



## ▶ DAILY DEVOTIONAL.

**Saturday/Sunday, 10/20-21/18**

**“A Door to the Future”**

**Revelation 3:14-22 (NIV)**

*To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm — neither hot nor cold — I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

The devotions this week were a blast for me to write! They allowed me to channel my inner seminary nerd. The intended purpose of the devotions this week is to think about the *mission Dei*, that is, the mission of God. We will explore the core principles of what it means to participate in the mission. The challenge will be to uncover how we participate as individuals and as the church. I hope you enjoy reading this week as much as I enjoyed writing it. Know that you are blessed!

- Pastor Britton

**Family Activity:** Use your best announcer voice for this next line. “Welcome to the family taste test challenge!” Select drinks or foods your kids would like to sample. Have your family sample the different items and talk about which one is better. For example, offer hot chocolate that is hot and at room temperature. Offer cold soda and soda at room temperature. Use a blindfold when taste testing to make it even more fun. Take a vote to see which one tasted better. Talk about how these drinks taste better when they are served the way they should be (i.e., hot chocolate is better when it’s hot, soda is better when it is fresh and cold). Relate the taste test challenge back to our faith. Individuals, families and churches are better when actively following God. Complete the activity by allowing your kids to drink a cup of hot chocolate or soda together!

**Monday, 10/22/18**

**“The Great Commission”**

**Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)**

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

- The passage above is often referred to as the Great Commission. It is a foundational passage for Christians. It is a sending forth of the disciples into the ministry. You may be asking yourself, what does this passage have to do with me today? It has everything to do with you. All Christians are to take part in this ministry. Have you ever thought about your own ministry? What does that look like in your life at this moment?
- I always tell students that they have a power in ministry that no one else has. It is an amazing thing to hear the testimony of a teenager. It speaks to the heart of people in a way that I can't at this point in my life. We all have gifts to use in ministry. We all have a unique ability to relate to different types of people. Using those gifts together, we can reach more people for Christ. How can you use your unique voice to reach people for Christ?

**Prayer:** God, I thank you for the way you ask me to participate in ministry. You want me to be a voice for You in the world. What an incredible honor. Help me to uncover my uniqueness in ministry. May I be a humble servant who boldly follows you wherever you need me to go. Amen.

**Tuesday, 10/23/18**

**“Good News to Who?”**

**Luke 4:17-21 (NIV)**

*And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.*

- The scene of this passage is a crowded synagogue. Jesus picks up the large scroll and reads from Isaiah. In this passage, Jesus declares his mission statement. It is a call to those in attendance to remember people on the fringe of society. Do you think the people gathered there decided to participate with Jesus? Would you participate in a mission like this?
- The word gospel means good news. Mike Slaughter, a United Methodist pastor at Ginghamburg UMC in Ohio, often says, “It’s not good news unless it’s good news to the poor.” This passage shows that Jesus was outwardly and publicly concerned with the poor. How does this change the way you interpret the good news?

**Prayer:** God, reveal the best way I can participate in a mission with those who are lost. Fill my heart with compassion for the least in the world. Create in my mind a preference for the poor. Amen.

**Wednesday, 10/24/18**

**“Witnesses”**

**Acts 1:8 (NIV)**

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

- This scripture promises us the power of the Holy Spirit. With that power, we are to be witnesses among the earth. We witness by the way we think, live and act. This is just as true when people are watching as when no one is around. How can we be a witness when no one is looking? How does this prepare us to be a better witness in other moments in our lives?
- The passage says we should witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and all the earth. That's like saying we should witness in Kansas City, Missouri, the United States, and the entire world. There truly is no limit on where we should witness. It takes a global church to do that. In what place have you been called to serve? Locally? Regionally? Internationally?

**Prayer:** God, during this prayer I check all my selfishness at the door. Search my heart and remove any corruption within me. Purify the motives of my heart. Make me your witness now and for the rest of my life. Amen.

**Thursday, 10/25/18**

**“Sacrifice”**

**Romans 12:1 (NIV)**

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship.*

- What an incredibly difficult way to participate with the mission of God. We are to be a living sacrifice. That means we must be willing to give up our plans, comforts and dreams. God calls us to do this in small and big ways. I'll give you an example. I am a huge fan of the Chiefs. However, my Sunday schedule as a pastor doesn't really allow me to watch the games very often. That's my small sacrifice. What might be a small sacrifice you need to make for God?
- Large sacrifices don't come around too often but have drastic implications on our lives. I have seen some give up a promising career to work in ministry. I have seen some change their career trajectory to participate more fully in the life of the church. I have seen some give lots of time and money to start up a new ministry in their community. Where might God be calling you to a big sacrifice?

**Prayer:** God, I plant myself by Your promise. I know that in sacrificing my life I will attain life itself. Sacrifice, though, is easier said than done. Help me to begin in small ways. Show me where I can make a small sacrifice. If I can take one small step toward you, I know I can take another. Lead me to your heart through my series of sacrifices. Amen.

**Friday, 10/26/18**

**“For Goodness Sake”**

**Micah 6:8 (NIV)**

*God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

- God created the water, land, sky, living creatures and humans, and called all of it good. What is good for some may not be good for others. Knowing what is good helps us to participate in God’s mission. To do good we must act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. How might these three traits ground you in your spiritual journey?
- These three traits cannot be lived out in isolation. We cannot act justly unless we are around people who need justice. We cannot offer mercy if we don’t face those who have done us harm. We cannot walk humbly with God if no one can see into our life. How might you put yourself in situations to practice justice, mercy or humbleness?

**Prayer:** God, You are just. You are merciful. You are the source of all goodness in the world. My prayer is to embody justice and mercy in a way that is pleasing to You. I do it not to exalt myself, but to glorify You. May the earth be covered in Your justice and mercy. Amen.

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