



Monday, June 3, 2013

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 146

We hear once more in this psalm the emphasis of God's special care for the poor, the oppressed, the widows and orphans, those with illnesses and disabilities, and the prisoner and the assurance that God loves them and will take care of them.

**REFLECT-**

- The care, compassion and justice for those who are weak happens through God's guidance working in our human hands, hearts and spirits. God cares for these people and we are called via Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to share our resources and to reach out in kindness and obedience to those in need. What can you do today to live into God's priorities for those in need?

**PRAY-**

Lord, please make me aware of my opportunities to help someone and help me have the courage to act when that opportunity comes. Amen.

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

**READ-** The Epistle: Galatians 1:11-24

In this letter, Paul makes his argument for his authority as an apostle of Jesus Christ to people in Galatia who were still suspicious of him because of his prior history of persecuting Christians. Paul makes plain that his call and commission came straight from Jesus Christ on the Damascus road, hence his confidence and assurance of what he preached.

**REFLECT-**

- Paul had "baggage" which was impeding his gospel message being heard as credible with his listeners. But he didn't let his past prevent him from answering Jesus' call. What "baggage" do you have which may be impeding you from answering God's call on your life?

**PRAY-**

Lord, help me accept your forgiveness for past mistakes, listen carefully for what you would have me to do, and do it confidently as Paul did. Amen.

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

**READ-** Old Testament: 1 Kings 17:8-24

The prophet Elijah, on the run from King Ahab who wants him dead because he prophesized the terrible drought, seeks refuge with a pagan widow just outside Ahab's kingdom. Her food is all gone and she faces starvation; yet she takes a chance and shares her last meal with Elijah.

**REFLECT-**

- What on earth possessed this poor widow to share her little bit of food with this stranger who claimed to be a holy man? He made unbelievable claims of an endless supply of meal and oil for her if she helped him. What does it take to convince you that something which lies before you is from God?

**PRAY-**

Father, I know you are calling me today to do something to serve you. Help me learn from the trust and obedience of this widow that even in impossible circumstances, you will prevail if I have faith. Amen.

Thursday, June 6, 2013

**READ-** The Gospel: Luke 7:11-17

Here, Jesus raises a dead son in a very public demonstration of his power and compassion. In many of his miracles, the element of the faith of the one seeking the miracle is credited with making it happen. In this case, Jesus is moved by the circumstances – the son is likely this woman's only means of support – and he restores his life simply for that reason.

**REFLECT-**

- Many times, God shows us great compassion even though we have not come to him with our need or asked for help simply because he loves us so much. We are called to do likewise with other people; to help, heal or care for someone out of God's compassion. Look for your chance to do that today.

**PRAY-**

O God, give me the eyes, ears and heart filled with your compassion that I may be an agent of your peace and healing for someone else. Amen.

Friday, June 7, 2013

**ACT-**

Focus Verse: Psalm 146:5, 7

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God... who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free.

God cares for the needs of people and the world through the hands and feet of those who love him. Where do you see injustice in this community? What can we do to help those in need? Who do you know who is a "prisoner" in some way – an addiction, an abusive relationship or other hurtful place where someone feels powerless to change? Each of us can be God's agent of change with people whom we know and situations we can influence. All it takes is prayer and courage.