

Saturday, February 19, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)
Luke 12:54-59 <https://tinyurl.com/yf5b3wcx>

PONDER: We can apply today's Scripture to our own life situations. How often do we refuse to see what is obvious? How easy it is to pass responsibility or blame someone else and refuse to speak or take action. It can be more attractive to live comfortable lives without trying to understand what is going on. Jesus uses harsh words to condemn laziness and distraction. Think about the signs of our times. Where is God in what is going on around us? How are we called to respond as followers of Jesus? What would he do if he were living now? It is very easy to condemn the world around us and feel nostalgic about the past. Jesus is calling us to discernment and action in the world we live in now. We waste so much time arguing about trivialities while missing what is more basic, more challenging.

PRAYER: Dear God, help me to be more aware of situations where I can make a difference. Close my mouth when I would blame others. Open my heart to forgive and to respond as needed. Amen.

ACTION: Make time to be with Jesus during this moment. Imagine the loneliness Jesus felt as the only one who can see the danger ahead. It is never easy to accompany Jesus on the road to the cross.



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS
February 14-19, 2022

Monday, February 14, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)
Psalm 120 <https://tinyurl.com/mr3sswf7>

PONDER: Peace. How elusive peace may seem these days! So many things in our lives are in flux. The pandemic numbers rise and fall, rise and fall, and a new variant is on the rise. Divisiveness is raging. Glaciers are melting. Large and small, so many things seem unstable. How do we hold firm? Where is peace? I recall a saint of Gobin, Joyce Jones, praying for "world peace" every single Sunday when she could still attend church services. I try to remind myself of Joyce's faith in praying for world peace. If we, the faithful, believe in God's power and the power of prayer, let's all pray for world peace.

PRAYER: God of all Creation, grant us and your world Your Peace. Amen.

ACTION: For the next 30 days, include world peace in your daily prayers.

Tuesday, February 15, 2022 (by Jamie Douglas)
2 Corinthians 1:12-19 <https://tinyurl.com/2p83ek67>

PONDER: Have you ever been given a degree of respect or trust by virtue of your position (parent, supervisor, leader...)? If you have, you find that it can give you a foothold with an audience, but to be trusted and respected, you need to earn that through your relationship and track record. In this passage, Paul was struggling to find a solid trust relationship with the Corinthians. Evidently, he was not held in high esteem with them as a person, but through his position/title of apostle, is afforded some degree of respect. He is working in this passage to convince the Corinthians that he is worthy of being trusted.

PRAY: Lord, thank you for being my moral compass and my guiding Light. Let my words and actions be honest and trustworthy. Amen

ACT: It is painful to take a moral inventory, but I challenge you to do just that. How are your relationships with family, friends, co-workers, etc.? Do you make the effort to develop and nurture relationships? Are you trustworthy? Do you allow God to be your compass and “lie detector”?

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 (by Anita Edenfield)
Luke 11:37-52 <https://tinyurl.com/bdeuem74>

PONDER: Remember the late ‘60’s - early ‘70’s? Then you can most likely relate Jesus’ words to the Pharisees with the then popular phrase, “Sock it to me!” When invited to dine with the Pharisees Jesus used the invitation to do just that; he socked it to them! Jesus directly and strongly pointed out to them that all their self-righteousness was not justice and goodness in the eyes of the Lord. Jesus included the experts in the law in his condemnation because they burdened the people and kept them from entering into the knowledge of God. Think on our lifestyles. If Jesus were invited to dine with us would he have reason to “Sock it to us”? Hmmmm ... something to ponder, maybe.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we thank you for all our blessings that come so bountifully from you. May we use them for the good of all and not hoard them away for ourselves. Keep us mindful we are all equal in your sight and doing for others is our greatest purpose. Amen

ACTION: The next time you experience frustrations with others and are tempted to “sock it to ’em” take a deep breath and count to ten. OR twenty. Or whatever it takes to be able to wrap your arms around them, love them, talk with them, and then show them how God wants us to live and love each other.

Thursday, February 17, 2022 (by Teddy Shuck)
Psalm 37: 1-11 <https://tinyurl.com/2p92my9j>

PONDER: In studying the Psalms, I have learned that this one would likely be categorized as a teaching psalm. It is written with great direction by the author. It is directing the reader to believe in the love of God. “Don’t get upset over evil doers.” “Trust in the Lord and do good.” “Commit your way to the Lord!” “Be still ... and wait for him.” It seems to me that the author is directing us be true to the warmth of the Lord as he offers it. The “evildoers” of the world don’t stand a chance against the protection and will of God. Being true to God is the best way to feel good about ourselves. Giving what we need to give and trusting in his time is all he asks.

PRAY: Thank you for loving us. Help us to share your love with those who need it and not to be afraid of those who do not appear to follow you. Amen.

ACT: Look for those who need to hear about the love of God.

Friday, February 18, 2022 (by Terry Noble)
Psalm 37 <https://tinyurl.com/5ynhecs2>

PONDER: “Be still before the Lord and wait patiently” In today’s world where we seem to compete with one another to be deemed the ‘busiest’ and we tap our foot waiting for the microwave to make our food in 1 minute, advice to be still and be patient isn’t something we particularly wish to hear. In Psalm 37 we are also urged to “be still and know that I am God.” Being able to still ourselves and to place our trust in God so that we wait with calmness and patience is a significant challenge. Yet if we cannot learn to do this, when will we have time for God to speak to us? As with any conversation, there must be times when we speak and times when we listen. It’s likely that we have all had an experience with someone who never let’s anyone else talk. Are we like that with God? When we pray, pause and notice how much stillness and patience we are giving to make room for God’s voice to move our hearts.

PRAYER: God, help me make room for you, time for you, quiet for you. Amen.

ACTION: Practice authentic, deep listening today.