



Monday, August 25, 2014

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 90:1-6, 14-17

In the first five verses, the psalmist reminds us of our weakness and mortality as humans and of the infinite power and influence of our God. The last three verses ask that God continue his gracious work in our lives and throughout our world.

**REFLECT-**

- What do you think the psalmist means by saying God has been our “dwelling place in all generations”? Is God your dwelling place? Do you rest confidently in God’s care each day? Do you rely on God for shelter in the storms of life? Does God keep you safe?

**PRAY-**

Lord, I thank you for your gracious and loving presence in my life and all around me in the world. Amen.

Tuesday, August 26, 2014

**READ-** The Old Testament: Exodus 3:1-15

We find Moses here living in the land of Midian, far away from Egypt where he grew up, tending the flocks of his father-in-law Jethro. Moses fled Egypt after killing an Egyptian who was mistreating an Israelite. Yet God has a plan for him to return and lead his people to freedom.

**REFLECT-**

- God spoke to Moses when he approached the burning bush out of curiosity. The bush was simply intended to get Moses’ attention. In what ways might God be trying to get your attention? Moses took the time to examine something which seemed trivial, but it changed his life completely. Pay attention and take the time to look and listen for God’s movement in your life. God may have something special for you to do!

**PRAY-**

O God, help me to be aware of your presence – looking and listening for all the ways you make yourself known. Amen.

Wednesday, August 27, 2014

**READ-** The Epistle: Romans 12:9-21

Paul offers the Roman church a very practical (but challenging) list of rules for Christian living which are taken directly from the teachings of Jesus.

**REFLECT-**

- Read the passage one verse at a time and reflect on whether your words and actions line up with the intent of each verse. Which “rules” are most difficult for you? Which one most closely applies to an important situation in your life right now?

**PRAY-**

Father, teach me how to love genuinely, avoid evil, work diligently, and do good to those who do not wish me well. Amen.

Thursday, August 28, 2014

**READ-** The Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

Jesus tries to make his disciples understand here what lay ahead of him. He knew that he must suffer and die and then be raised again to fulfill the will of his Father. Yet that was not what the disciples expected of their Messiah or for themselves. Jesus overrules Peter’s protests in response.

**REFLECT-**

- There is a movement in contemporary Christianity which interprets God’s blessings in terms of comfortable living, abundant possessions, good health, and prosperity. The disciples of Jesus then and now are not promised an easy life. Yet if we are faithful, despite hardships, God’s presence with us is the blessing.

**PRAY-**

O God, thank you for your love, guidance, strength and comfort in the joys and sorrows of this life and your promise of eternal life to come. Amen.

Friday, August 29, 2014

**ACT-**

**Focus Verse:** Romans 12:11-12

**Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.**

What work does God have for you today? What place of service in sharing God’s love is open to you right now? Actively seek out a way to live out your faith today. Give thanks for your blessings and ask God for what you need to sustain you today. Then look to the needs of others. Is someone sick or lonely or in need? Could a visit or a helping hand from you make a difference? How might you share from your abundance to help someone who is in need? Who do you need to lift up in prayer? Watch for the “burning bushes” God may send your way today and when something – maybe something very small and seemingly trivial – catches your attention, take the time to examine it. Listen for God’s voice and answer his call.