



Monday, May 7, 2012

**READ-** The Gospel: John 15:9-17

Jesus commands his disciples to love one another in the same way he has loved them and to “bear fruit” in the world. We have that same command from Christ and the same claim on our lives that he has “chosen us” to be his disciples.

**REFLECT-**

What are you doing to “bear fruit” in the world? Jesus claims us to be his disciples and we know from his previous teachings that loving one another means showing mercy, compassion, kindness and care to everyone – not just our friends or those who are easy to love. How can you do that more fully and actively?

**PRAY-**

Loving Father, we are so glad that you have chosen us. Help us to bear fruit for you doing your will each day of our lives. Amen.

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

**READ-** Acts of the Apostles: Acts 10:44-48

This passage immediately follows the story of Peter being summoned to the home of a Roman official Cornelius. Peter and Cornelius were brought together by responding to a vision each had from God. Cornelius was a “devout man” who needed to hear the saving news of Jesus Christ. Peter was a Jew who needed to learn to preach to Gentiles.

**REFLECT-**

- We are sometimes surprised at who and how God gifts people who are “not like us”? Peter and the disciples were surprised at how these Gentiles had received the gift of the Holy Spirit and believed in their message so readily. Peter responded in faith to God’s call and God blessed his efforts readily. What is God calling you to do?

**PRAY-**

O God, help me to look for opportunities that come my way each day to share my faith with anyone who does not know you. Amen.

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

**READ-** The Epistle: | John 5:1-6

The epistle writer offers a very compact statement of belief connecting love of God, faith in Christ, following God’s commands, and loving one another. All are bound together – without any of the latter three, we cannot truly claim to love God.

**REFLECT-**

- The writer mentions that our faith allows us to “conquer the world”. We sometimes get overwhelmed by the magnitude of the problems of this world; yet each time we offer love to a brother or sister through compassion, caring or challenging injustice, we act for God in “conquering” the evil and sin in this world. How can you be a “conqueror” for God today?

**PRAY-**

Father, give me a tender heart, a giving spirit, and courage to reach out to someone in need or in pain today. Amen.

Thursday, May 10, 2012

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 98

This psalm celebrates the triumph of the Lord, his power in restoring order and justice and in vindicating people who have suffered. The celebration is not for an earthly king, but gives all the glory and honor to God for all the ways in which he blesses and redeems his people and creation and looks forward to that ultimate redemption on judgment day.

**REFLECT-**

- Offering our praise, honor and thanksgiving to God on a daily basis is a very important part of our relationship with God. It makes us more observant and mindful of all the ways in which God works for good in our lives. Lift your offering to God now.

**PRAY-**

Father, thank you for your love and care in my life. Help me to be an instrument of your love and care to those around me. Amen.

Friday, May 11, 2012

**ACT-**

Focus Verse: John 15:16b-17

**I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands that you may love one another.**

Are you bearing fruit for Christ? This entire passage pertains to those who follow Jesus learning to love one another in practical, tangible ways. Jesus chooses us as his disciples so that we may love one another and thereby honor him and love God the Father. To do that, we must push ourselves outside our carefully constructed comfort zones into places, situations and with people who need care, compassion and to hear the good news about Jesus. As you reflect upon your week, in what ways have you ventured out to bear fruit for Christ? How might you do that today?