



Monday, October 1, 2012

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 26

The psalmist proclaims his innocence of sin before God and asks that God be kind and gracious to him. He lists all the ways in which he has been obedient to God's law and affirms his praise and thanksgiving to God for all God has already done.

**REFLECT-**

- Few of us would dare take this approach toward God. The psalmist is convinced that since he has followed the Jewish laws, that he must be blameless in God's sight. Yet we know from our own human experience that no one is without sin.

**PRAY-**

Lord, I thank you for mercy and grace sweeps away my sin and empowers me to do your will. Amen.

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

**READ-** The Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

The writer of Hebrews here lays claim to the central truth of Jesus Christ and his divine place in God's plan to redeem humanity and all creation. For his Jewish audience, he connects the words of the ancient prophets with the life, ministry, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus as God's ultimate action of love and redemption for the world.

**REFLECT-**

- Verse 3 tells us that by closely observing Christ – his words and deeds - as he walked among us through the words of scripture, we can know what God is like. With that in mind, what traits of God did Jesus exemplify? Does that change your image of God?

**PRAY-**

O God, thank you for sending your Son so that we may know you more fully, learn how you want us to live, and be reconciled in loving relationship with you. Amen.

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

**READ-** The Old Testament: Job 1:1, 2:1-10

The book of Job, probably the combined work of several authors, is challenging in many ways. Satan in this setting is “the adversary”, not “the evil one” whom we know as the devil. He challenges God that his servant Job is only faithful to him because he has been so blessed and God agrees to allow Job's family to be killed, his many possessions wiped out and now for Job to be physically ill so that Satan might be proven wrong.

**REFLECT-**

- The God depicted in this story lines up with the early Israelite concept of God blessing those who were righteous and inflicting suffering on those who sinned in some way. Job asserts that good and bad comes from God. To the end, Job asks, “Why?” but never curses God.

**PRAY-**

Lord, we do not understand why good people suffer; yet we know that Jesus told us that you are with us at all times and your love will sustain us in all circumstances. Amen.

Thursday, October 4, 2012

**READ-** The Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

Jesus offers clear instructions in regard to the treatment of women and children who were considered property in his culture and could be discarded on a whim by a man whose heart was hard. Marriage is a sacred covenant before God which is not intended to be broken. Wives and children are to be loved and cared for by their husbands and fathers.

**REFLECT-**

- We have come to take divorce very lightly in our society. Celebrities divorce after only days; young people who marry are often more interested in the elaborate parties and gifts that come with a wedding than the hard work of marriage. Jesus cautions us that it is a sacred commitment between two people for a lifetime.

**PRAY-**

Father, thank you for the gift of marriage and family. Help me to be loving and faithful in my family relationships. Amen.

Friday, October 5, 2012

**ACT-**

Focus Verse: Mark 10:15

Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.

Children live IN the moment. They do not worry about what will happen next – they simply experience everything and live fully with what comes. They expect good and are not on their guard against evil. We are given each day as a gift and are to welcome what comes as a child would, looking for the good and experiencing all things as if for the first time. God's Kingdom is revealed in the blessings that flow from this kind of living. As you go about your day, let your inner child take the lead.