



Monday, July 23, 2012

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 14

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, July 24, 2012

READ- The Epistle: Ephesians 3:14-21

In a beautiful prayer of blessing, Paul asks God to empower and enlighten the church at Ephesus so that each person may come to understand the love of God and the power of the Spirit. He closes with a benediction giving glory to God and invoking his power to work in them.

REFLECT-

- Paul is praying for those Christians to grow in spiritual maturity so that they may become fully alive in Christ and tap into the power available to them to spread the gospel and do Christ's work in the world. Disciplines of prayer, scripture reading, regular worship and service to others pave the way to that spiritual maturity. How are you growing in Christ?

PRAY-

Father, I ask for your guidance so that I may use these spiritual disciplines wisely and well to glorify you. Amen.

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

READ- The Old Testament: II Samuel 11:1-15

David allows himself to be overcome by passion and lust for a beautiful woman who is another man's wife. Because he is king, she must submit to him. After she becomes pregnant, David then compounds his sin by having her husband sent to the front line to be killed so he can marry her.

REFLECT-

- Normally a righteous and just king, David's behavior shows that even one anointed by God can fall into terrible sin. He abused his power as king without regard for the hurt he caused others. He succumbed to temptation. Is there a temptation now in your life that could cause great trouble or hurt to yourself or others if you give in?

PRAY-

Lord, help me to avoid those things that would tempt me and lead me astray from your good and perfect will. Amen.

Thursday, July 26, 2012

READ- The Gospel: John 6:1-21

John's gospel lifts up the many "signs" that Jesus does to show the people his power, compassion, and love. These acts such as feeding the five thousand and walking on water established him as a mighty miracle worker and teacher in the eyes of the masses and his disciples.

REFLECT-

- When the power of Christ is present in our worship, our work, and our service, and our relationships, remarkable things WILL happen. Needs will be met, hearts will be softened, amazing things will be accomplished – all to glorify God. Have you had a "loaves and fishes" moment in your life recently?

PRAY-

O God, help me to be watchful for the power of Christ at work in my daily life and to celebrate those "signs" of his power so that others may know. Amen.

Friday, July 27, 2012

ACT-

Focus Verse: John 6:20

Jesus said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

Over and over throughout the bible, God tells us not to be afraid. In this verse, Jesus comforts and reassures his disciples in their time of fear at seeing him walking on the water. What fears and troubles do you have today? What do you worry about in the wee hours of the night as you lie awake? Sit quietly and read this verse aloud. Close your eyes and feel Christ's presence with you. Release your fears and troubles into his capable hands, knowing that he is with you each step you take and that you need not be afraid. Trust him that he is able to take you safely through anything the world may have for you today.