



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

Saturday, September 12, 2020

Matthew 6:7-15 <https://tinyurl.com/y55lqmo9>

PONDER

Let's end this week examining the familiar with new eyes. The simplicity and power of this example of prayer from Jesus begins with how NOT to pray. Don't pray with a flood of empty words. Wow! How often do we talk just because nobody else is talking? How often do we talk over people because we think our idea or point just has to be heard right then? Do we think before we speak? Empty words are not the praises and petitions our God wants to hear. Empty words can be painful because they usually result in broken promises, damaged relationships or other kinds of harm. Words can be weapons. In prayer, God already knows what is on our hearts.

PRAYER

Holy Creator God, forgive me for the empty words that come out of my mouth. Help me speak only words of love, kindness and justice. Thank you. Amen

ACTION

Try to listen more and speak less. Allow silence to bless you, either when you're alone or in the space between you and another beloved child of God.

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS

Monday, September 7, 2020

Psalm 121 <https://tinyurl.com/ujm58yy>

PONDER

Day. Night. Everywhere. All the time. In all we do. Forever. We are protected. Wow! What a teaching from the psalmist. All we have to do is lift our eyes to our Maker. And yet this is how faithful the Lord is to our lives. Think about it. There is no place in this passage where we fall through the cracks, no scenario where evil wins. The Lord will protect his people. We have to be aware, acknowledge and answer God's call.

PRAYER

God my Protector, go with me into the world today. Keep my eyes focused on the beauty of your world so that I can shine your Light. Thank you. Amen.

ACTION

Look around. What good and perfect gifts from God have you been missing?

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Romans 13:1-7 <https://tinyurl.com/ujm58yy>

PONDER

Do what the world asks you to do, inasmuch as you do not harm another or you do not disobey what God has put in place. We don't always understand everything God has ordained, and some of that is hidden in the actions of a government to take care of people. People may get mad about others receiving food stamps. When I worked at the non-food pantry one Saturday, I was speaking with a woman and she said "I never thought I'd be HERE." There will always be people who will take advantage of any situation, try to cheat those who are in power, try to get around the system. It is not our place to judge who does or doesn't need help. We are servants of the Living God, chosen to be the hands and feet and heart of Christ.

PRAYER

Holy God, please help me know when to support and when to oppose the government. Help me know when the rulers and powers are opposing God, and help me love with all my being.

ACTION

Pay back, or make a plan to pay back, any debt you owe.

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Matthew 21:18-22 <https://tinyurl.com/y5qfecx8>

PONDER

How did this crazy fig tree story make it into scripture?! And what a beautiful example of how to pray! Ask. Believe. Receive. The cover of the February 1982 issue of National Geographic magazine featured the pyramids of Giza, Egypt. When the photographer saw the cover image, he complained. Someone had "moved" pyramids closer together to make a better image for the cover of the magazine. Several years later, the Director of Photography admitted moving the pyramids was a mistake. We don't move mountains just for cosmetic value. Jesus didn't curse the fig tree just to show he had the power to do it. We have to use our power for good and justice. In prayer, and faith, and love, we can ask the mountain to move, and it will be so.

PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for this example of Jesus as he invites us deeper into the fruits of his kingdom. In your mercy, hear our prayer. Thank you, Amen

ACTION

Examine your day. Have you lived your faith in a way that moves mountains?

Thursday, September 10, 2020

1 John 3:11-16 <https://tinyurl.com/ydyvh24c>

PONDER

“Love each other.” How hard can that be? Yet even in little ways, we show we aren’t following words that echo Jesus. We gossip. We tell secrets. We hide things in the dark that will ultimately come into the light. We are skeptical of people who are good and kind and generous and soft-spoken. These are the people the world takes advantage of for personal, economic or political gain. “The person who does not love remains in death.” When we choose love, we choose eternal life in the one who gave his life for our sins. Our own choices are what keep us from true abundant life here on earth.

PRAYER

God, help me choose love over everything else. Love will save the day. Thank you. Amen

ACTION

Tell someone outside your family that you love them.

Friday, September 11, 2020

Acts 7:9-16 <https://tinyurl.com/yxc9cgq5>

PONDER

God is with us, and rescues us when we fall into the hands of oppressors. We may not have experiences like Joseph, but certainly we have times when people treat us wrong. The games people play are only for them and are played to minimize the other person. But we are not supposed to harm someone just because they harm us. We read in Romans 12:20, “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.” We have choices. We can walk away forever. If we run into them and they are without food or drink, we can buy them a meal. As beloved children of God, we have to be the better person, the peacemaker, the healer.

PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for protecting me and holding me close. Help me see the needs of others, even when they are not kind to me. Help me help my enemies in ways that show them a different path than the path of jealousy. Help me to know when people are playing games so that I can take myself out of the game. Thank you. Amen

ACTION

Share a meal with a single person, someone who many have been wronged, someone who may be lonely and in need of kindness, someone who may not have the resources for food. Start here and think about what this would feel like if the person were your enemy.

