



▶ DAILY DEVOTIONAL.

Saturday/Sunday, 11/10-11/18

“Generosity”

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Monday, 11/12/18

“Refreshed”

Proverbs 11:24-25

*One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.*

*A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

- Studies over the years have shown that generosity — giving freely, no matter what it may be — is directly related to our mental, emotional and spiritual well-being. It is the experience of most that giving is an entirely refreshing experience. Scripture makes clear, throughout, that this is true simply because God is like that. God freely gives of himself, and we who are created in the image of God are intended to reflect such generosity with everything we are and have. Have you experienced refreshment through generosity? What are some things you find it easy to give freely (time, money, material possessions, prayer, etc.)? What are some things you find it difficult to give? How might you refresh another person during your day today? This could be through encouragement, time, a smile, a meal, money, etc.

Prayer: Holy God, you have created us to reflect who you are. We thank you for the endless generosity you show us through your great love for us. Help us, today, to give of ourselves and our things to experience and bring about your refreshment in this world. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Tuesday, 11/13/18

“Love in Action”

1 John 3:16-18

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

- We often talk about generosity in terms of monetary giving. It certainly is that, but only in part. We practice giving of our monetary resources in an effort to be generous people with all that we are and have. Our “being,” then, affects our “doing” — which, in turn, affects our “being” even more, making our “doing” that much more effective. As such, we exist in a cycle of continuous growth. As 1 John makes clear, this growth is growth in the love of Jesus Christ. So, generosity is one important way that we put the love of Jesus Christ into action.
- Spend some time thinking about your typical Tuesday. Who do you generally interact with at home, at work, out running errands, etc.? What is one way that you can put the love of Jesus into action today? How might you carry that over into every day?

Prayer: Holy God, we love you knowing that you first loved us. We want to be faithful in following you. Holy Spirit, bring to mind, throughout our day, ways that we can put the love of Jesus into action. Help us to live lives of putting your love into action. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Wednesday, 11/14/18

“Cheerful Giver”

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

- As followers of Jesus, what are some of the things that we are called to “sow”? In what ways do you sow generously? What are some of the effects of living a generous lifestyle? For you? For others? In what ways have you experienced joy or cheerfulness in giving?

Prayer: Holy God, help us to order our lives so that we may sow seeds of your love in the world. Give us cheerful and joy-filled hearts to live the life of generosity you have shown us in and through Jesus. It is in his name that we pray. Amen.

Thursday, 11/15/18

“Giving in Secret”

Matthew 6:1-4

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

- So much of scripture, when talking about living generously, focuses on the poor, needy and marginalized. This largely forgotten segment of first-century society was a central focus of Jesus’ earthly ministry. Jesus’ earthly ministry was all part of God’s righteousness and justice being lived out. The Jews at the time practiced almsgiving to the needy, but here, it seems that Jesus is making a contrast in motivation between the practices of the early Jews and the way that his followers are to live. It is the distinction between conduct directed toward human affirmation, and conduct directed solely toward God. “Giving in secret” is a way for us to practice orienting and directing our lives toward God. What do you think it means to give in secret? Is this something you practice? If not, what might that look like for you?

Prayer: Holy God, you know all things, including the focus and desires of our hearts. Help us to direct our lives to you, not seeking human affirmation, but seeking to grow in our knowledge and love of you. Help us also to live as vessels of your righteousness and justice amongst the poor and marginalized amongst us. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Friday, 11/16/18

“God’s Promise”

Psalms 41:1-3

*Blessed are those who have regard for the weak;
the LORD delivers them in times of trouble.*

*The LORD protects and preserves them —
they are counted among the blessed in the land —
he does not give them over to the desire of their foes.*

*The LORD sustains them on their sickbed
and restores them from their bed of illness.*

- From the earliest chapters in Genesis, to the wonderful picture of restoration we get at the end of Revelation, scripture witnesses to God and his promises being fulfilled. It is in Jesus Christ that God’s promises are fulfilled, in their fulness. Ultimately, God’s promises are all about restoration; of all creation, including all humanity. In the now-but-not-yet of God’s Kingdom, we experience God’s promises through deliverance, protection, preservation, blessing and sustaining. The psalmist, here, gives voice to the fulness of God’s promises being brought to fruition.
- In what ways have you experienced these aspects of God’s promises?

Prayer: Use these words of God's promises to guide you in prayer throughout the day.

Deliver
Protect
Preserve
Bless
Sustain
Restore

*This week's devotional was written by
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