



Monday, June 4, 2012

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 138

This is a psalm of thanksgiving to God reflecting upon all the ways God has cared for his people, particularly in times of trouble and want. The psalmist affirms that God DOES respond when his people cry out to him and that God is worthy of our praise and gratitude.

REFLECT-

- What are you grateful to God for today? What are the blessings in your life that bring you joy and deep meaning? Lift up prayers of thanksgiving now, telling God how much those blessings mean to you.

PRAY-

Lord, I give you thanks and praise for all the many ways you have blessed my life. Amen.

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

READ- The Epistle: II Corinthians 4:13 - 5:1

Paul speaks words of hope and encouragement to the Corinthian church in the midst of their trials and his own. In the face of suffering, he lifts up the eternal promises made to us by and through Christ as the source of strength and peace.

REFLECT-

- Although none of us likes to go through difficult times, it is often during those times when we feel closest to God. We spend more time in prayer, look for God's guidance and are more aware of our blessings. With that deeper faith and more tender heart, we are able to be encouragers for others who are struggling. Do that today.

PRAY-

Father, you have blessed me so that I may be a blessing. Guide me so that I may be an emissary of your love today. Amen.

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

READ- The Old Testament: Samuel 8:4-20

The prophet Samuel is now old and his sons are not obedient to his God, so the people of Israel decide it is now time for them to have a king like neighboring nations. Samuel seeks God's guidance and God directs him to give the people a king; yet to warn them of the consequences that will come along with that arrangement.

REFLECT-

- Can you remember a time in your life when you were so determined to have or do something that you did not consider all the consequences? God gave us free will to choose, but does not shield us from what happens as a result of our choices. What did you learn from those kinds of experiences that informs your faith?

PRAY-

Loving God, how often we grieve your heart by chasing after things that are not within your will. Help me make good choices today. Amen.

Thursday, June 7, 2012

READ- The Gospel: Mark 3:20-35

This passage follows that of Jesus' healing of a man possessed. Word spread quickly and there was much excitement and curiosity about that act resulting in the scribes condemning it as demonic. Jesus' family comes to him out of concern about his state of mind and what he is doing.

REFLECT-

- It is likely that Jesus' family really did not understand what he came to do and feared for his safety and their own (through association) because he was stirring up so much controversy among people in power. Jesus' words about them sound harsh; yet his focus had to be on those who believed him and would carry on his mission. Are their unbelievers among your family and friends who sometimes undermine your faith? How should you deal with that?

PRAY-

O God, keep my faith secure and my focus on you so that I may be a witness to those who do not yet know you. Amen

Friday, June 8, 2012

ACT-

Focus Verse: Psalm 138:8

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me.

Throughout the scripture, we are told that God created us, forms us, and gifts us for specific work to do in his Kingdom and for his glory. Today is a new day – a gift from God. What does God have for you to do today that will glorify him? Can you help someone who is suffering or in need? Will there be an opportunity for you to share your faith with someone who does not yet know God or whose faith is weak? Like Moses, Jeremiah, Noah, Jonah and Jesus, we often do not understand all the details of God's plan and feel inadequate to be part of that plan, but if we listen for God's voice and are willing for God to use us, God WILL give us all we need.