



Monday, January 27, 2014

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 15

The “tent” in verse 1 probably refers to the tabernacle in which persons worshipped. The verses that follow in response to the initial question provide a framework of right living for the people which God would find acceptable. The guidance is still prudent today.

REFLECT-

- What does it mean to “speak the truth from the heart” (verse 2)? Speaking the truth must always be tempered with kindness, compassion, and good common sense; otherwise, relationships may be damaged irreparably. However, there are times when difficult truth must be spoken. How do you make that judgment?

PRAY-

Lord, help me to always choose my words carefully, keeping in mind who might be hurt or influenced in some negative way. Yet, when difficult truth needs to be spoken, give me discernment and courage to do it. Amen.

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

READ- Old Testament: Micah 6:1-8

The prophet Micah first calls the Israelites to account for breaking their covenant with God and reminds them of all God has done for them in the past. Then, in a beautiful passage (verses 6-8), he says that God does not want any kind of human or animal sacrifice as a penance. He wants the people to live with justice, kindness and humility.

REFLECT-

- What does it mean for you in your daily life to “do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God” (verse 8)? In what ways do you live out those things that are pleasing to God? Which of the three is most challenging for you?

PRAY-

Lord, help me to be mindful today of opportunities I have to live with justice, kindness and a humble heart that reflects your love. Amen.

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

READ- The Epistle: I Corinthians 1:18-31

People in the Corinthian church faced ridicule and disdain from the Jews and Greeks in their culture because they placed their faith in a man who was put to death as a criminal. Paul cautions them that what seems like “foolishness” to the world is the source of their salvation and they most hold fast to their faith.

REFLECT-

- In what ways does our popular culture reject our beliefs and the way of life we are called to as Christians? What does the wisdom of the world say about power and happiness? What is it that “foolishness” of Christ crucified and resurrected tells us about our true source of strength and joy?

PRAY-

Father, help me to tune out the voices of our popular culture that distract me from hearing your voice. Keep me focused and faithful. Amen.

Thursday, January 30, 2014

READ- The Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

In this passage from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, this famous teaching called the Beatitudes immediately grabs our attention because of the unexpected life experiences that Jesus tells us “blessed”. For these “blessings” to take place, we must learn to live in community with one another according to God’s priorities.

REFLECT-

- Does one of these ways of being describe you well? Which of these ways of blessedness is the most difficult for you to live into? Which of these blessings named by Jesus do you need the most right now?

PRAY-

O God, I ask for your blessing on my life and in my deepest need and that I may live so that I am a blessing to others in their time of need. Amen.

Friday, January 31, 2014

ACT-

Focus Verse: Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

God’s peace is not just the absence of war, violence or conflict. Receiving God’s peace involves accepting the assurance of God’s deep love and mercy for us. Becoming a “peacemaker” means trying each day to live out the Kingdom values of justice, compassion, kindness and caring in all our relationships, in the choices we make, and in what we do with our material resources. Being a “peacemaker” does not always mean smoothing things over or “going along to get along”. Today, be especially aware of being open to accepting the peace God offers you and to share that peace with others. Who needs a kind word or some kind of help from you today? Who needs someone to stand up or speak up for them in their time of trouble? Who have you hurt in some way who needs to hear words of apology and healing from you?