



Monday, July 29, 2013

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 107:1-9, 43

This psalm of thanksgiving reminds us how important it is to be aware of God's hand working in our life; to remember the times we have been in need and God has provided for us in sometimes very unexpected ways. But we should not keep that to ourselves – it is important to share what God has done for us with others so they may have faith.

REFLECT-

- Take time today and think of a recent occasion when you have seen God working in your life or someone you know. Give thanks in your time of prayer, but also shared that testimony in some way with a friend, family member, coworker or even a stranger!

PRAY-

Thank you, Lord, for all the ways you fill me when I am hungry and thirsty, comfort me when I am hurting, and give me hope and peace. Amen.

Tuesday, July 30, 2013

READ- Old Testament: Hosea 11:1-11

Hosea expresses the pain God feels at Israel's unfaithfulness. In much the same way a parent would grieve over a wayward child, God shows anger, yet great tenderness and compassion toward his people.

REFLECT-

- In what ways do you reject God in the way you live your life? In what ways are you unfaithful to the ways Jesus taught us to live? Yet what great comfort we can receive from this passage that God loves us so much even while we are still sinful.

PRAY-

Loving Father, thank you for sending your son Jesus to take away our sin and to teach us how to live faithfully. He is the ultimate expression of your great love and compassion for us. Help me to be faithful today. Amen.

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

READ- The Epistle: Colossians 3:1-11

Accepting Christ brings with it a responsibility to change the way we live to reflect the example Jesus set for us. The way we treat other people, how we use our resources, and what comes out of our mouths must line up with Jesus' command of loving God and our neighbor.

REFLECT-

- This passage makes it clear that how we act and live matters greatly to God. What we do in this life is still important. A commitment to Christ is not only for eternal life after we die, but for every day we live on this earth. It starts with awareness of our actions, words, thoughts; not just blindly doing things the way we always have. Pay attention today and ask yourself, "Would this be pleasing to God?"

PRAY-

God, help me be sensitive today to shaping my will to fit the form Jesus gave us. Amen.

Thursday, August 1, 2013

READ- The Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

Jesus once again teaches about money and the dangers of greed for one trying to be faithful to God. Using your material resources responsibly, living simply, and sharing as much as possible with those in need was what Jesus taught over and over. His parable for the rich landowner showed the consequences of selfishness, greed and lavish living.

REFLECT-

- What have you done recently to share from what God has given you with someone who is in need? Are you building barns to store up things for yourself? Can you simplify your lifestyle so that you can share more of what you have with others?

PRAY-

O God, help me to make your priorities my priorities. Help me to live into Jesus' commands to love one another with my time and resources. Amen.

Friday, August 2, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: Psalm 107:8

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

Make a conscious effort of thanksgiving to God as you go about your day. As you rise, give thanks for yet another day of life; as you eat and bathe and dress, thank God for those basic necessities of life; as you interact with family, friends, and even strangers, give thanks for their influence in your life; be conscious of the beauty of nature all around you – sky, trees, birds, flowers, a breeze – and give thanks; as you work and rest and play, give thanks to God; look for every good thing you encounter and give thanks to God – because "every good and perfect thing comes from above" (James 1:17).