

Saturday, November 13, 2021 (by Lisa Trigg)
Mark 12:1-12 <https://tinyurl.com/v52p4dts>

PONDER: It may seem obvious, when Jesus tells a parable like this one, that the tenants were wicked. Not only did they squat on the owner's land, but they killed any slave sent to retrieve the owner's share of the produce. They even killed the owner's son. Who wouldn't acknowledge that these tenants were wrong and deserved punishment? It's a little harder to acknowledge when we, as tenants and stewards of God's world, treat it with the same disrespect as the tenants in the parable. We have the responsibility to care for the earth and for its inhabitants. How are we doing? Global warming. Wars and conflict. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch (a floating trash heap twice the size of Texas). Human trafficking. Modern day slavery. The sheer size of the problems seem overwhelming. How can one person make a dent in these calamities? Would it have made a difference to Jesus if just one of the wicked tenants was slightly less wicked than the rest? When the Pharisees figured out Jesus was talking to them, their desire was to silence him. But that doesn't correct the problems. We are stewards of God's creation. What actions can we take to end these problems?

PRAYER: Dear God, Send me forth to make a difference today. Open my eyes to problems that I can address, and inspire me to take action. Amen.

ACTION: Learn facts about human trafficking and how it becomes a reality for many American runaways. Support agencies and organizations that help human trafficking victims.



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS
November 8-13, 2021

Monday, November 8, 2021 (by Marilyn Culler)
1 Timothy 5:1-8 <https://tinyurl.com/827sak27>

PONDER: Paul is providing guidance to Timothy in his ministry to people in the Ephesian church. These verses address the treatment of older and younger people, as well as widows. God is aware of how we treat others. We have to respect one another. We have to prioritize those who are truly in need. Family members should be the first line of defense for the elderly. Those who are completely alone are to be helped by other believers. This is you and me. This is part of our high calling as followers of Jesus. Who is alone and without family among us? May we see through the eyes of our faith in our service to others, especially the widows among us.

PRAYER: God, you call me to serve. Guide me to those who are alone and need to feel surrounded by your Love. Amen.

ACTION: Reach out to day to someone who lives alone.

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 (by Jamie Douglas)
Psalm 113 <https://tinyurl.com/verpvmbw>

PONDER: Psalm 113 is known as a "Hallel" (praise) Psalm. Psalms 113-118 are recited during Passover and other major Jewish festivals. Psalms 113 and 114 are recited at the beginning of a service and 115-118 are recited at the end. These Psalms commemorate the Exodus of the Jewish people from Egyptian slavery. It is a prayer and song of praise. In Hebrew, verse one is read, "halal Yah" (Praise Yah, Yahweh). Halal Yah is where we get the English word, Hallelujah.

PRAY: May we praise the name of Yahweh! May we Sing, Halal Yah to the Creator and Deliverer of us all. "Blessed be the name of Yahweh, from this time forth and forever more. From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, Yahweh's name is to be praised." (verses 2-3)

ACT: Take time to recite and pray Psalms 113 through 118 and consider the power of these Psalms for the Jewish people as they remember their release from slavery. Perhaps look up a YouTube video of the Hallel being sung in Hebrew.

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 (by Anita Edenfield)

Luke 4:16-30 <https://tinyurl.com/pm8syv4z>

PONDER: In the synagogue after Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah he sat and began to teach. However, while usually gentle, Jesus' teachings this day were antagonistic. He spoke of things that opposed their cultural bias and angered the people so much that they drove him out of town! Sadly, too many of us react just as badly today when asked to join in efforts toward social justice issues such as equality and acceptance for all. Some even take scriptures out of context to fight back! Hmmm...didn't Jesus come to change laws that were outdated and wrong? I thought so too.

PRAYER: Father, open our eyes, ears, minds and hearts that we may know right from wrong. When things are plainly wrong give us the courage to step forward and help be the change needed in the world. Amen

ACTION: Join in a book study group to learn about social justice issues about which you may not have a full understanding. Allow your mind to be open to new perspectives and ideas so your heart can follow suit.

Thursday, November 11, 2021 (by Teddy Shuck)

1 Samuel 2: 1-10 <https://tinyurl.com/3hjt vx36>

PONDER: Hannah's song is both a prayer and hymn of thanksgiving. God can use the powerless to break the power of the mighty. God used Hannah, a barren woman, to give birth to Samuel. She is poor and feels very unblest. But she prays and asked God for a son and she will honor God by giving him in service to the Lord. As God honors her request, she keeps hers to God. In turn, God uses Samuel as his profit in transforming Israel's future. God uses the powerless to break the power of the mighty. Hannah then links that power to the power of God's king, the anointed one. She is looking to the future as told in the books of Samuel. The footnotes in the CEB translation suggest that Hannah's Song sounds a lot like Mary's Song in Luke 1. Both women feel so blessed by God. They are from the powerless people and God blesses their sons. Do they change the world?

PRAYER: Thank you God for hearing their prayers. We want to praise you for all the things that you have done as well. We hope we can speak clearly in our prayers every day.

ACTION: Spend a little time each day to say thank you to God.

Friday, November 12, 2021 (by Terry Noble)

Psalms 16 <https://tinyurl.com/jdat5v6m>

PONDER: Psalm 16 is a psalm of trust. The psalmist takes refuge in God and knows that apart from God there can be no good. We are encouraged to delight in the 'holy ones.' Who might the "holy ones in the land" be? This may be an ancient warning to be wise in choosing the company we keep. If we take our refuge with those whose devotion is in 'gods' such as money, power, accumulating possessions, and climbing the social ladder, we are warned that our troubles will be multiplied. In verse 6 there is the image of boundary lines falling in pleasant places. While this can be taken as the beauty of our home, or the natural world, a deeper meaning is found if we envision these boundaries to be the places in our life and heart where God's love is leading us and setting boundaries to guide us. This, says the psalmist, is the path of life, fullness of joy, and pleasures forevermore. Thanks be to God!

PRAYER: Dear God, I am trusting you. No matter what comes my way in this life; You are my Refuge, Hope, Joy, and my All-In-All. Help me to keep my focus firmly fixed on you. You have good things in store for me. I am holding tightly to those promises that you have given me; they are my legacy. In you, oh Lord, I find my fullness of joy. Thank you for being so good to me. Amen.

ACTION: Show thanks for those who keep us safe by delivering a gift of cookies, fruit or healthy snacks to public safety folks at a jail, fire station or police station.