



Monday, February 4, 2013

**READ-** The Old Testament: Exodus 34:29-35

Imagine what it would be like to stand in God's presence and to have him speak to you directly. God made a new covenant with his people through his servant Moses and gave them the law to live by. Thankfully, God sent Jesus to bring us a new covenant of mercy and grace through his sacrifice on the cross.

**REFLECT-**

- Moses was changed in a remarkable way by spending time in God's presence. We also can be changed in remarkable ways by time spent with God in prayer, worship, and service to God's people. Do you spend time every day listening for God, watching for the movement of his Spirit in people and events? How have you been changed by God's presence in your life?

**PRAY-**

Lord, I thank you for your loving Spirit which lives and moves within each us who love you. Amen.

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

**READ-** The Epistle: II Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2

Paul cautions the Corinthians that they must not fall back on reliance on the Jewish law for their salvation, but rather upon their faith in Jesus only. He compares the law to the veil Moses used to hide his face from the Israelites - any trust they might place in the law would only serve to block their relationship with God through Christ.

**REFLECT-**

- Jesus assured his disciples that God's will would be revealed to them through the Spirit, who is the source of comfort and wisdom. With the Spirit's direction, we can choose good and right paths for our life. Where do you need that guidance in your life today?

**PRAY-**

O God, help me to know your will and to do it today. Amen.

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

**READ-** The Gospel: Luke 9:28-43a

Jesus took three of his closest disciples with him to the mountaintop to pray and something happened that amazed them. It also further confirmed that Jesus was indeed the Messiah for whom they had waited so long. Yet they told no one about that experience.

**REFLECT-**

- Perhaps you have had "mountaintop" spiritual experiences in your life, but then did not share that experience with anyone else. As Jesus' disciples, we must "go and tell" by our words and actions how we have experienced God's presence and power. That testimony can help others accept Jesus as Lord.

**PRAY-**

O God, help me to be a positive witness for Christ in the way I live my life today so that someone who does not believe may turn to Him. Amen.

Thursday, February 7, 2013

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 99

This psalm celebrates God's nature - power, justice, righteousness, mercy, and forgiveness; yet with accountability. The psalmist reminds the people of God's great deeds throughout history, his priests and prophets and kings who were obedient AND God's faithfulness to his covenant.

**REFLECT-**

- The psalms constantly remind us of God's love and power over ALL creation; yet that he loves each element of that good creation. His commandments are to maintain goodness, justice and peace within that creation. Our obedience to those "statutes" makes us partners in bringing about that ultimate good in the kingdom of God. Today, in all you do and say, work for that ultimate good.

**PRAY-**

O God, thank you for your love and care for me and all your creation. Help me to be instrument of that love in my circle of influence today. Amen.

Friday, February 8, 2013

**ACT-**

**Focus Verse:** II Corinthians 4:1

**Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.**

God gives each of us a ministry to do. Paul says that gift comes as a result of God's mercy. With the call of ministry comes gifts of the Spirit which enable us to do what God has for us. Sometimes, no matter how much we try to trust God and live obediently, we get discouraged, frustrated, or question how anything we might do could make a difference in God's kingdom. If we take those worries to God in prayer, his encouragement and strength to continue comes - sometimes in the words of a stranger or friend, sometimes in an unexpected turn of events. Look for glimmers of God's mercy throughout your day and stop to give thanks for them.