

Saturday, February 26, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)
Luke 10:21-24 <https://tinyurl.com/34fyvkj8>

PONDER: Gratitude was important in Jesus' life. Giving thanks is important in the lives of all who follow Jesus, for we have been given all that we have. Humble people can receive and acknowledge gifts and be grateful. When we claim to be self-sufficient, we are not open to gratitude, and we may not experience the need for what Jesus offers. A child-like mind of openness and trust is the fertile ground for receiving God's Word, which Jesus tells us is revealed to the simple and the humble. I've found that when I struggle to discern God's will for me, it's usually because I am making things too complicated. Sometimes the deep meaning of things can be found in the simplicity of life. Gratitude is part of that simplicity.

PRAYER: Jesus, so many people have never heard your Good News. But I have heard it, and I have seen you through the pages of the Gospels. Let your Word never become boring or stale for me, but fresh, creative, challenging and share-able. Amen.

ACTION: Send a note or message of gratitude to someone this week.



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS
February 21-26, 2022

Monday, February 21, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)
Psalm 38 <https://tinyurl.com/yycrj2dx>

PONDER: David feels heavy from both outside attacks and his own wrongdoings. Still, he cries out to God and prays and does not lose faith that God will somehow help him. Some days, attacks seem to come from every direction and at the same time we make poor decisions. Recognizing what is "attacking" us – whether it's the poor behavior of others or our own weaknesses – invites us to embrace God's presence. God is with us to help us recover, strengthen us and bless us as long as we hold firm in faith.

PRAYER: Holy Author of my days, guide me always in your ways so that when attacks are happening, my first thought is to come to you. Amen.

ACTION: Do you have any friendships that don't feel completely right? Is it you, or the other person that doesn't seem right? Are you making someone else feel better at the expense of your own peace? Is a destructive friendship worth your peace?

Tuesday, February 22, 2022 (by Jamie Douglas)
1 Samuel 24:1-22 <https://tinyurl.com/3a32ajuk>

PONDER: Have you ever been in such conflict with another person that you could see no way to reconcile? In fact, you might not even consider reconciliation and even be considering revenge? In this chapter, King Saul is hunting David with the intention of killing him. David and his men are ensconced in a cave when the king enters to take care of nature's business. David cuts off a corner of Saul's robe. David's conscience began to bother him and he suddenly had a different perspective of Saul. Saul was King because he had been anointed by God and David needed to treat him with the respect due Saul's position. David was able to see his situation from a different angle and instead of seeking revenge, he bowed to Saul and says in verses 12 and 13, "May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you

... 'from evildoers come evil deeds.'" It might be tempting to take justice into our own hands, but justice comes from a Higher place with greater perspective.

PRAY: Lord, you are so much Higher in mind and conscience than we are. You can be trusted to provide justice, even if it does not always look like we would want it to. Teach us to step back and move aside to allow you to work. Let us seek you for a clearer perspective on the situations which cause us pain and make us consider causing pain to another. We pray through the name of the Holy One, Jesus. Amen

ACT: Consider ways to look at the world differently this week. Maybe read a different perspective on a social or political situation. Maybe get playful and hang upside down or look through a kaleidoscope. Seek creative ways to consider that our way of seeing the world or a personal situation that has brought you grief.

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 (by Anita Edenfield)
Leviticus 5:1-13 <https://tinyurl.com/4jas4sx2>

PONDER: Leviticus is a book of rules and this particular passage is a long litany of if/then statements of rules and consequences. I clearly remember lists of don'ts at school. Times change things and as an educator I was trained to try and phrase rules in terms of positives as much as possible; 'don't hit' became 'keep hands in your lap' and 'don't fight' became 'use your words.' I think the point of Leviticus is not so much the overwhelming nature rules can have on us, but rather that God wants us to live rightly and be free of sin so that He can have a healthy and personal relationship with us.

PRAYER: Loving God, help us focus not on the numerous things we should not do, but rather to focus on the one thing that will keep everything else in balance; help us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Amen

ACTION: Accentuate the positives, eliminate the negatives! If everyone could do just one positive thing at a time; and then another, and another. Very soon there would only be positives and the world would be a better place for all.

Thursday, February 24, 2022 (by Teddy Shuck)
Acts 3:11-16 <https://tinyurl.com/yckuxuwk>

PONDER: I have always appreciated Peter and John, especially Peter. He was the one who loved Jesus so very much. It was evident as he stood by him all the time. Yet, he faltered the night of the arrest of Jesus and then the trial. He must have gone through a night of horror until he came back to his own understanding of his love and respect for Jesus and his need for forgiveness. I think that is why I hear his eagerness to make clear that God, who raised Jesus from the dead, was there that day and was the one who healed the man. They were the witnesses to all of it. Peter's hope was that seeing what happened with this man would lead to their understanding and they would become followers of the merciful and forgiving God!

PRAYER: God help us to have eyes open to your wonderful works all the time! People need help to see the beautiful sunsets we see at night. Amen.

ACTION: Watch and be a witness today to a miracle of God.

Friday, February 25, 2022 (by Terry Noble)
Psalm 99 <https://tinyurl.com/2p8tyn8j>

PONDER: Psalm 99 declares the glory and holiness of our Lord. We are called to extol the Lord our God, worship our God, give praise to our Mighty King, Lover of Justice, whose name is Holy. There are many, many ways to pray. Our prayers probably contain thanksgivings, petition for ourselves and others, and prayers to be forgiven for our wrongdoing. How often do we spend time in prayer basking in the glory of God – not asking, but praising. Our God is holy, God's name is holy, praise God and be immersed in the glory and incomprehensible beauty of God.

PRAYER: God of glory and majesty, how beautiful you have adorned the world! Your wonders surround me. Holy are you, Lord of my heart. Amen.

ACTION: Find something lovely around you – a bright flower, light shining through a colored glass object, the lines of your hands. Ponder the loveliness God has created.