



Monday, June 17, 2013

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 42

The opening verse of this psalm is one of the most famous among the psalms expressing the longing of our souls that only God can satisfy. The balance of the psalm volleys back and forth between a lament protesting God's absence and hope that God will indeed step in and relieve the suffering of his people; yet, the final verse resolves in hope and trust.

REFLECT-

- In difficult times in your life, have you ever felt – like the psalmist – that God is just not around? That he is simply not responding in your time of trouble? The psalmist does not mince words – he expresses his fear and need. We can feel comfortable telling God anything. He loves us and will come to us if we trust and persevere.

PRAY-

Lord, help me to have confidence even when I can't see the path before me. Help me to trust you completely. Amen.

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

READ- Old Testament: 1 Kings 19:1-15a

The prophet Elijah has just come from killing the pagan prophets of Ba'al in a flashy demonstration of God's power and Queen Jezebel has ordered him killed. He is running for his life; he is desperate and alone. God sustains him with food and assures him of his presence and power.

REFLECT-

- Elijah was one of the mightiest prophets whom we read about in the Bible. He faced mighty kings and delivered news they didn't want to hear and he performed miraculous signs. Yet, he had his own crisis of faith. We all have those times and if we continue listening for God's voice, he will give us what we need.

PRAY-

God of power, help me to be bold like Elijah in sharing my faith with others, even in adversity. Comfort me when I have doubts and give me the strength to continue to follow you faithfully. Amen.

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

READ- The Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29

Paul speaks here to Jewish Christians in Galatia who felt that Gentile Christian should be required to follow Jewish law. Paul assures them that Jesus has made it possible for all to claim salvation without following the Jewish law. He did not discourage the Jews from continuing in the law; but said it was not necessary for their salvation.

REFLECT-

- So many things divide people in our society, just as they did in Paul's day. Race, economic status, ethnicity, language, education are all dividers that keep us from claiming one another as brothers and sisters – all loved by God. Who do you keep at arm's length because of one of these factors? What would Paul say to you?

PRAY-

Father, forgive me for having trouble accepting and reaching out to some people because they are different from me. Open my heart to see them as you see them and learn to love them as you do. Amen.

Thursday, June 20, 2013

READ- The Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

Jesus heals a Gentile man who is described as "possessed by demons". In our day, it is likely that he would be diagnosed with mental illness. At Jesus' word, the man is restored to health and a herd of pigs, considered unclean by the Jews, had perished. The reaction of the crowds was fear and they asked Jesus to leave them.

REFLECT-

- How would you have felt if you had seen this miracle Jesus performed? Why do you think the people were afraid? Often we are suspicious and distrustful of things we cannot explain. Those are the times to rejoice and give God the glory, not turn away.

PRAY-

O God, I know that you do miraculous things every day. Help me to look for them, help others to see them and give you thanks. Amen.

Friday, June 21, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: Luke 8:39

"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you."

So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

For the Gerasene demoniac, Jesus offered healing and a restored life. What has Jesus done for you? Has he carried you through difficult times; healed your body, mind or spirit; provided for you abundantly when you didn't know where to turn? Jesus' instructions to the man he healed are our instructions as well. We are to share with those around us how God's love has impacted our life. Look for opportunities to share your story with others in some way today.