



Monday, March 19, 2012

READ- The Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Finally, after many years of prophesying destruction, exile, famine and punishment, Jeremiah receives a vision of hope for the people of Israel that God will once again restore their lives and make a “new covenant” with them written, not on stone tablets, but on their hearts.

REFLECT-

- Do you have a covenant with God “written on your heart”? A covenant is a binding agreement made by two parties to do certain things no matter what. God agrees to love us unconditionally, to be with us always, to guide and sustain us. What is your part of your covenant with God? What does God ask of you?

PRAY-

Lord, help me to hear your voice clearly and understand what you would have me to do so that I may be faithful to that covenant with you that is “written on my heart”. Amen.

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

READ- The Epistle: Hebrews 5:5-10

The writer of this letter to the Hebrews seeks to shore up their faith by reminding them that Jesus, who was both human and divine, was also both priest and sacrifice on our behalf to fulfill God’s plan for our eternal salvation.

REFLECT-

- We, like the Hebrews to whom the epistle was written, need regular reminders of Christ’s nature, his teaching, and the significance of his death and resurrection to us as his redeemed people. We are easily distracted and discouraged by the temptations of this world and must stay focused on our walk with Christ each day.

PRAY-

O God, help me to live in such a way that my words and actions are pleasing in your sight, honoring Jesus’ sacrifice for all of us. Amen.

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

READ- The Gospel: John 12:20-33

A group of Greek Gentiles arrived at the Passover festival who had clearly heard of Jesus’ teaching and his miracles and they asked his disciples to see him. The good news which has been rejected by the Jews, the chosen people, is spreading among the Gentiles now. In response to their request, Jesus tells his disciples what is to come and why he must die.

REFLECT-

- Through the centuries, there have been many ideas about why Christ had to suffer and die for salvation to be achieved. John understood the horrific, yet miraculous nature of Jesus’ death and resurrection to draw all people to believe in Jesus as Messiah.

PRAY-

Father, thank you for the great love and obedience of your Son so that your will might be done and you might be glorified. Amen.

Thursday, March 22, 2012

READ- The Psalm: Psalm 51:1-12

This psalm is known as a “penitential psalm” since its focus is on personal sin, guilt, repentance and God’s mercy. Only God can take away the guilt of sin, restore a “clean heart”, and teach us “wisdom” in our “secret heart”. Not the wisdom of the world, but God’s wisdom which enables us to see, understand and live in loving ways.

REFLECT-

- Do you have sin in your life for which you have asked God for forgiveness, yet you continue to hold onto the guilt of that sin? The psalmist asks to be “purged” of his sin, to be washed “whiter than snow”. To receive this, we must be completely open to God to remove our sin and replace it with the joy of God’s salvation.

PRAY-

O God, I give you thanks that you are a merciful and loving God. Take away my sin and create in me a clean heart and a willing spirit. Amen.

Friday, March 23, 2012

ACT-

Disciplines for Lent:

• **Gratitude**

Today I am most grateful to God for _____.

• **Fasting**

Today I will give up _____ in solidarity with those who are in need.

• **Repentance**

Today I ask forgiveness for _____ and ask God’s guidance in turning away from that sin.

• **Giving**

Today I set aside \$_____ from my abundance to give to someone who is suffering or in need through _____.