

Saturday, May 7, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)

Luke 12:29-32 <https://tinyurl.com/2p954hyn>

PONDER: The idea of seeking the kingdom of God first is something that we see in several places throughout the scriptures, and the idea of everything coming to us naturally once we get our priorities in order is a really amazing idea. Jesus is a great example of this, as are many of the prophets. God doesn't expect perfection from us immediately. Blessings are tied in with learning. As we learn to have faith and to walk by seeking God's kingdom first, we will find a way forward. Of course it won't always be easy, or the first thing we try, and it won't always be the way we expect, but if we persist, God will help us find the way.

PRAYER: Dear God, Thank you for encouraging me as I seek your truth in this world. Guide me as I try to arrange things to be a benefit to all people. Amen.

ACTION: Today, let's work on putting God first and seeking the truth of God's love for everyone as our top priority. Share kindness with a stranger.



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS

May 2-May 7, 2022

Monday, May 2, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)

Acts 9:19-31 <https://tinyurl.com/2jzh94aa>

PONDER: Saul changed. This was puzzling to some people in Jerusalem. Barnabas had to witness to the apostles about the change before Saul could be accepted among Jesus' faithful followers. People can change for the better. Works can show what is in people's hearts, and sometimes it takes a witness to testify to people's goodness. We are living in interesting times, when all sorts of "truths" contradict themselves. Disinformation is dangerous. How can we discern the truth? How can we find peace and be strengthened when chaos reigns around us? Allowing the Holy Spirit to live and move and breathe through us creates peace that honors God. In this holy space, this community, we will know truth.

PRAYER: God of steadfastness and change, show me Your truth always. Open my mind and heart to see clearly. When I can't tell darkness from Light, guide me. Increase my knowing of truth so that in all things Your Light shines through me. Thank You. Amen.

ACTION: In the presence of a third person, witness to someone's goodness today.

Tuesday, May 3, 2022 (by Jamie Douglas)

Ezekiel 1:26-2:1 <https://tinyurl.com/2eujnrae>

PONDER: The prophet and priest, Ezekiel, shares a vision that he had while being held captive by the Babylonian Empire around 597 B.C. After describing the details of the vision, Ezekiel shares that a throne sat above the heads of the cherubim with a being whose appearance and likeness was the glory of the LORD and when Ezekiel saw it, he fell on his face and heard the voice of the ONE speaking to him. I cannot imagine such a vision or what Ezekiel must have thought as he experienced it. He seems appropriately overwhelmed, impressed, and humbled by the experience and has no doubt that what he is experiencing is directly from the LORD. He uses this vision as his guide throughout the remainder of his life.

PRAY: Holy ONE, most of us have never experienced a vision anything close to what Ezekiel experienced. Help us to seek and find you in Your Creation and Your Word. Open us to what you would have us know and guide us as we serve you. Through the Son of the most Holy One, Amen.

ACT: The most impressive fire or gorgeous rainbow could not come close to what Ezekiel saw and experienced in his vision. What do you need to help you see the ONEnmore clearly? Do you wish you had a vision such as Ezekiel's or are you able to find GOD in the world around you?

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 (by Anita Edenfield)
Isaiah 6:1-8 <https://tinyurl.com/38dm4ty2>

PONDER: When God called Isaiah it was much the same as when God called other prophets. He called ordinary people away from ordinary lives and, like others before him, Isaiah quickly told God that he wasn't fit to serve because he was a common, sinful man living among common, sinful men! Perhaps the take-away from this reading is that God calls whomever He wants, and maybe our shortcomings are the very reason God calls whomever He calls! That's worth pondering a bit!

PRAYER: God of Forgiveness, Take me, and mold me, use me, fill me...hold me, guide me, lead me, and walk beside me. I pray I will give my life to my Potter's hands. Amen

ACTION: When there is a job to be done, stop before you speak the word, "No." While you may not want to, or you may think you can't, God wants you and knows you can! So, why not at least give it a try for the good of others, not for yourself.

Thursday, May 5, 2022 (by Teddy Shuck)
Psalm 23 <https://tinyurl.com/bddwh3dz>

PONDER: This most recalled, comforting psalm draws from the familiar imagery of shepherding in biblical times. It is especially easy to read as it comes from the perspective of the sheep that looks to the shepherd for all of its needs; water, guidance, safety, green grass, food and for healing. This is everything that we need in terms of material realities, but also in a spiritual sense. In a spiritual sense it reminds us of God's love for all of us. I especially like the part where he gives the psalmist rest. To me, the rest not only means sleep, but peace and trust, the kind that comes from inside and a smile. What image speaks to you in the reading? What makes you feel closest to God?

PRAY: God help me to hear this psalm each time I read it as I've never heard it before. Amen.

ACT: Strive to be in tune with you God with each thing you attempt, now and forever.

Friday, May 6, 2022 (by Terry Noble)
Psalm 23 <https://tinyurl.com/bddwh3dz>

PONDER: Psalm 23 may be the best known of all the psalms. While it's beautiful to be able to recite these words from memory, reading different translations may give us new insight into familiar passages. Reading this psalm from a variety of translations, I found myself drawn to the final verse. We read this psalm at funerals, but it is set in this life – God's kingdom is here now. Not only is God's kingdom here but "goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." What does that mean? Goodness and mercy have also been translated as kindness and steadfast love. The interesting word here is "follow." In the original Hebrew the intent of the word is closer to 'pursue.' The psalmist is telling us that God is not content just to follow us with love, goodness, mercy, and kindness but actively seeks after us to give us these gifts in our life. God invites us into God's kingdom right now. Slow down and be surrounded by God's love all the days of your life.

PRAYER: God here with me this moment and always, I am awash in Your goodness and gifts. Your Love surrounds me beyond my knowing. I will praise you all the days of my life. Amen.

ACTION: Actively seek God's goodness around you today. You are loved.