



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS
September 12-17, 2022

Monday, September 12, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)

1 Timothy 1:18-20 <https://tinyurl.com/4h8sjdup>

PONDER: Paul is encouraging Timothy and sees his faith. Paul and see that Timothy listens to his conscience. Our conscience is an inner voice or feeling that helps us discern our own rightness or wrongness. That inner voice is guided by the Holy Spirit, God within us. Sometimes this inner voice is a knowing. Sometimes it's a message from another person, a chance meeting, a phone call. God in our being and God in our knowing encourages us and keeps us on the path of discipleship.

PRAYER: God, I'm listening. Jesus, I'm listening. Holy Spirit, I'm listening. Amen.

ACTION: Listen to your conscience today. Align your inner guidance with the Holy Spirit. Allow God to come closer. Which route should you take to work or the store? What words of encouragement does a friend need? What stranger do you need to speak to? Who needs prayer?

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 (by Jamie Douglas)

Jeremiah 5:18-31 <https://tinyurl.com/55tktype>

PONDER: God has had it with His people in these verses. Foolish. Without understanding. Having eyes and ears but not really seeing or hearing. Defiant and rebellious hearts. We are all created by God and this example of humans straying from God and thinking they can guide themselves is not limited to this example. Why is it that we continue to rebel and turn away from God then not understand when there are consequences? God gave us a map for navigating this life. It exists in nature. It exists in the Bible, in the example that Jesus set for us.

PRAY: God, you are the ultimate cartographer and guide. You provide clear instruction and open arms to us. May we use your maps and turn and turn and turn again to you for guidance. Amen

ACT: Go for a hike at a state park. Use a map and reflect on how important a map is for guiding us. Remember that God is the ultimate map-maker and guide.

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 (by Anita Edenfield)

Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38 <https://tinyurl.com/4ryyr8f7>

PONDER: A parable, even in a Psalm, was an effective means of teaching. In Psalm 78 the psalmist reminds us that too often we are guilty of superficial faith. God grabs our attention by rendering a judgement on us for our sinfulness. In knee-jerk fashion we reach out to God because we realize we have nowhere to turn at this point in our lives. In truth, we should seek God out when things are going well to give our thanks for his goodness. I think a pro-active relationship beats a re-active one anytime!

PRAYER: Loving Father, we thank you because we know that you are always with us. We pray that with your guidance that we will change our ways and reach out to give you praise for the good you give us. Amen

ACTION: “Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in his wonderful face. And the things of Earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.” Look for God every day, not just in times of trouble. He is there!

Thursday, September 15, 2022 (by Teddy Shuck)

Psalm 79 <https://tinyurl.com/2djpt7ep>

PONDER: This Psalmist probably describes the way Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians. People laying in streets. No one being able to help them. The people of Jerusalem becoming a joke to those around them. What a horrible picture of total ruin. He then reaches out for the people to seek God's help and forgiveness. He asks God to intervene to show God's power and glory and change the situations of the people. The people ask for help for the glory of His name. The writer asks God to deliver the people and cover their sins for the sake of God's name. I sometimes wonder how often we ask God to help us and not remember our wrong doings. I wonder if He ever gets frustrated with my asking for forgiveness for my slipups. I ask God for His forgiveness, but do I succeed in changing my ways? I hope the things I do to help others gives God pleasure.

PRAYER: God help me to see the opportunities you give me to reach out to help others, not for my good feelings, but a smile it might put on your face. Amen.

ACTION: Open your eyes to people and places you could offer help.

Friday, September 16, 2022 (by Terry Noble)

Luke 8:1-3 <https://tinyurl.com/3py97pry>

PONDER: The importance of these three verses may have slipped right by us. Although women are always present among Jesus' disciples, they are rarely mentioned by name. Here Luke tells us of Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna who were all healed by Jesus. We do not know the nature of their infirmities, however, they became not only disciples of Christ, but also “provided for them [Jesus and the Twelve] out of their resources. These were women of status who had the means to take care of the everyday needs of Jesus and his followers. Notice that Luke, who mentions only three of the women by name, also says there were many others. May this be a reminder to take time, and look closely at the biblical accounts for the wonderful details that it's easy to miss!

PRAYER: Holy God, Your world and Your Word are full of stories and details I sometimes miss. Delight me with You today and guide me to new beauty. Amen.

ACTION: Find an item in your daily life and spend time examining it. Look at it from all sides. Look again. What do you see in the details?

Saturday, September 17, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)

Mark 12:38-44 <https://tinyurl.com/2jnw5vky>

PONDER: As you read today's Scripture, think honestly about who you are, rather than on an image of yourself that makes you look good. The scribes Jesus mentions are not honest about who they are; they just want to look good to others. But, they cause suffering by their policies. The widow who gives two small, almost worthless coins into the treasury is not ashamed to let people see her for who she is. We are often told to see people for more than their outward appearance – to consider their personal courage or kindness or another characteristic – when we look at them. By doing that, perhaps we can better understand our sisters and brothers. Another challenge is to ask ourselves if we think too much about what other people think of us. Is our behavior influenced by what other people might think? Are we ashamed of who we are? As you sit with Jesus today, look honestly at your life and ask for the help you need to be truthful in your faith.

PRAYER: Dear God, you sent your light through Jesus. Help me to be an honest representation of that light in everything I do and say. Amen.

ACTION: Place yourself in this story by being the widow, and then one of the disciples. As you watch the scene unfold, what are your thoughts and feelings?