



Monday, March 4, 2013

READ- The Old Testament: Joshua 5:9-12

As the Israelites prepared themselves to enter the Promised Land, they celebrated the Passover feast, reminding them of God's care for them in Egypt. The manna with which God had fed them in the wilderness stopped and they transitioned from wanderers to those who had a place to settle down and grow crops to feed themselves.

REFLECT-

- This was a major life transition for the Israelites. We each have those kinds of transitions – graduation, new job, marriage, children, perhaps divorce, death, job loss or serious illness. God will walk with us through those times, but we are to use fully all the gifts and resources God gives us, just as the Israelites did.

PRAY-

Lord, help me to use what you have given me for your Kingdom and your glory. Amen.

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

READ- The Epistle: II Corinthians 5:16-21

Paul cautions the Corinthians about judging one another based upon human standards – appearance, wealth, status, ethnicity, gender, etc. He encouraged them to see others as Christ sees them – as beloved children of God – regardless of the way the world may see them.

REFLECT-

- We are all sinners in need of God's grace. The only righteousness any of us can hope for is offered through Christ – by his sacrifice and with the power of his Spirit within us. We are in no position to judge anyone else – only God can do that. Our role is to share with others what Christ has done for us so that they may know him, too.

PRAY-

Father, help me to see other people today as you see them and to treat them as I would want to be treated. Amen.

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

READ- The Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The religious leaders could not understand how any respectable Jewish rabbi could hang around with folks who were sinners or unclean, so Jesus told them a story about two brothers – one who was a sinner and squandered his father's gifts; the other who obeyed his father, but whose heart was hard and who begrudged his father's mercy to others.

REFLECT-

- With whom do you identify most closely – the younger son who wasted his father's fortune and came home begging or the older son who had always done his duty at home and who was angry at his brother's welcome back? Neither son is without sin; yet one is receptive to his father's mercy and generosity and the other rejects it. How does the story apply to your life today?

PRAY-

O God, keep my heart soft and open, putting away anger or resentment, helping me remember you are the giver of all good things. Amen.

Thursday, March 7, 2013

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 32

To be forgiven by someone we love is like a huge weight lifted from our shoulders. To receive God's forgiveness can be life-changing. In the first five verses, the psalmist gives thanks for God's mercy; in the last six verses, he describes an appropriate response of one who is forgiven.

REFLECT-

- When we understand and appreciate how God has forgiven us, then we in turn must offer forgiveness to those who have hurt or wronged us. To whom do you need to offer forgiveness today?

PRAY-

O Lord, please take away my anger, fear and resentment so that I may offer forgiveness with my whole heart. Amen.

Friday, March 8, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: II Corinthians 5:20a

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us.

An ambassador is a representative of the highest rank sent out on behalf of someone (Christ). That representative is to communicate on behalf of Christ his message, his mission in the world, and the desire God has to be reconciled with the world. This faith we have is not just for us – it is to be shared with everyone we encounter in SOME way. If we follow Jesus' example, it will likely first be expressed in an act of compassion – feeding, healing, teaching, encouraging – which then opens the door for relationship with that person. As ambassadors for Christ, our first mission is to extend HIS love to a hurting world all around us. Look for opportunities to be that ambassador as you go about your day today.