



DAILY DEVOTIONALS

FOR THE WEEK OF

MARCH 13-19

Monday, March 14 Read Psalm 27

Though we are not likely to have armies encamp against us not have our flesh devoured, what enemies/threats/worries assail you?

How does the message of this psalm offer both assurance and courage to you?

Discuss this with God in prayer today.

Tuesday March 15 Read Genesis 15:1-12;17-18

While the ancient scene here is somewhat archaic and strange to our eyes, the point of this scripture is the promise of God to the childless Abram: “you will have descendants and they will be as numerous as the stars.” Like Abram, we often seem the limitation of what we see immediately before us and fail to trust what *God* can and will do. What are some ways to practice our faith and increase our trust in God?

Wednesday, March 16 Read Philippians 3:17-4:1

V.19 defines the attributes of what Paul calls “enemies of the cross of Christ.” For such a harsh label, these seem very common attributes. How do these characteristics show themselves in your own life?

Take some time to discuss this with God is a prayer of confession.

Sunday's Sermon Notes

Luke 13:31-35

March 13, 2022

“Keep your Eye on the Ball”

1. We are part of God's plans for the world... not the other way around!

2. Questions to set your face for the day:

A. How can I be a blessing to someone else?

B. What will my life say about Jesus to day?

C. Where will I need to depend on God today?

DAILY DEVOTIONALS—MARCH 13-19

Thursday, March 17 Read Luke 13:31-35

Here both Herod and the people of Jerusalem are guilty of the same sin- pride and arrogance. Herod assumes he can control the world and the people, in rejecting the prophets, refuse to acknowledge the reality of God's sovereignty. In what ways do we choose to go our own way and ignore God's directives for our lives?

Friday, March 18 Read Luke 9:28-36

The story of the Transfiguration is the story of God's revelation of Himself. In vv.33-35, how do the disciples fall back into the same sin discussed in yesterday's reading?

How can we avoid this temptation?

Saturday, March 19 Read Psalm 121

Try an exercise today- read this psalm through several times (or write it on a card and take it with you today). Make an effort to memorize it and repeat it prayerfully throughout the day, reflecting on its meaning for your life and God's promise to you personally. What does this psalm say to you, specifically?

How is God calling you to respond to it?



Reflecting on the Practice of Lenten Disciplines

If you have chosen to follow our S.O.S. plan (Sacrifice, Outreach and Service) or any other Lenten Discipline during the season, here's where you can reflect on it during your weekly devotions.

Sacrifice

We are called by Christ to make a difference in the world, to be "salt and light." Doing that requires us to sacrifice a bit of what we want for the other. List some of the ways God has called you to bless others:

What are you going to need to give up in order for that to happen?

Outreach

Everything we say and do bears witness to our dedication and connection to Christ. What about you is your most effective witness to your faith?

How do you nurture that?

Service

Where is service to God calling you beyond where you are familiar and comfortable?



SMALL GROUP STUDY & DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part I. *Easily Distracted*

1. Read Psalm 27 and Discuss the following with your group:

- How does the message of this psalm offer both assurance and courage to you? Why?

Part II. *Today, Tomorrow and the Third Day*

1. Read Luke 13:31-35 aloud. Discuss these questions with your group:

- For Christians, Jesus' statement that he would be working "today, tomorrow and the third day I finish my work" certainly brings to mind Christ's Passion, death and resurrection. Yet it also stands as a metaphor for completion and fulfillment of a mission...no matter what Herod intends. What is the work of Jesus today? By extension what does that mean for us as disciples?
- What "Herods" threaten to distract you from being about that mission? Why? What are some ways we can help each other remain focused.

2. Sunday's 'Sermon Note #1' suggested that "*we are part of God's plans for the world... not the other way around!*" In light of the scripture you just read, reflect on that a bit and discuss the following:

- In what ways do we tend to expect God to endorse and empower *our* plans? Give some specific examples. Why are we often angered or surprised when God doesn't play along and what does that say about our understanding of discipleship?

Part III. *Questions for Each Day*

1. Look at 'Sermon Note #2,' "Questions to set your face," and discuss the following with your group:

- "How can I be a blessing to someone else?" There is no doubt that we are called to be emulators and bearers of Christ. What does it mean to be a blessing for others? Have your group share some concrete and creative ways to do this. Covenant to share the results of this ministry when you meet again.
- "What does your life say about Jesus?" Read Philippians 3:17-4:1. What does living a *bad* witness look like? Why? Remember the old aphorism that "perception is reality." Why must we be extra careful and humbly prayerful in living our witness? Having discussed all this, what are some ways for our lives to present a stronger and better witness?
- "Where will I need to depend on God today?" We often know ourselves better than we care to admit! That includes knowing our weaknesses and particular temptations. How can we prepare for dealing with these challenges ahead of time (rather than only calling on God in the midst of failure and consequences)? Share some concrete ways to nurture practical dependence upon God.