



Monday, June 11, 2012

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 20

This is a “royal psalm” offered on behalf of the king and his army as they go into battle. The king would come to the temple to worship and the priests would pray this psalm entreating God to bless their efforts with victory.

REFLECT-

- Sometimes as we approach a new day, it can feel like we are preparing to do battle. Problems loom large and our fears can overwhelm us. On those days, we can change this psalm to read in first-person pronouns and pray it for ourselves. On other days, we can pray it for others whom we know who are facing tough times.

PRAY-

Lord, thank you for the strength, power and peace you give us if we only turn to you and ask. Amen.

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

READ- The Epistle: II Corinthians 5:6-17

This passage contains two of Paul’s most famous phrases – “we walk by faith, not by sight” (vs. 7) and “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (vs. 17) Both emphasize our hope in Christ rests not on temporal things of this world, but in a new Kingdom that is coming.

REFLECT-

- Walking by faith and not by sight requires that we learn to trust God to lead us when we don’t have all the answers, all the details of his plan or understand the ways in which he works sometimes. It requires risk, change and sometimes suffering. Are you walking by faith today?

PRAY-

Father, help me to trust you completely as I go about my day so that I may do your will. Amen.

Wednesday, June 13, 2012

READ- The Old Testament: | Samuel 15:34 – 16:13

Just as God advised Samuel in last week’s passage, the king for whom the people clamored turns out to be a poor choice. God tells Samuel to travel to the house of Jesse and there anoint another man to be king instead of Saul. Although Samuel is afraid, he is again obedient.

REFLECT-

- Samuel relies upon God’s guidance to select the new king, but his own temptation is to choose the firstborn son who is handsome. God quickly corrects Samuel that outward appearances are not his priority; God is concerned with what is in the heart. We are often quick to judge others by appearance and make snap judgments about people before we get to know them. How do you go about “judging the heart” of someone you meet?

PRAY-

Loving God, give me compassion and patience so that I may look past appearances and behaviors of persons I encounter today, searching for what lies deep within, the soul whom you love. Amen.

Thursday, June 14, 2012

READ- The Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

Jesus once again uses familiar metaphors of seeds and harvest to explain an eternal concept like God’s Kingdom. The miracle of growth from a tiny seed into a huge plant captures the essence of what God can do with only a bit of our faithfulness and obedience.

REFLECT-

- Jesus tells his disciples and the crowds repeatedly that we are here to “bear fruit” – to produce a harvest. We are not to sit back and relax now that Jesus has won our salvation on the cross – we have work to do for the Kingdom – witnessing to our faith and loving one another through service and caring. You have “seeds” to be planted and nurtured today. How will you do that?

PRAY-

O God, help me to “bear fruit” today for your Kingdom. Guide my steps and make my hands and heart fruitful for you. Amen

Friday, June 15, 2012

ACT-

Focus Verse: Psalm 20:6

Now I know that the Lord will help his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with mighty victories by his right hand.

If you have accepted Christ as your Savior, YOU are the Lord’s anointed. We have only to listen carefully for God’s guidance and do our best to be obedient as did Samuel and God will work through us for good. As you begin your day, ask for God’s help with whatever lies before you and that you may be given strength and wisdom to serve him faithfully. With that preparation, you are primed and ready to be a witness and to serve.