



Monday, September 10, 2012

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 19

This psalm is divided into two distinct sections – vs. 1-6 proclaiming the glory and majesty of God's good creation and its reflection of the Creator; vs. 7-14 emphasizing the importance of obedience to God's commandments and always seeking God's presence in our daily lives.

REFLECT-

- Many days, we are so caught up in the busyness of our lives that we fail to take notice of the outrageous beauty and remarkable construction of God's creation. The sunrise and sunset, a majestic mountain, the rolling waves of the ocean, and the tiny wings of a hummingbird are all reflections of God's amazing love and creative power. Take time today to notice these things and give thanks!

PRAY-

O God, thank you for this beautiful world in which we live. You have provided it for us to enjoy and to care for. Help me do my part in caring for your good creation in the way I live and the choices I make. Amen.

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

READ- The Epistle: James 3:1-12

James warns his listeners of the great responsibility of those who teach and lead others in the Christian faith. He emphasizes the power of speech to mislead, to hurt or to turn people away from Christ. He cautions his listeners to be careful with their words.

REFLECT-

- Can you remember a time when your words damaged or destroyed a relationship with someone you cared about? It's important to take time to think carefully how we want to respond when someone hurts us or angers us because we cannot take those words back once they are spoken.

PRAY-

Father, help me to keep my words positive today so that those around me may be encouraged. Amen.

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

READ- The Old Testament: Proverbs 1:20-33

This proverb deals wisdom which is available to those who follow God's commands and the consequences for those who turn away from that wisdom and go their own way. They are warned that there will be "disaster" for those who ignore the wisdom of God.

REFLECT-

- The bible is the primary avenue we have for acquiring the "wisdom" of God. We learn the stories of God's people, of God's activity and promises and the teachings of Jesus and his disciples. Reading the bible regularly is our best avenue toward the "wisdom" we need to live faithfully, obedient to God's will.

PRAY-

Lord, thank you for your holy scriptures that offer us a way to know you as Savior and Friend. Amen.

Thursday, September 13, 2012

READ- The Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

Jesus was not the kind of Messiah the people were expecting. He very publicly predicts his rejection, suffering, death and resurrection not only to his disciples but to the crowds who followed him. Peter brashly began to argue with Jesus, but Jesus makes clear that this is the pathway by which God will offer salvation to his people.

REFLECT-

- Our culture values self-gratification and self-fulfillment. Our own comforts and pleasures are priorities. Yet, Jesus' teaching and example shows us otherwise. The pathway of a faithful Christ follower may be difficult and loving God and others must be our first priority rather than pleasing ourselves.

PRAY-

Father, help me to live simply, loving those around me, sharing what I have with those in need, and comforting those who suffer. Amen.

Friday, September 14, 2012

ACT-

Focus Verse: Psalm 19:14

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."

Our words can be used to bless and also to curse. If we are angry, bitter, resentful, and hate-filled, the words that flow from us will reflect that inner turmoil. But if we choose to think on good things, to look for God's blessings, and to face each day with joy, our words will come from that wellspring of love. Spending quiet time today with God and cultivating an attitude of gratitude will help to insure that both our meditations AND our words will be acceptable to God. In your conversations with others today, look for opportunities to cheer, encourage, and build up whomever you speak with, allowing your words to serve as a prayer of thanksgiving to God.