



Monday, November 3, 2014

**READ-** The Old Testament: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

After Joshua led the people into the promised land and they overcame the people living there, Joshua challenged the people to choose who they will serve – their pagan gods or Jehovah God who led them out of Egypt. He then affirms a new covenant for them to serve God only.

**REFLECT-**

- Joshua calls us to decide who is God in our lives. When have we placed some other “idol” (money, possessions, entertainment, comfort) before our service to God? As for you and your house, whom will you serve? What does that mean for how you spend your time and resources?

**PRAY-**

Lord, help me to set aside things today that distract me from loving and serving you with my whole heart. Amen.

Tuesday, November 4, 2014

**READ-** The Epistle: Romans 16:25-27

This passage is often read at funeral services because it offers great comfort to those who have lost loved ones – the promise of heaven and resurrection. Some in the church in Thessalonica wondered if they died before Jesus returned, would they miss out on Christ’s promises. This is assurance for us all that is not the case.

**REFLECT-**

- Do you believe in the resurrection of the dead when Christ comes again or is heaven a place far removed where we stay forever once we die? The scriptures promise that at Jesus’ second coming, heaven and earth will be united and God’s reign will begin.

**PRAY-**

O God, thank you for the promises of eternal life offered to us because of Christ’s saving work for us! Amen.

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

**READ-** The Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus’ parable would have been familiar to his listeners who knew the wedding rituals of that time. This passage underscores that no one knows the timing of Jesus’ return except God and so we must live in constant readiness. We must always “keep our lamps trimmed and burning”!

**REFLECT-**

- Keeping our lamps burning means that we live according to the teachings of Christ with mercy, justice, kindness, compassion and service to others. By so doing, our lights shine with Christ’s love to all we meet so that others might also believe and live.

**PRAY-**

Father, may my daily life be a beacon of your love to everyone I meet today. Amen.

Thursday, November 6, 2014

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 78:1-7

This portion of the psalm focuses on the importance of us teaching our children about God’s goodness, works of kindness and mercy, and the responsibilities of those who love God. Reading the bible is of utmost importance in passing along the faith because it contains the stories of God’s love for his people throughout the generations.

**REFLECT-**

- Who is your family or friends needs to hear about God from you? Is it your children or grandchildren, nieces or nephews or perhaps the child of a neighbor or good friend’s child? We can all teach the faith to the next generation by sharing the bible’s stories and the testimony of our own life experiences.

**PRAY-**

O God, help me to be bold in seeking out opportunities to share my faith with others, particularly the young people in my life. Amen.

Friday, November 7, 2014

**ACT-**

Focus Verse: Joshua 24:24b

The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.

Service and obedience – the responses to which we are called if our allegiance is to God. How might you live this out in your day today? In what ways can you actively serve God? How can you offer kindness, compassion, mercy or care to someone who is the “least of these” (always Jesus’ priority)? In what areas of your life do you need to be obedient to God’s will? It might be in the ways you use your money, in how you spend your time; it might be making a conscious choice to turn away from a sin or temptation that makes you turn away from God. Today, live into service and obedience to God in gratitude for God’s love and care in your life.