



## ▶ DAILY DEVOTIONAL.

**Saturday/Sunday, 5/25-26/19**

**“Abundant Promise”**

**John 21:1-14**

*Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.*

*Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.*

*He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”*

*“No,” they answered.*

*He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.*

*Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.*

*Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.*

Our God is a God of promise. From the first promise made to Abraham in Genesis, we learn that God's promises are all redemptive in nature. God intends, and is at work, to redeem all of creation, including us. Scripture is the story of God's redemptive promises being made and brought to fruition. God's promises culminate in Jesus Christ. In Christ, God's presence, purpose and promise is made fully known, and is realized in and through the inauguration of Christ's Kingdom. It is the promise of reconciliation, redemption, salvation and restoration through Jesus' mercy, forgiveness, healing, comfort, peace and grace. It is the promise of the fullness of life for any who would follow him. In Jesus' third appearance to the disciples after his resurrection, we learn that God's promise is one of abundance, symbolized by the incredible number of fish that the disciples hauled in. God has made his promise. In fact, it is a promise that has been brought to fruition in Jesus Christ; and it is a promise of abundant life. As you go about your week this week, try focusing on the abundance of God's promise made known in your life. Focus on the presence of Jesus; of his grace and mercy at work in you and the people and places around you. I pray that as you focus on these things that you would be filled with joy and wonder at the abundance of Jesus' life and blessings.

In Christ,  
Pastor Jake

**Monday, 5/27/19**

**“Whispers of Promise”**

**Acts 9:1-6**

*Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”*

*“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.*

*“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”*

This passage tells of the beginning of Paul's (then, Saul's) conversion to “the Way” of following Jesus. In this encounter with Jesus, we see the first whispers of Jesus' promise of redemption coming to fruition in Paul's life. Paul's conversion was a very dramatic one. He had been a persecutor of some of the earliest Christians, seeking them out to imprison them. He later became God's vessel for the spreading of the Good news of Jesus Christ all over the Ancient Near East and beyond. Paul's story is one of redemption and salvation; it is the story of God's promise taking root in his life, in and through Jesus Christ. Most of us do not have as dramatic a story as Paul's, but our encounters with Jesus and his promise of redemption and salvation are no less real and important. We, too, hear Jesus' whispers of promise in our lives and experience transformation. In fact, Jesus continuously whispers his promise to us, as we are constantly being transformed, in many different ways.

- How have you experienced whispers of Jesus' redemptive promise? Where do you see evidence of Jesus' promise of redemption being made known in your life, in the lives of others, and in the world around you?

**Prayer:** Holy God, give us the ears to hear you whispering to us of your amazing promise of redemption. We thank you for your presence with us and seek to fully live into the life of promise you offer. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Tuesday, 5/28/19**

**“Promise of Calling”**

**2 Peter 1:3-4**

*His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

Each one of us, as followers of Jesus, has a calling; and it is a very lofty calling. As 2 Peter states, we are called to a godly life through our knowledge of Jesus, being called by his glory and goodness. As I think about what it means to be called by Jesus' glory and goodness, I am drawn to ponder what Jesus' glory and goodness entails. We know that Jesus' glory and goodness were displayed through his life: the works of mercy and healing, the offering of grace, and a life lived in service to the least, last and lost of humanity. Jesus' glory and goodness were also displayed through his submission to death on a Roman cross and, ultimately, through the conquering of sin and death through his Resurrection. It strikes me that if we are called by Jesus' goodness and glory as displayed in all of these ways, as his followers, we are called to display a godly life in the same manner. Our calling is a call to follow, emulate and reflect the life of Jesus Christ. When we think about all that Jesus is and has done, the call to follow him is a lofty call, indeed.

- What do you think it means to live a godly life? What do you think it means to be called by Jesus' glory and goodness? In what ways can you display the glory and goodness of Jesus in your life?

**Prayer:** Holy God, we praise you for the salvation you offer, and for the lofty calling you give to each of us as your followers. Help us, by your Holy Spirit, to witness to and display the fullness of your glory and goodness in every aspect of our lives. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.

**Wednesday, 5/29/19**

**“Promise in our Weakness”**

**Isaiah 40:29-31**

*He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.  
Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;  
but those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.*

This passage from Isaiah is one that is very often used as a word of hope during a funeral. There is good reason for this. In these words, we encounter God's promise of redemption and restoration through the strengthening and healing of those experiencing weakness, brokenness or pain. This promise in Isaiah has been fully realized in and through Jesus Christ. When we place our hope and life in Jesus' hands, we are given the hope and strength to endure the struggles and pain we all encounter in our weakness.

- In what ways do you experience weakness? In what ways have you experienced the hope and strength of Jesus? In what ways, or areas of your life, do you need to be strengthened?

**Prayer:** Holy God, we thank you for your presence and strength in our lives. Help us in our weakness by your mercy and grace, that we might witness to you and your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Thursday, 5/30/19**

**"Love's Promise"**

**Romans 8:37-39**

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

What an incredible promise! Paul, in his letter to the Romans, states that Jesus, who died, and even more than that, who raised to life, is at the right hand of God interceding for us in our times of trouble. So hardship, trouble, persecution, famine, danger or sword, in Paul's words, are all to be conquered by us, in and through the love of Jesus Christ. It is this promise of love that we can never be separated from, in Christ Jesus.

- What do you think it means to be a conqueror? What do you think it means that we are conquerors through Jesus who loves us? What does it mean to you to know that nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus?

**Prayer:** Holy God, we thank you for your amazing promises! We thank you that we are held closely to you in your great love for us. Continue to enable and empower us by your Spirit to persevere in your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Friday, 5/31/19**

**"Song of Promise"**

**Psalms 30**

*I will exalt you, LORD,  
for you lifted me out of the depths  
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.  
LORD my God, I called to you for help,  
and you healed me.  
You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead;  
you spared me from going down to the pit.*

*Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people;  
praise his holy name.  
For his anger lasts only a moment,  
but his favor lasts a lifetime;  
weeping may stay for the night,  
but rejoicing comes in the morning.  
When I felt secure, I said,  
"I will never be shaken."  
LORD, when you favored me,  
you made my royal mountain stand firm;  
but when you hid your face,  
I was dismayed.*

*To you, LORD, I called;  
to the Lord I cried for mercy:  
"What is gained if I am silenced,  
if I go down to the pit?  
Will the dust praise you?  
Will it proclaim your faithfulness?  
Hear, LORD, and be merciful to me;  
LORD, be my help."*

*You turned my wailing into dancing;  
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,  
that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.  
LORD my God, I will praise you forever.*

- Spend some time today reflecting on Psalm 30, concentrating on where you hear God's promises in it. Where do you see evidence of God's redemptive promise today?

**Prayer:** Let the words of Psalm 30 guide you in prayer throughout the day.

**This week's devotional was written by  
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