



Monday, October 15, 2012

READ- The Old Testament: Job 38:1-7, 34-41

In response to Job's demand to God for a reason for his suffering, God makes clear that Job, however righteous he may be, is not in a position to assert his innocence before the Maker of the universe. God reminds Job of the magnitude of his power and all his mighty works.

REFLECT-

- There are no easy answers for us contained in the book of Job. It does reinforce the complexity of the human / divine relationship, how suffering shapes us, and how much there is about God and his ways that we will never understand as humans.

PRAY-

Lord, it is enough to know that you are all powerful, that you love us, and you will never leave us. We have that promise from your Son. Amen.

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c

The words of this psalm echo God's reply to Job's demands. We are reminded of the beauty, magnitude and power of God; how infinite his works. We are also reminded that our place as God's creature is to enjoy the beauty of his works and always to praise him in all circumstances.

REFLECT-

- Taking the time to really see the beauty of God's good creation is a holy and sacred experience. We are often so caught up in our busyness and getting from one task to another, that we fail to see God's remarkable handiwork all around us. Take time today to look and listen and give thanks.

PRAY-

Loving Father, thank you for this beautiful world and the gift of another day to enjoy the blessings of life. Amen.

Wednesday, October 17, 2012

READ- The Epistle: Hebrews 5:1-10

Jesus is our example, our mediator and redeemer. Compared to human priests, he was without sin; yet he experienced the same human suffering that we do and God worked through that suffering to offer salvation to the entire world.

REFLECT-

- It is hard for us to fathom that God would come in human form through his Son, experience the human joys and pains, suffer rejection by the people he came to save, and die – all so that our relationship with him might be fully restored. When we come to the judgment seat, Jesus – who loves us and gave himself for us – will be there to intercede on our behalf.

PRAY-

O God, thank you for sending your Son. Thank you for his obedience to your will and for the great love he taught us. Amen.

Thursday, October 18, 2012

READ- The Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

The disciples still did not understand what Jesus was about. After following him for several years, as they entered Jerusalem they still did not get the "big picture" of what Jesus had tried to teach them and what lay before them. He patiently rejects their requests for honor, telling them that humility and servanthood are the marks of his true followers.

REFLECT-

- None of us are worthy to sit at Christ's right hand when he comes again in glory. Our best chance to please him is to love as he loved, to serve obediently and humbly, and to offer our praise and thanksgiving to God.

PRAY-

Father, forgive us when we are selfish, greedy and arrogant. Help us to stay focused on your will and following the example of Jesus. Amen.

Friday, October 19, 2012

ACT-

Focus Verse: Mark 10:43

"Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant."

This concept of serving others, putting others' needs before our own, and sacrificing our own comfort or pleasure ran counter to the culture in Jesus' day, just as it does in ours. Our natural tendency to put our own needs first. Look for opportunities today to practice the kind of servanthood that Jesus was describing – an unexpected act of kindness, words of encouragement, spending time with someone who is hurting or lonely, offering help to someone in need. These are the marks of one who is "great" in God's kingdom. Practice being a servant throughout your day today.