



Monday, February 25, 2013

**READ-** The Old Testament: Isaiah 55:1-9

The prophet encourages the people to seek God's provision rather than chasing after material riches that do not satisfy. Furthermore, he encourages them to trust God in all things – to seek him and he will be merciful.

**REFLECT-**

- Our culture makes it difficult to live simply. At every turn, we are bombarded with advertising and messages in the media that tell us we must have certain food, drink, clothing, cars, homes in order to be happy. Only if our focus stays on God and his will for our lives can we find peace. Try to live simply today.

**PRAY-**

Lord, thank you for the wonderful ways you provide just what I need. Amen.

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

**READ-** The Epistle: I Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul cautions the Corinthian Christians that their baptism and partaking of Holy Communion does not free them to sin at will. He points out that their ancestors in the wilderness were provided water and manna by God to sustain them; yet they sinned and were punished by God.

**REFLECT-**

- The concept that once we are "saved" we cannot fall from grace tempts some Christians to believe that they can do as they like without recourse after they are baptized in the faith. All of us must constantly be aware of our words and actions to keep them – as much as possible – in accordance with Jesus' example to us.

**PRAY-**

Father, forgive me when I stray from the pathway and help me to walk within your will. Amen.

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

**READ-** The Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Jesus' listeners clearly believed that good things happened to righteous folks and bad things happened to sinners. Jesus denied that idea strongly in this passage, saying that we are all sinners in need of repentance and, rather than appointing guilt to those who suffered, we should all ask for God's mercy, forgiveness and live in accord with God's ways.

**REFLECT-**

- Jesus compares each of us to a fig tree planted to bear fruit. If we abide in God's will, we should bear fruit in God's kingdom uses the gifts we are given. If we do not, Jesus is clear that we will be subject to God's judgment. Our faith in Christ offers us salvation; yet through that faith we become stewards in God's Kingdom.

**PRAY-**

O God, help me to see how I am to bear fruit for your Kingdom today. Amen.

Thursday, February 28, 2013

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 63:1-8

As in the Isaiah passage, the psalmist compares our need for God to a great thirst or hunger that can only be satisfied by God's loving presence. That need is satisfied, not just minimally, but "as with a rich feast" – God provides for us abundantly; we must give thanks at all times.

**REFLECT-**

- For what do you have to be thankful to God today? Are you blessed with family, friends, health, home, food and clothing, and enough to live on? Do you read the scripture, spend time in prayer and worship God each week? Have you felt God's "right hand" guiding you in times of trouble? Give thanks to a loving God!

**PRAY-**

O Lord, I thank you and praise you for all the ways you love and care for me and for the world. Amen.

Friday, February 29, 2013

**ACT-**

**Focus Verse:** I Corinthians 10:13b

**God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.**

When the tough times in life come, some will quote the first part of this scripture to encourage those who are suffering. Yet the latter part of the passage is important to understand its meaning. God does not promise to solve all our problems or take away our suffering. He is faithful to be with us during those times and help us to be able to endure it through his love, comfort, and strength. If we are open to receive the power of God's Spirit, good can come from the most difficult situation and our lives can be a witness to the love and power of our God.