



Monday, November 5, 2012

READ- The Old Testament: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

Ruth and Naomi returned home widows after years living in Moab. With no male relative to care for them, they had to beg or glean in the fields to survive. Naomi sends Ruth to make a direct appeal to their kinsman Boaz using her feminine wiles – perhaps even sex – to encourage him to take her as his wife.

REFLECT-

- The status of women has changed in developed countries empowering women to be educated, hold good jobs and have independence; yet in many places in the world, women have no status and are still at the mercy of men for basic needs. What do you believe is God's will in this regard?

PRAY-

Lord, help us to be aware of injustices in our community and the world around us and to speak up for those who are without power. Amen.

Tuesday, November 6, 2012

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 42

The opening verse of this psalm is one of the most famous among the psalms expressing the longing of our souls that only God can satisfy. The balance of the psalm volleys back and forth between a lament protesting God's absence and hope that God will indeed step in and relieve the suffering of his people; yet, the final verse resolves in hope and trust.

REFLECT-

- In difficult times in your life, have you ever felt that God was just not around? The psalmist expresses his fear and need. We can feel comfortable telling God anything. He loves us and will come to us if we trust and persevere.

PRAY-

Lord, help me to have confidence even when I can't see the path before me. Help me to trust you completely. Amen.

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

READ- The Epistle: Hebrews 9:24-28

The Jewish people at that time believed that in order for their sins to be forgiven by God, the high priest had to make an animal sacrifice on their behalf. The writer of Hebrews asserts that Jesus is the ultimate high priest who has offered his own blood on the cross for our sins, once and for all time.

REFLECT-

- Blood sacrifice is a hard concept for us to understand today. Through Jesus' teachings, we now know that the sacrifice God most wants from us is our obedience, repentance and love. We are to offer our praise and thanksgiving to God each day.

PRAY-

Father, we are grateful for Jesus' sacrifice for us so that we may receive mercy without merit of our own. Help us to live faithfully. Amen.

Thursday, November 8, 2012

READ- The Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

Jesus condemns the religious leaders for their false public piety and then praises the tithe of a widow a larger sacrifice than the riches offered by people in power.

REFLECT-

- The poor and those on the margins of society were constantly lifted up by Jesus. He taught repeatedly that God values them just as other people and they must be care for. He also warned against those who flaunt their wealth and authority.

PRAY-

O God, help me to give sacrificially from the bounty I have received from you. Help me to be mindful of those around me in need and to help as I am able. Amen.

Friday, November 9, 2012

ACT-

Focus Verse: Psalm 42:11b

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

With the devastation of Hurricane Sandy causing suffering across our country and others in its path, people need hope and assurance that God will help in time of trouble. The apostle Paul emphasized praising God in all circumstances of life. For those who have lost all their worldly belongings, been injured or lost loved ones, it is important for Christians to come alongside them, offering help, prayers and encouragement. Seek out someone who needs some hope today and do all you can to encourage that person. Offer your prayers on their behalf, make a phone call or visit to offer encouragement, send a card or take them a meal. You can be an emissary of hope to that person by showing them the love of Christ in a time of darkness in their life.