



Monday, March 10, 2014

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 121

This psalm was often read by pilgrims to Jerusalem as they made their way to worship in the temple there. They are to “lift up their eyes” to the mountain of the Lord. God’s faithfulness is emphasized – the word “keep” is used six times in eight verses to describe how God is always there to protect and guide his people.

**REFLECT -**

- What a comfort this beautiful psalm can be, especially in our times of trouble. To know that God never leaves us and is always directing our steps offers us assurance to trust Him when we are afraid or unsure of our way.

**PRAY-**

Lord, thank you for your faithfulness – for your love and care and your constant presence with me today. Help me to be faithful as well. Amen.

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

**READ-** Old Testament: Genesis 12:1-4a

There was no burning bush or cloud on the mountaintop in Abram’s conversation with God that changed the course of humankind’s relationship with God. God simply spoke and Abram obeyed and a new covenant was struck. We are descendents of that miraculous covenant.

**REFLECT -**

- Think about Abram’s faith and obedience. He was old, as was his wife Sarai, and childless. How was he to make such a journey into the unknown and how on earth would God make of him “a great nation”??? It didn’t sound reasonable or easy or even possible. What is God calling you to do that you may be resisting for similar reasons? What would it take for you to be obedient?

**PRAY-**

Gracious God, help me to hear your voice as clearly as Abram did and to be faithful and obedient, just as he and Sarai were. Amen.

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

**READ-** The Epistle: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Paul here cautions the Roman church that adherence to the Jewish law or their good works do not make one righteous – only God can do that. God offered Abraham undeserved grace and righteousness and Abraham responded to that gift in faith and obedience.

**REFLECT -**

- God always reaches out to us first in grace, mercy and love. If we respond in faith and obedience, God will bless our efforts in often remarkable ways. Yet it is not our efforts which earns us God’s blessing - that is a free gift of God. In what ways has God blessed you today? Name those blessings aloud or in writing.

**PRAY-**

Father, I thank you for all the ways in which you have blessed me. Help me to be a blessing to everyone whom I encounter today. Amen.

Thursday, March 13, 2014

**READ-** The Gospel: John 3:1-17

What a contrast between Abraham’s response to God and Nicodemus’ response to Jesus! Abraham didn’t ask questions; he simply believed and obeyed. Nicodemus’ need to figure it out and for what Jesus told him to line up with what he believed to be true kept him from receiving the gift Jesus offered him – eternal life.

**REFLECT -**

- What is standing in the way of you fully accepting God’s gift to you? Are you willing to step out in faith as Abraham did without having to have all the answers first?

**PRAY-**

O God, help me to trust you completely even though I may not always understand your ways. Help me to be bold today, living out my faith in ways that glorify you. Amen.

Friday, March 14, 2014

**ACT-**

**Focus Verse: Genesis 12:4a**

**So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.**

Respond to God’s call on your life today in some tangible way.

- Is there someone you know who is lonely or hurting who needs your care today? Visit them or take them a meal.
- Is there someone with whom you need to be reconciled over a past hurt or disagreement? Invite that person to lunch, call them or send them a card of apology.
- What are your gifts for service in God’s church that you are not living into? Make a commitment to sing in the choir, teach Sunday School or Children’s Church or work in the food ministry.
- Can you give out of your abundance to help someone in need? Donate money or unneeded clothing or household items to the church or a local caring outreach ministry.