

Weekly Devotions for October 15-20, 2018

Monday, October 15 -

Quote for the day:

“If it doesn’t challenge you, it doesn’t change you.”

Read: 2Kings 5.8-18

Ponder: We do not like change. Change requires us to let go of what is and seek out the possibility of what might be. Sometimes the most difficult changes are the ones that require the least amount of effort. We continue to do what we have always done thinking it will result in the desired outcome...some would say that is the definition of insanity. Only by changing do we grow. As people of faith, we are called on to make changes in our relationship with the Divine and how we live that out. May we not be afraid to change.

Challenge: What changes or changes is the Spirit challenging you to explore? What do you fear because of this call to change? How will you take the next step to make that change?

Tuesday, October 16 -

Quote for the day:

“God didn’t bring you this far to leave you.”

Read: 1 Kings 19.7-17

Ponder: Running away. Most children at some point threaten to run away when they are younger. There is the reality in our society that many teenagers leave home because it is not a safe environment for them. Look at the number of children/youth in the foster care system. Elijah feared for his life and ran. No matter how far he ran or where he hid, God was there. Not in the chaos of the world, but in the silence.

Challenge: Spend time in silence. This is more challenging than you think. We are surrounded by noise in the house, our cars, even outside. Find a place where you can truly listen for the voice of the Creator. Even in the worst of times, we are cared for.

Wednesday, October 17 -

Quote for the day:

“Pray...even when it is hardest to pray.”

Read: Luke 22.39-46

Ponder: Prayer is often done in desperation and in times of difficulty. If we are truly in a relationship with God, it requires us to communicate with one another. Without investing in that relationship, it dwindles and disappears.

Challenge: How do you pray? How often do you pray? Scripture tells us Daniel prayed three times a day. No matter how often we pray, we can always pray more. If praying is difficult, try this: A-adoration, C-confession, T-thanksgiving, S-supplication (requests).

Thursday, October 18 -

Quote for the day:

“Becoming is a long, slow process.”

Read: Luke 13.6-9

Ponder: Spiritual growth requires a commitment for the long haul. Relying upon what we learned in Sunday School, Confirmation, or 20 minute sermon is not enough. There must be something that feeds your soul and spirit. To bring about truth growth; otherwise, you are starving your soul.

Challenge: How do you feed your soul? By singing, reading, study, asking questions, journaling? Find some way to “feed your soul.” Ask that all important question about God and then feed on what you find. A warning...this will only lead to more questions. Growth is eternal.

Friday, October 19 -

Quote for the day:

“Complacency is the death of spiritual growth.”

Read: Isaiah 32.9-15

Ponder: The prophet Isaiah is warning the people of Israel that complacency is the path to their downfall. That there are consequences to being satisfied with the way things are. We speak of spiritual growth and sometimes forget that if we are not growing, we are dying. Complacency has brought the church and followers of Christ to a crossroads. Will we labor to bring about spiritual fruit in our lives or sit and wither away?

Challenge: Where are you called to do more? This is not merely physically or monetarily; though it may very well be one of those. How do you serve others that your own soul may be replenished. When your spiritual cup is empty how do you refill it? Do something today that gives glory to God.

Saturday, October 20 -

Quote for the day:

“It’s not enough to be compassionate. You must act!”

Read: Luke 4.16-21, Matthew 25.31-46

Ponder: In preparation for tomorrow’s service, ask yourself and what “risk-taking mission and social justice” means to you.

Challenge: Be prepared to share during worship, how we as individuals and as a church are currently being a people of “risk taking mission and social justice” and where we could stretch ourselves to do more.