



Monday, August 26, 2013

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 81:1, 10-16

Hear the grief and anger expressed in these verses conveying God's feelings about his people when we turn away from him and go our own way. Just as a loving father would, God wants to give us good things, but he expects us to be obedient and faithful in the way we live.

REFLECT-

- Where in the way you live your life each day are you deliberately "turning away" from God and not living according to his will for your life? What can you do to change that?

PRAY-

Lord, please help me to be obedient to your will in all I do today. Amen.

Tuesday, August 27, 2013

READ- Old Testament: Jeremiah 2:4-13

The prophet Jeremiah is delivering God's judgment to the people of Judah and Israel who have mixed their worship of God with that of the local Canaanite idols. Jeremiah makes it clear that God will not tolerate anything but total allegiance and faithfulness to him.

REFLECT-

- Jeremiah uses the image of "cracked cisterns" – wells that will not produce life-giving water. We seek happiness in all sorts of ways that do not satisfy – big houses, fancy cars, expensive jewelry and travel. Without God's love in our life, all these things are "cracked cisterns" that cannot fill us spiritually. What are your "cracked cisterns"? Have you tapped into the "living water" God offers?

PRAY-

Father, help me to seek the living water that only you can offer. Guide me in the ways I use my time, my material resources and my abilities so that they may be pleasing to you. Amen.

Wednesday, August 28, 2013

READ- The Epistle: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

This passage gives simple, basic instructions for Christian living. Christian hospitality, caring and praying for those in prison and under oppression, fidelity in marriage, and avoiding a love of money are cornerstones of what it means to live out our faith.

REFLECT-

- We often think of hospitality as something we offer to our friends and family, but this passage speaks of hospitality to strangers. In what ways do you reach out to the stranger? Avoiding the love of money is often harder for those who have many resources than those who do not? Are you using your money in ways that are pleasing to God?

PRAY-

Gracious God, thank you for all the blessings in my life. Make me aware and ready to step out in faith each moment of my day. Amen.

Thursday, August 29, 2013

READ- The Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus used the caste system of Jewish society in this parable to demonstrate the kind of humility we each should embody, but he was speaking specifically to the Pharisees who took great pride in giving themselves places of honor in the temple and around town in Jerusalem.

REFLECT-

- Although American society claims that "all are created equal", what are the inequities and societal classes that divide us and make some of think we are a little better than others? What are ways in which we can invite the poor and needy to "our banquet" (vs. 13)?

PRAY-

O God, help me to remember that "in Christ there is no Jew or Greek, no slave or free" (Gal. 3:28) and that I should treat everyone I meet as someone whom God loves dearly. Amen.

Friday, August 30, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: Hebrews 13:16

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

As you go about your day today, be intentional about doing good and sharing what you have with those whom you meet. Really look at the person who rings up your groceries and smile. Listen to your coworker or neighbor who may aggravate you and have compassion for what may be going on in their life. Buy a meal and give it the man standing on the street corner holding the sign, "Will work for food." As you do these small things, offer up a prayer to God. The scripture says he will be pleased!