Jesus was accepted by the religious leaders of their day. John was too harsh, Jesus was too loving. Those who accepted Jesus as the Christ were often weary and carrying heavy loads. He shared their burden and they took on his yoke of obedience.

REFLECT-

- Like oxen which are yoked together, taking on the yoke of Christ means he walks beside you at every moment, helping you to bear the burdens of life. Yet it also comes with a responsibility to do the same work he did – caring, healing, teaching, sharing with others. Are you willing to take on that yoke? How does that change you?

PRAY-

O God, help me not only to accept Jesus' help in carrying my burdens, but also to "pull my weight" in doing his work in my daily life. Amen.

Friday, July 1, 2011

ACT-

Focus Verse: Genesis 24:58

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will."

...God had a plan for Isaac and Rebekah to create a great nation. Abraham's faithful servant trusted God to show him the right woman to become Isaac's wife. Rebekah's willingness to trust involved giving up all that was familiar to her and going to a strange land to marry a man she had never met. God has a plan for your life which often involves change, breaking out of our familiar patterns and habits so that we can grow spiritually and be used more fully by God. As you go through your day today, watch for opportunities to step out in faithfulness and trust to serve God in some way. Go out of your way to help someone, to encourage or comfort someone, to share from your abundance with someone who is in need. Step outside your comfortable routine and watch what God can do through you.