



Wednesday, June 27, 2012

**READ-** The Old Testament: II Samuel 1:1, 17-27

After King Saul was killed by their enemies, David holds a service of mourning and lament for the nation. Although Saul hated David and often tried to kill him, David lifts up the good works of Saul and his son Jonathan, whom David loved like a brother.

**REFLECT-**

- David could have been rejoicing because Saul's death cleared his way to assume the throne; yet his concern was for the people and he grieved for what might have been had Saul and Jonathan chosen God's way. Often, God calls us to set our personal agendas and preferences aside and do what is best for someone else.

**PRAY-**

Loving God, help me to always be mindful of the needs of others and to learn to set aside my selfish desires so that your will may be done. Amen.

Monday, June 25, 2012

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 130

Anyone who has ever experienced deep grief or suffering can identify with the psalmist's opening cry in this passage. As human beings, we are not worthy of God's love and care because of our sin; yet the psalmist affirms that we must wait for God and we will not be disappointed. God is faithful even when we are not.

**REFLECT-**

- What is your soul "waiting on" right now to come from God? Peace? Strength? Guidance? Comfort? Waiting is hard – we want everything immediately. Yet God often teaches and shapes us through that time of waiting.

**PRAY-**

Lord, help me to stay focused on you, aware of the movement of your Spirit, so that when your direction comes, I may be ready. Amen.

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

**READ-** The Epistle: II Corinthians 8:7-15

Not only was Paul a teacher and preacher, he also coordinated offerings among his churches to help the very poor, many of whom were in Jerusalem. In this passage, he encourages the Corinthian church to follow through on their promises of financial support for their needy brothers and sisters.

**REFLECT-**

- Paul speaks of keeping a "fair balance" between what we have and what others need. Everything we have is a gift from God and we are blessed so that we may be a blessing to others. Be alert today for someone in need and how you might help them. Share from your abundance in the name of Christ.

**PRAY-**

Father, thank you for the many blessings of my life. Give me a generous heart and a willing spirit that I may help and serve others. Amen.

Thursday, June 28, 2012

**READ-** The Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

Two dramatic instances of healing take place in this passage. One is a woman who has suffered so long that she takes a great risk in touching Jesus, hoping that she might be healed. She was an outcast, unclean and could have been stoned for her action. In both situations, Jesus shows great compassion and love for those who have no hope.

**REFLECT-**

- Jesus constantly reached out to those who were on the margins of society – healing, teaching, and sharing the news of God's love for them. His touch offered healing and hope. Jesus gives us that "power" (vs. 30) as well to offer care and compassion to those we meet who are suffering.

**PRAY-**

O God, take me outside my comfortable routine so that I may be an instrument of healing and hope to those I encounter today. Give me boldness to act on your behalf and in your love. Amen.

Friday, June 29, 2012

**ACT-**

Focus Verse: Psalm 130:5

**I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.**

We are not fond of waiting. Our culture has trained us that whatever we want, we should have NOW. Text messages, fast food, and credit cards are all vehicles for our impatience and desire of immediate gratification. But God wants us to learn to wait for things to happen in God's time, not ours. We need to take regular time to be quiet, sit still, pray and listen for God's guidance. Sometimes circumstances like serious illness or death force us to wait for God and we can learn to trust God more deeply. Spend some time today in quiet, praying for others, lifting your concerns, and listening and watching for God's guidance. When that guidance comes – in God's time – remember to give thanks.