



Monday, July 28, 2014

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 17:1-7, 15

The psalmist proclaims his innocence before God – perhaps he has been falsely accused of wrongdoing or blamed unjustly by those around him. He cries out to the God who knows his heart to vindicate him before his accusers.

REFLECT-

- Sometimes repairing fractured human relationships and resolving hurts and disagreements is simply beyond our abilities. Once a trust has been violated or someone is falsely accused or slandered, only God can heal those wounds.

PRAY-

Lord, I pray today for the healing of broken relationships and the wounds we inflict upon each other. Help me to be an instrument of your peace. Amen.

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

READ- The Old Testament: Genesis 32:22-31

Jacob's past deceptions are about to catch up with him. The next day, he is to meet his brother Esau and his four hundred men for the first time since he stole Esau's blessing. Jacob is afraid for himself and his family. In that dark night of the soul, he wrestles and receives a blessing, a new name and a new way of life.

REFLECT-

- What things from your past do you still wrestle with? What sins and mistakes continue to haunt you despite God's forgiveness? How has God blessed you in spite of your past? Jacob received a new name, symbolic of blessing and a new and different life. The next day, he reconciled with his brother. With whom do you need to be reconciled or receive forgiveness?

PRAY-

O God, give me the courage and humility to ask for forgiveness and try to heal a wounded relationship or to help someone else to do so. Amen.

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

READ- The Epistle: Romans 9:1-5

Paul mourns the fact that so many of the Jewish people cannot accept the salvation offered through Jesus Christ as Messiah. He says he'd even give up his own salvation if it would change that fact. His grief over their unbelief is obviously great.

REFLECT-

- There are many in our community who choose not to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. Most every family has those who either don't know Christ or are indifferent to him. Only through prayer and the faithful example of the way you live may those hearts be changed.

PRAY-

Father, help me to be bold to share my faith through my words and the way I live my life so that others may know the love of Christ. Amen.

Thursday, July 31, 2014

READ- The Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus needs time by himself to pray and sends his disciples on by boat. He will join them later. In the middle of a storm, he comes to them walking on the water. Peter boldly steps out of the boat to go to him, yet needs Jesus to lift him up. Once again, Jesus calms the storm.

REFLECT-

- Sometimes we, like Peter, want to "step out of the boat" in faith to answer God's call on our life, but we lack confidence. When we feel afraid or feel like we are sinking, holding fast to Jesus through prayer and the words of scripture can lift us and see us through.

PRAY-

O God, give me the faith and trust needed to do your will, even though I may feel inadequate and afraid. Amen.

Friday, August 1, 2014

ACT-

Focus Verse: Psalm 17:15

As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.

If possible, begin your day by spending time with this verse. Write it down and carry it with you in your pocket. Focus in all your activities and interactions with others on being "satisfied" – content and filled with thanksgiving. Focus on your many blessings and give thanks for them – a place to live, clean clothes and a bath, food to eat, friends and family, health, the beauty of the world around us. Set aside any desire for things and be content and grateful with what you have. And because you are "satisfied", content with God at your side, make an effort to be a blessing to everyone you encounter today. Offer a kind word, share from your abundance, be aware of those who may be hurting and encourage them.