



## Weekly Devotionals for March 18-23

### **Monday, March 18 Read Psalm 51:1-12**

Confession- owning up to our sinfulness- is a necessary step towards a clean heart and a new start. Otherwise we simply make excuses and seek to shift the blame to others. In a powerful way this psalm is the cry of all humanity, knowing something is broken and needing redemption. Where do you need God's redemptive work in your own life and have you discussed it with Him?

### **Tuesday, March 19 Read Jeremiah 31:31-34**

The new covenant is to be one of internal change not simply an outward show of "religiosity." Such change requires a release, both of sin and its roots in selfishness and the need to control. Christ offers this renewal through his gift on the cross but we often choose the outward show instead. Why do you think that is?

### **Wednesday, March 20 Read John 12:20-33**

Jesus' popularity has grown since the raising of Lazarus and here two outsiders come seeking to meet him but the time for celebrity-watching and passive spectating is over. In v.23 Jesus changes the focus: it is approaching an all or nothing moment. Are any would be disciples with Him wherever that path takes? It's still a question we must wrestle with today. Are we disciples or merely fans?

### **Thursday, March 21 Read Hebrews 5:5-10**

Christ is our model of faithful obedience, resolutely adhering to God's plan for our salvation. Notice obedience doesn't mean an absence of doubt or struggle (v.7). His role as "great high priest" is to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Knowing this, how can we grow in our own trust of Jesus and allow Him to strengthen our own discipleship?

### **Friday, March 22 Read 1 John 3:11-24**

In what ways is the act of love the ultimate sacrifice? Why is loving and so important to both our Christian witness and our personal connection to Jesus and how is that loving different from the way the world usually defines it? List some ways your love for Jesus is shown in your daily Christian walk.

### **Saturday, March 23 Read Psalm 119:9-16**

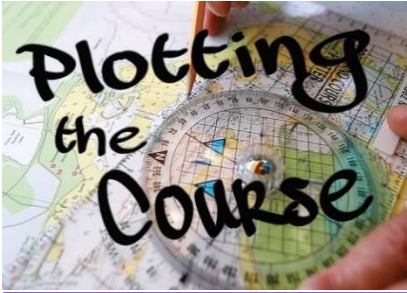
Notice the active pursuit of God's ways, standards and desires the psalmist expresses here. Though God offers us the free gift of His love, why does He seem to require so much activity (i.e. "seeking," "meditating," "declaring" etc.) from us? What does this tell you about God and about ourselves?

### Sermon Notes

#### "Navigating By GPS"

March 17, 2024      John 12: 20-33

1. **Christian disciples don't merely watch, they serve.**
  
2. **We go from spectators to disciples when we...**
  - A. **...let go of our false securities and trust Christ.**
  
  - B. **...stand ready to pray, preach and die.**



*If you are currently practicing some or all of the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and giving, use this space to reflect on what you are discovering on this journey.*

**Praying:** To what extent is your prayer life more of a conversation and less a list of requests...or demands?

**Fasting:** How would the concept of fasting be different if we understood it more as a continual re-ordering of priorities more in line with God's ways?

**Giving:** What concerns tend to limit our generosity and what might that say about what truly guides us or in what we truly trust?

## Week #5: "Navigating by GPS"

### Small Group Discussion Guide

#### Part I. Taking in Our Surroundings

1. **Look at Sermon note #1 and with that in mind, read John 12:20-33**  
**Share:** "In this passage the Greeks seem to represent the wide ranging and cross-cultural nature of Jesus' growing popularity. " Discuss the following:
  - **Why do you think Jesus gives this response to the request of the Greeks? What does it say about what Jesus is looking for in His followers?**
  - **What does v.25 mean and how is Jesus re-defining what we mean by "our life?"**

#### Part II: Plotting Our Course

1. **Look at Sermon note #2A and discuss the following:**
  - **Read Jeremiah 31:31-34** Share: "The new covenant is to be one of internal change not simply an outward show of "religiosity." Such change requires a release, both of sin and its roots in selfishness and the need to control. Christ offers this renewal through his gift on the cross but we often choose the outward show instead. Why do you think that is?"
  - **Look at John 12:26.** In the context of that passage where is Jesus and where is He going? What might this suggest for our own discipleship?
  - What, specifically, are the 'false securities' that tempt you and what ways does God offer to help increase your trust in Him?
2. **Look at Sermon note #2B and discuss the following:**
  - Read Psalm 119:9-16. How might all of these activities be considered foundational to the life of prayer and how might this be a different way of thinking about prayer than we are accustomed to? In light of this passage, what do you think it means to always be ready to pray (or to "pray without ceasing"-1 Thess. 5:16-18)?
  - "Preaching" means more than simply standing in a pulpit and expounding for a few minutes. It literally means simply to declare. Read Acts. 1:8. What-giving some specific examples- does it mean for you to live ready to declare, or to be a witness to Christ?
  - Certainly we all die but reflect on that inevitability in light of John 12:24. What does it mean for us to truly live as those who are ready to die?