



Monday, June 10, 2013

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 5:1-8

The psalmist cries out to God in the midst of wickedness and evil happening all around him and asks for God to make his path clear before him so that he may do God's will. The first three verses reflect the depth of fear and anxiety the writer is feeling and he lets it all out to God!

REFLECT-

- Do you feel free to express whatever you are feeling to God in prayer? The psalms are excellent examples for us that we can share whatever happens to us with God. Whether you are angry, afraid, grieving or joyful, you can always lift it up to God and ask for help and assurance.

PRAY-

Thank you, Lord, that you are so strong and love us so much, that we can take anything to you knowing that you will understand and help! Amen.

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

READ- The Epistle: Galatians 2:15-21

Paul is addressing a conflict that has arisen in the church in Galatia about whether Jewish Christians are still bound by the Mosaic law to achieve salvation. Paul puts a firm stake in the ground that we are ALL – Jew or Gentile – justified by faith alone, not by following the law.

REFLECT-

- Imagine what it must be like to believe that we must earn God's love by following perfectly a complicated set of laws. Imagine the feeling of frustration knowing that you can never be "good enough". What freedom Paul's words must have given those Jewish Christians! What freedom they give to each of us!

PRAY-

Father, thank you for the gracious gift of your love to us in Christ Jesus so that we need not be perfect, just loved and forgiven. Amen.

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

READ- Old Testament: Kings 21:1-21a

This story is one of many which describe the wicked deeds of King Ahab and his foreign wife Jezebel, who worshipped the pagan gods of Ba'al. Ahab abandoned his ancestral allegiance to Jehovah God, allowing the influence of his conniving and greedy wife to lead him astray.

REFLECT-

- What are the "false gods" which influence us? Does our desire for comfort, affluence, nice homes and cars and clothes and vacations overshadow our love and service of God? If we don't get what we feel we deserve, to what ends will we go to achieve it?

PRAY-

Lord, help me to keep my desires, priorities, and resources focused firmly on You and your ways helping me to turn aside the false gods of our culture that would lead me astray. Amen.

Thursday, June 13, 2013

READ- The Gospel: Luke 7:36 – 8:3

This story is difficult for us to understand because the custom of footwashing and anointing someone are foreign to us. In a very public place, this woman who did not have a good reputation did both of those things – humble acts of honor and love – for Jesus. The Pharisee host was outraged, embarrassed, and felt she had dishonored him by those acts.

REFLECT-

- How often do we condemn someone who has made mistakes or done wrong very publicly? This Pharisee wanted this sinful woman out of his banquet and criticized Jesus for receiving her as he did. Who have you rejected or ignored because of their reputation as a sinner or wrongdoer? What might you learn from Jesus here?

PRAY-

O God, help me not to judge other people, remembering that I too am a sinner in need of forgiveness. Help me to reach out that someone may see Jesus in me. Amen.

Friday, June 14, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: Psalm 5:3

O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I plead my case to you, and watch.

The psalmist had an expectation that not only would God hear his prayer, but that God would respond in some way to his requests. The psalmist expresses that by saying he would "watch". Today, as you lift your prayers to God, then watch. Pay attention to how God responds (or doesn't) to your requests. God provides for our needs and those of others whom we pray for in such remarkable ways. Watching for God's work makes us mindful of our blessings and God's power to do far more than we can ever imagine. Try it today – watch.