



Monday, June 24, 2013

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

The opening verses of this psalm make it clear that the writer is in a time of great worry and distress. Sleep will not come because he is afraid that God has abandoned him. Yet, by the end of the passage, the psalmist has found comfort in remembering the ways that God has acted with strength and goodness in the past and hope that God will continue to do so.

REFLECT-

- When you have those sleepless nights of fear and worry, learn from the psalmist's example and think back of the ways in which you've seen God working in your life in the past. Perhaps you will also find comfort and encouragement that God is always with you – even if you cannot see or feel God working.

PRAY-

Lord, please help me to remain steadfast in my faith knowing that you will never leave me or stop loving me. Amen.

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

READ- Old Testament: II Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

In this story of the passing of Elijah's prophetic power to his successor, Elisha's love, loyalty, obedience, and faith are rewarded as his request for a "double share" of Elijah's spirit is granted. He had been with Elijah during many difficult times and knew that those same challenges lay ahead for him in assuming Elijah's role as prophet to the kings of Israel.

REFLECT-

- The Holy Spirit can empower each of us to do things which we never imagined possible if we have faith and trust that God will provide. Have you, like Elisha, asked for the power of the Spirit?

PRAY-

God of the whirlwind and fire, use me for your purposes. Help me to be open to the power of your Spirit and to be obedient to your will. Amen.

Wednesday, June 26, 2013

READ- The Epistle: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

In this well-known passage from his letter to the Galatian church, Paul is concerned about the unity of that Christian community being torn apart by sinful behavior and he encourages them to live in ways that will allow them to receive the "fruit of the Spirit" (vs. 22).

REFLECT-

- Each of us struggles with the temptation to live in ways that are contrary to what God desires for us. Our consumer, pleasure-seeking culture tempts us everywhere we turn. What are the sins that keep you from fully experiencing the fruit of the Spirit?

PRAY-

Loving God, I ask your forgiveness for the ways in which I have given in to my sinful nature, and for strength and guidance to do your will. Amen.

Thursday, June 27, 2013

READ- The Gospel: Luke 9:51-62

The two stories told in this passage show us how challenging it can be to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ. As they are rejected by the Samaritans, Jesus refuses his disciples' wish for vengeance; but then he demands a degree of allegiance and personal sacrifice that seems extreme and almost cruel from two people who want to follow him.

REFLECT-

- What do you make of Jesus' demands of the men who wanted to follow him? Do you think Jesus was saying that we must give up our possessions and neglect our family in order to follow him? What larger meaning might Jesus have been trying to communicate?

PRAY-

O God, sometimes my desire for material comforts and the demands of family life keep me from serving you fully. Help me to live simply and to keep my focus on you and your will in all my relationships. Amen.

Friday, June 28, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: Galatians 5:22-23

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

If we open our lives up fully to the power of God's Spirit, then these gifts may be ours. How might your day today be different if you lived intentionally with these gifts in mind? Which of these gifts do you need most in your life right now? Pick two on the list and ask God to provide those gifts for you in special measure today. Then watch for opportunities for those gifts to be used, trusting that God will give you exactly what you need to pour into those difficult and painful places in your life. God so often gives joy and peace in times of sorrow; patience and kindness in times of conflict; generosity and faithfulness in places of dishonesty and broken trust; gentleness and self-control in places of violence and addiction. Ask for the gifts of the Spirit you need and watch God work!