



▶ DAILY DEVOTIONAL.

Saturday/Sunday, 11/17-18/18

“Staying in Love With God Through Helping Others”

Luke 17:11-19 (NIV)

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him — and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

In writing the devotions this week, I found myself asking all types of questions about helping others. Why is it important to help others? How much should we help? Who should we be helping? How do I add yet another thing to my already hectic schedule? My goal is to create a sense of peace and joy that comes from helping others. I hope you’ll join me this week. God bless!

- Pastor Britton

Family Activity: Gather the family around a table along with the following supplies: a few copper pennies that are dirty, a container, vinegar and salt. Make a vinegar and salt solution in the container. Mix it well with lots of salt so that the solution is completely saturated. Dip the pennies into the solution to see them regain their shine. Another alternative is to take your finger, dip it in the solution, and rub it on the pennies to clean them. Talk about the way the pennies are made like new when exposed to the right “mixture.” Jesus is a lot like that with people. Whenever we meet Jesus, we are healed and made like new!

Monday, 11/19/18

“Reverence and Love”

2 Chronicles 28:13-15 (CEB)

“Don’t bring the captives here,” they told them. “Your plan will only add to our sin and guilt before the Lord. We’re already guilty enough, and great anger is already directed at Israel.” So the warriors released the captives and brought the loot before the officers and the whole assembly. Then people named for this task took charge of the captives and dressed everyone who was naked with items taken from the loot. They gave them clothing, sandals, food and drink, and bandaged their wounds. Everyone who couldn’t walk they placed on donkeys, and they brought them to Jericho, Palm City, near their Judean relatives. Then they returned to Samaria.

- The passage above describes a war between the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Israel overpowers Judah and with it come all the spoils of war including possessions and prisoners. However, as they march back with the prisoners, people notice something is not right. They say, “We have already done enough damage in the war. Do we really need to enslave these people?” Next, something incredible happens. In a land full of war and violence, mercy is given. People are clothed, fed, cared for, and returned to their homes.¹ Why would the people do this? I believe their reverence for God caused them to change their minds. They stopped, evaluated their actions, and responded out of love.
- Take a moment to pause. Think about God’s power and offer reverence to God. In what one way can you respond with love today?

Prayer: Almighty God, we acknowledge you are the one in charge. You are the Lord over all things. You know the intimate details of our hearts. Look into our lives. Convict us where we have failed. Affirm us in our acts of righteousness. Help us to respond with love. Amen.

Tuesday, 11/20/18

“Lean on Me”

Galatians 6:2 (CEB)

Carry each other’s burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.

- Whenever I read this passage, I think of the song “Lean on Me” by Bill Withers. The song talks about different seasons of life. At one point, you may need my help. At another point, I may need your help. What season are you at in life right now? Do you need the help of others, or are you at a place where you can help others?
- One of the lines in the song says, “Please swallow your pride” which speaks to our inability to ask for help. I have found asking for help to be one of the most difficult things to do in life. The truth is the law of Christ is fulfilled when we do so. We must ask for help to give the opportunity for others to help. When we do this, we create a glimpse of God’s Kingdom here on earth.

Prayer: God, as we move through different seasons of life, let us be there for one another. Let us care for one another. Clear the spaces of our calendar to make us available whenever people need us. Let us not be afraid to ask for help. Let us lean on one another to bring your Kingdom here. Amen.

¹ <http://www.thesacredpage.com/2008/05/good-samaritans-of-old-testament.html> Accessed on 11.6.18

Wednesday, 11/21/18

“Heaping Portions”

Luke 6:38 (NIV)

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

- We are just coming off the Halloween season. I am reminded of the houses I would visit trick or treating during my childhood. There was one house that would give me a heaping portion of candy. I was excited about the candy, but what I didn't realize is the person was teaching me how to be generous. How have others in your life taught you to be generous? Name someone that comes to mind and thank God for them.
- Have you ever opened a bag of potato chips only to be disappointed that the bag is more empty than full? This passage talks about giving in such a way that blesses others over and above the “appearance” of blessing them. When we give, we truly do it out of the kindness of our hearts to help other people. What is one way you can give a heaping portion to help another person this week?

Prayer: Generous God, I am grateful for the grace and mercy You offer to me freely each day. I truly have received more than my fair portion from You. Help me to be generous with my resources and in patience, encouragement and help of others.

Thursday, 11/22/18

“Angels Among Us”

Hebrews 13:1-2 (CEB)

Keep loving each other like family. Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it.

- The passage applies two traits to the people we are to help. The first trait is to think of them like a family member. Family ties are strong. They cannot be broken. They keep people together despite many differences. They can even force us to overcome the greatest of differences. The next time you help someone, think of them as a beloved member of your family, and more importantly, God's family.
- The second trait about people we help is they could be angels. The stranger we meet in the grocery line, the parent at the soccer game, or the person sitting next to you in church may be an angel. How can you recognize others as angels in your midst? How does this change how you welcome and respond to them?

Prayer: Welcoming God, let me be aware of my surroundings. May the way I help others start with a change in my own attitude. May it start with the way I greet people. Create in me a spirit that recognizes others as my own family members, as potential angels in my midst. Amen.

Friday, 11/23/18

“God Hears Our Cry”

Psalm 18:6 (CEB)

In my distress I cried out to the Lord; I called to my God for help. God heard my voice from his temple; I called to him for help, and my call reached his ears.

- What a beautiful psalm. I don't mean to relish in the pain of another, but I love how a person can cry out to God and be confident in God hearing that prayer. When we don't know where else to turn, we can cry out to God. Do you know the best part? God will hear it! God is our helper. What are you needing to cry out to God today?
- The most terrifying thing to me about crying out to God is this. What if God hears my cry but doesn't answer it? I'm not sure how God answers prayer. What I do know is that when we cry out to God, God gives us the grace to make it through any situation. We can help others because God's grace is such a help to us. In what areas do you need grace in your life?

Prayer: Thank You Lord for hearing the cries of my heart. More than that, You are a God who hears the cries of the people. Hear my cries today. Take the heavy burdens that I am carrying and help me to toss them off, if only for a moment. May you fill my life with Your grace to overcome all things. In Your mercy Lord, hear my prayer.

***This week's devotional was written by
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