

# Weekly Devotions

October 22-27, 2018

Monday, October 22 -

Quote for the day:

*“Living with fear stops us from taking risks, and if you don’t go out on the branch, you’re never going to get the best fruit!”*

Read: Numbers 13.25—14.4

**Ponder:** By Flame and Cloud the Creator led the Hebrew slaves out of Egypt, had provided for their needs through water flowing out of rock—manna from the heavens—and quail from the sky. Yet, they continued to complain about their situation. How quickly they forgot their circumstances. When it comes time for them to enter Canaan there are two reports: the land is fruitful and there are giants that live there. Joshua is ready to lead them into the promised land but there are those who were afraid. Fear spreads quickly and they are ready to go back to Egypt....back to slavery.

**Challenge:** When have you feared what was to come? Was it truly something of which you had control? Did you take the risk or not? Do you regret not taking the risk when you had the chance? Is there a risk you can take today?

Tuesday, October 23-

Quote for the day:

*“Great things never came from comfort zones.”*

Read: Exodus 4.5-15

**Ponder:** Moses’ call from God through a burning bush is a memorable biblical narrative. Often we forget that Moses was NOT a willing participant. He comes up with excuses. Life was comfortable and he didn’t want to leave it. Yet without Moses, the Hebrews would have remained slaves of pharaoh.

**Challenge:** Our society offers many opportunities for us to use our voices and actions to make changes. Where can you use your voice to support those in need? What keeps you from speaking up?

Wednesday, October 24 -

Quote for the day:

*“Train yourself to let go of everything you fear to lose.”*

Read: Matthew 19.16-22

**Ponder:** Materialism is rampant in our culture. Success is measured by what we have, not what we have done.

**Challenge:** What are you afraid to lose? Will you risk what is...in order to achieve what is possible? If you still have the dream and you can not shake it...we must risk to achieve it. Leaving material goods are just that...material. Much of the beauty in our lives are things we can not own. What can you let go of this day?

Thursday, October 25-

Quote for the day:

*“Stand up for what is right, even if you stand alone!”*

Read: John 8.1-11

**Ponder:** An adulterous woman was to be stoned according to the law. The trap was set. Jesus would support the law and stoning or would go against the law. Jesus saw the injustice of the situation and stood up and challenged those who had not sinned to go ahead and stone her. The eldest of the crowd left first and then the younger men. One person makes a huge difference.

**Challenge:** The woman was a means to an end. The religious authorities wanted to trap Jesus and were willing to sacrifice the life of a woman to do it. People from all walks of life are used for others to get what they want; not caring who they stop on to get there. We have all been there. Ask God for the courage to stand up for what is right even in the face of great odds. Justice in our society is not truly blind and we must call out injustice.

Friday, October 26 -

Quote for the day:

*“We must care for all if social justice is to be attained.”*

Read: Acts of the Apostles 10.9-48

**Ponder:** You have only one chance to make a first impression. It takes 30 seconds for us to decide whether we like someone or not...shorter if we have preconceived notions. Peter had his own prejudices about those who were Greek and not Jewish. His understanding was only the Jews deserved the message of Jesus Christ. The dream or vision was a wake up call from God that all are worthy. That what Peter once thought to be true, is no longer.

**Challenge:** This is a question of who is worthy of our time and action. Do we act on what we feel will benefit us the most? Do we act on what will be for the greatest good? Are we quick to realize when we have a voice that comes from a place of privilege? God did not call us to make judgements of others, but to share the grace and love so freely given to us all. Where do you need to open up your hearts to a new reality and hope for others?

Saturday, October 27 -

Quote for the day:

*“It always seems impossible until it’s done!”*

Read: Mark 6.35-44

**Ponder:** The disciples were asked to give the crowd something to eat. They quickly thought of buying food, costing nine months wages. They could not comprehend any other option.

**Challenge:** What have you experienced in your life that you thought was impossible and yet you succeeded? The largest obstacle in life is often ourselves. Nothing is impossible unless we say it is.