



Monday, September 17, 2012

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 1

The psalmist describes two different ways of living – a way that is grounded in seeking God’s will and then doing it or a way that disregards God and seeks only personal gain and pleasure. Those who follow God’s way will be fed by streams of living water; the souls of those who do not will eventually wither and die.

REFLECT-

- Seeking God’s will is a moment-by-moment journey each day. We are free to choose to how we will spend the time that is given us – either walking in God’s love or going it alone. What will you choose to do today?

PRAY-

O God, I open my heart and my life to your guiding hand. Shape me and show me how I can be living water to those who need it today. Amen.

Tuesday, September 18, 2012

READ- The Epistle: James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a

James encourages his listeners to trust in the wisdom that comes from God, not that of the society around them. Christians are constantly tempted to let the priorities of the world around them overcome God’s priorities resulting in the misery that comes from poor choices and bad behavior.

REFLECT-

- Living according to God’s wisdom does not assure us of an easy life free from suffering or hardship. But regardless of what may come, we can be assured of a peace that only God can give us. And if we try to live in loving ways with those around us, we become instruments of that peace for others.

PRAY-

Father, help me to trust in your wisdom so it may be reflected in all I do and say today. Amen.

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

READ- The Old Testament: Proverbs 31:10-31

This proverb was intended to instruct young Jewish men on how to choose a wife who would be productive, kind and bring honor to his name. Cultural standards emphasized beauty and charm, just as our culture does today. The writer emphasized the importance of a wife who “fears the Lord” (vs. 30) who is honorable and compassionate.

REFLECT-

- A woman’s “worth” in this proverb is determined primarily by how productive she is for her husband and family. Jesus offered us a different standard of a woman’s worth in his conversation with Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42) and with other women he encountered. We do not have to “earn our keep” for God to love us.

PRAY-

Lord, thank you for Jesus who taught us that each of us is of “sacred worth” to God. Amen.

Thursday, September 20, 2012

READ- The Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Once again, Jesus predicts his death and resurrection to his disciples. Once again, they do not understand why he would say such a thing and begin to argue about which among them will be in charge should such a thing actually take place.

REFLECT-

- Jesus tells the disciples a mini-parable by presenting a child as someone who should be welcomed. A child had no status and little importance in that culture – even less than a slave. We must show hospitality and care for those who are of low status in our society – the poor, disabled, and others living on the margins.

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 21, 2012

ACT-

Focus Verse: James 3:13b

Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.

What does the word “gentleness” bring to mind? Kindness, patience, gracious words and actions, compassion thoughts and actions are the fruits of someone who is gentle. With it also comes a willingness to be open and vulnerable and the risk of being hurt or taken advantage of. Jesus often described himself as “gentle”. As you go about your day today, do so with a “gentle spirit”. Be mindful of how your gentle words and actions are received by others – look for God’s blessings and his power in those moments.