



Monday, February 18, 2013

READ- The Old Testament: *Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18*

God makes covenant with Abram that he, although he is childless, he will have many descendants who will be a legacy for him and inherit all his property. Abram is doubtful and asks God for a sign, which God provides in spectacular fashion.

REFLECT-

- Sometimes we have difficulty believing God's promises as well. When everything our rational mind tells us seems contrary to God's promises in scripture, we want to shout, "Help me to believe! Give me a sign!" But often, we only get a candle's glimmer of light enough to take the next step ahead of us.

PRAY-

Lord, help me to trust you to work for good in my life and in the world around me even though there is much I will never understand. Amen.

Tuesday, February 19, 2013

READ- The Epistle: *Philippians 3:17-4:1*

Paul is writing the church in Philippi from prison, making his best argument against those who insist that Christians there must abide by Jewish dietary and circumcision laws. He again assures those new converts that their faith in Christ's death and resurrection is sufficient.

REFLECT-

- It's possible for us as "churchy" people to become rigid and legalistic about who and how someone can be part of Christ's church. Does our welcome extend to those who may worship differently from us? Do we all have to believe the same way to find a place in the family of Christ?

PRAY-

Father, help me to be content to share what Christ has done for me and leave judgment of others to God. Amen.

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

READ- The Gospel: *Luke 13:31-35*

Jesus receives a warning from the very Pharisees with whom he has contended his entire public ministry that Herod intends to kill him. Yet we know that it was not Herod's initiative that brought about Christ's death. Jesus rebukes them, stating firmly that he will finish what he came to do. He then laments that Jerusalem has rejected him and God's work.

REFLECT-

- In what ways do we reject Jesus even today? As we continue in the season of Lent, what are the things that prevent you from accepting God's gracious offer of love? How do you keep Jesus at "arm's length"?

PRAY-

O God, forgive me for the ways in which I reject your love. Amen.

Thursday, February 21, 2013

READ- The Psalter: *Psalms 27*

In the first six verses of this psalm, words of praise, trust and confidence in God's provision are expressed. The latter verses reveal fear of foes and include an impassioned plea for God's protection and mercy, closing again with words of confidence and patience.

REFLECT-

- When we are afraid and there seems to be no help in sight, it is easy for our faith to slip. Yet remembering that God has been faithful to provide what we need in the past and offering praise for that can give us the encouragement we need to persevere. How has God provided abundantly for you today?

PRAY-

O Lord, you always answer the cries of your children. Sometimes our ears are not attuned to your message and we lose heart. Help us to hear you and obey. Amen.

Friday, February 22, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: *Psalms 27:14*

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Patience and perseverance are spiritual gifts which are often developed in times of trial and suffering. We learn that our expectations and desires are often not in sync with God's timing. Learning to wait for God's guidance, if we can do it, teaches us trust. What do you need God's guidance about in your life today? Are there prayers that still go unanswered? Is there healing that has not taken place as you had hoped? Is there deep pain somewhere for which no comfort has been received? Sometimes our only answer is to "wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage". For today, try to rest in your trust of God's loving purposes and wait.