



Monday, January 13, 2014

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 40:1-11

The psalmist affirms his long-held trust in God and celebrates the times in which God has lifted him up “out of the slimy pit”. But this is not something to be kept to himself – he proclaims God’s goodness to all who will listen. The passage ends with a plea for God’s continued mercy.

REFLECT-

- In what ways might you “put your trust in the proud” or in “those who turn aside to false gods” (vs. 4)? What are the “false gods” we are tempted to worship in our consumer society? How can we keep our focus on God in the midst of those temptations?

PRAY-

Lord, help me to keep heart fixed firmly in your will so that my words and actions may be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

READ- Old Testament: Isaiah 49:1-7

The prophet reminds the people that all he told them would happen has come to pass and that, because of their own unfaithfulness to God, the terrible things he predicted are a reality. He has more to tell the people and challenges them to listen this time.

REFLECT-

- We often fail to listen to God’s word for us because it’s not what we want to hear. Perhaps God is calling us to change the way we live or to serve him in some way that will require sacrifice. In what ways may you be turning a deaf ear to God’s will for your life? Remember that God will provide all that you need for what you are to do.

PRAY-

O God, help me to listen for your Word and to be obedient to your will. Give me courage and help me to do your will joyfully. Amen.

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

READ- The Epistle: I Corinthians 1:1-9

Remember that the church in Corinth struggled in the midst of an affluent, pagan culture rife with temptations to stray away from God. Paul reminds Christians of the incredible gifts they have been given which are to be used for God’s glory. He encourages them to put on the strength of Christ so that they may stay firm in their faith.

REFLECT-

- God has given you gifts to be used for his glory. Are you using your gifts fully in the life of your church to do God’s work in the world? The beginning of a new year is an excellent time to take stock of your gifts and how you might use them to serve God.

PRAY-

Father, thank you for the unique gifts you have given me. Help me to know the ways in which I can use them for your glory. Amen.

Thursday, January 16, 2014

READ- The Gospel: John 1:29-42

John the Baptist publicly acknowledges Jesus as the “Lamb of God”, the one whom he came to announce to the world. John’s disciple Andrew then becomes Jesus’ disciple and introduces his brother Simon to Jesus. Jesus renames Simon, calling him Peter, meaning “rock”.

REFLECT-

- Think of the great expectations that John the Baptist, Andrew and Simon Peter must have had at this moment. This man Jesus was the one sent by God to save his people. Little did they know that the way ahead would be unlike anything they could imagine. God’s way is often not what we anticipate.

PRAY-

O God, help me to trust you even when what lies ahead of me is uncertain or difficult and to be confident that your way is the best one. Amen.

Friday, January 17, 2014

ACT-

Focus Verse: Psalm 40:10

I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation.

We often miss opportunities in our daily life to share our testimony of what Jesus has done for us with other people. How has God touched your life this week? What great blessings have you received? Is there a friend, relative or a stranger whom you meet who needs to hear about that from you? The psalmist knows the importance of going and telling others what remarkable things God has done in your life and offering them the same opportunity through faith in Christ. Do not hide your righteousness in your heart! You can do it today – it will be a blessing.