



Monday, September 16, 2013

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 79:1-9

Everything has come crashing down in the world of the psalmist and he cries out here in pain, begging God to have mercy. Written in the time after Jerusalem was destroyed and the people taken into captivity, it seems that God has turned his back on his people.

REFLECT-

- All of us have times in our lives when it seems that everything we know and love has been uprooted and no matter how we cry out to God, it seems God is silent and unwilling to ease our suffering. We must take our cue from the psalmist and continue to pray and let God know our needs and hurts. God does not leave us alone.

PRAY-

Lord, in times of trouble help me to feel your presence, comfort and guide me, and give me your peace. Amen.

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

READ- Old Testament: Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1

All that Jeremiah had prophesied to the people – failure of their crops, famine, starvation – has now come to pass and Jeremiah grieves and calls out to God for mercy on their behalf. He understands that the people were unfaithful and disobedient to God and his calls for repentance fell on deaf ears – their current circumstances are their own doing. Yet he grieves.

REFLECT-

- We all must eventually wrestle with whether or not we believe a good and loving God causes bad things to happen and, if he does, is that punishment for sin? The Old Testament prophets made a direct connection between suffering and sin. What did Jesus tell us on this issue? What do you believe?

PRAY-

Thank you for sending us your Son, so that we may know your true and loving character, full of mercy, grace and love. Amen.

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

READ- The Epistle: I Timothy 2:1-7

In a day and time when “kings and all who are in high positions” were likely the very ones who were persecuting Christians for their faith, the epistle writer urges the church to pray for them, so that they “may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity” and affirms that God wants ALL people to be saved – even those who may be our enemies.

REFLECT-

- In our day and time when those in positions of power seem to be either opposed or oblivious to the Christian faith, we do well to listen to the epistle writer’s advice to pray for them. Likewise, we must remember that God wants everyone to hear the good news of salvation and we are the bearers of that gospel to all those we come in contact with.

PRAY-

Father, be with the leaders of our nation and other nations of the world. Help them to bring peace and justice that you desire for this world. Amen.

Thursday, September 19, 2013

READ- The Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Once again Jesus addresses the issues of money, truth and faithfulness in a parable about a dishonest steward. At face value, it seems that Jesus is praising the dishonest acts of the steward; yet vs. 10-13 are the heart of his message about faithfulness and trust.

REFLECT-

- Where are places in your life where you are “dishonest in a very little” (vs. 10)? The steward’s little dishonesties quickly escalated when in a time of trial. What other “masters” are you serving other than God? What would it take to make God your only master?

PRAY-

Gracious God, forgive me for those times where my choices and actions have not been true and faithful to what is right and help me make serving you my first priority in life. Amen.

Friday, September 20, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: Luke 16:10

Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much.

We usually learn all our life skills by starting small. Attention to the small opportunities we have each day to live faithfully to Christ’s teachings is our “schooling” for faithfulness in the major situations of our life. Gratitude for each small blessing we encounter during the day – the flavor of a fresh tomato, the smile of a friend, a beautiful sunset; simple kindnesses offered to others – a word of encouragement, a get well card to someone who is sick, a smile and greeting for the clerk who rings up our groceries. These are learned skills that prepare us for the challenges of life that may come our way or the opportunities to live out our faith courageously. Be faithful in the little things today so that you may learn to be faithful in much.