

Who Prayed for Patience?

Finding joy and growth in the waiting

Lesson #1:

"The Default Gift Card"

December 1, 2019

Weekly Readings and Devotionals for December 2 - 7, 2019

Monday, December 2 Read Psalm 122

This is set in an imaginary or dreamed-of Jerusalem of peace and security and unity which is rather far from the real Jerusalem, then and now. What does this passage tell you about the deepest longings of humankind? _____

_____ Why is it so hard for us to realize that dream?

Notice the central part the Lord plays in this vision as the 'glue' that binds together a redeemed humanity. What does this tell you? _____

Tuesday, December 3 Read Isaiah 2:1-5

While many love this passage for its promise of peace and fulfillment, it must be noted that Isaiah is promising that Jesus brings change and fundamental change at that. Most of us want the world beyond ourselves to change to suit us but are more than reluctant to change ourselves! If Jesus were to stand before you, what would he call on you to change? Would you be willing if He offered to help? _____

Wednesday, December 4 Read Matthew 1:18-25

As his world shatters around him, Joseph still takes the honorable course yet note his willingness to change his plans and dreams when the Lord tells him to. More than that, he embraces God's program fully. How often do we reject God when His plans don't line up with our own goals and perceptions? How might we define true faith in light of Joseph's actions? _____

Sermon notes from December 1:

"The Default Gift Card"

1. Offering God "whatever" we currently have available and can spare is a form of blasphemy.
2. We truly prepare for God's arrival when we...
 - A. ...look for where our personal passions and interests meet Kingdom needs.
 - B. ...accept that true worship requires a sacrifice of time, energy and resources.
 - C. ...translate urges into concrete and self-motivated action.

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www.cordelefirst.com/sermons

Thursday, December 5 Read Romans 13:11-14

When we flip the light on in a dark room it’s amazing how dark and scary spaces become warm and welcoming. Seeing the truth helps us put things into perspective and here Paul reminds us that Jesus’ arrival is like flipping on that switch. Of course, such revelation may show things we don’t want seen but the Light is coming so it’s best to be ready! How do you want Christ to see you as the Advent season gets underway? _____

Discuss this with Him in prayer today.

Friday, December 6 Read Matthew 24:36-44

Being ready to receive Christ isn’t like cramming for a test. We can’t do it at short notice (or, as here, *no* notice!) but we must have lives permanently shaped to fit Him; permanently prepared with room for Jesus to dwell. What steps do you need to take to reshape your life in order to be compatible and connected with Emmanuel, “God with us?” _____

Saturday, December 7 Read Psalm 25:1-10

This psalm is one of the most profound statements of faith. Read it through a few times as your own personal prayer. In what ways can you “lift your soul” to God and how can you nurture that sort of faith? _____

Prayer Guide for this week:

1. List 5 things, people or activities for which you are thankful this week.

2. Come up with two or three original ways to express your gratitude for these things to God and to the relative people.

3. Share 3 concerns or needs you have with God this week.

