



Message #1:

"Running From Ourselves"

Scriptures and Devotions for June 7-13

Monday, June 8 Read Psalm 72

This is a psalm to bless King Solomon and ask God to give him guidance. According to this, what are the standards of a good leader? _____

What does this tell us about what God values in His people (look closely at vv.2 & 12)? _____

Tuesday June 9 Read Genesis 25:19-34

In Sunday's sermon, it was pointed out that the birthright was a double portion of the material inheritance and that it was given so that the eldest could care for the extended family. Take a moment and note the selfish motives of each of the family members here (focus on vv.22,28,31 &31). What does this tell us about sin in general and our own motives in particular? _____

How might God be challenging that tendency in you? _____

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Scripture: Genesis 28:10-15

- 1. God works in and through the consequences of our often sinful actions...because He loves us.**
- 2. Often we must be broken before we truly listen to God.**
- 3. God uses flawed people so we know salvation is not our own doing.**

Wednesday, June 10 Read Genesis 27:1-46

There is so much human failing here! Jacob's jealousy, Rebekah's favoritism and deceit, Isaac's willful ignorance, Esau's murderous wrath- all of it creates a decidedly unflattering picture of the patriarchal family. Yet God moves in the midst of our failings and in spite of them. What failings in your own life do you see as endings but perhaps God might use for new beginnings? _____

Discuss this with God in prayer today and be sure to stay alert to His answer.

Thursday, June 11 Read Genesis 28:10-22

Jacob receives his famous vision at the low point in his life. He has lost his family, his position and his future is terribly unsure. How do you suppose he heard God's promise (vv.13-15)? _____



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Are there ways God has promised similar faithfulness to you? _____

_____ Where, when and how?

Friday, June 12 Read John 10:7-17

Jesus warns that not everything that seems like a good idea, or a friend or a course of action is as good as it may seem. Indeed those things are most likely “wolves in sheep’s clothing,” and will ultimately only do us harm. What are some of the things in your life that would seem to be good for you but pull you from Christ instead?

Discuss these with God in prayer.

Saturday, June 13 Read Psalm 139

Re-read this, replacing the “I” and “me” with your own name. What is God trying to tell *you* in this psalm?

How might it be a strength for you as you face today?

Try memorizing vv.1-6 and repeat them to yourself throughout the day. Be aware of the ways God might be responding to this prayer.

Remembering God’s Promises

When we feel...

- **Shame -** God reminds us: “I am the God of your father Abraham.”

Where do you need to be reminded that God knows and loves you?

- **Betrayed-** God reminds us: “I am the God of Isaac.”

Where do you need to be reminded that God regularly changes possibilities and perceptions?

- **Without home or place-** God reminds us: “I will give you this land.”

Where do you need to be reminded that with God we are always home and covered?

- **Insignificant-** God reminds us: “All peoples on the earth will be blessed through you.”

Where do you need to be reminded that in God you have an eternal purpose?

- **Alone and unloved-** God reminds us: “Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth.”

Where do you need to be reminded that you are part of God’s immense family?

- **Afraid of the future-** God reminds us: “I am with you ... wherever you go.”

Where do you need to be reminded that God is with you in all circumstances?

- **Afraid of Failure-** God reminds us: “I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

Where do you need to be reminded that God is already accomplishing His purposes in you?

