



Sermon Notes and Weekly Devotional Guide

August 3-8, 2020

Monday, August 3 Read Psalm 17:1-7;15

If we sometimes have problems honestly praying v.3, perhaps it's because we cannot proclaim vv.4-5 with any real confidence! While this psalm is probably envisioning human adversaries, what are the adversaries or challenges in your own life with which you struggle and why? _____

How might recommitting to a deeper walk with God give you strength and direction in these situations? _____

What would that recommitment look like? _____

Tuesday August 4 Read Genesis 32:22-31

We explored this scripture earlier in our series on Jacob but there are some points worth revisiting. Note that coming to know God entails admitting uncomfortable truths about ourselves. The encounter changes us and forever alters (or, better, corrects!) our perspective on life. In what ways does your personal discipleship challenge your own goals, perspectives or values?

Prayerfully reflect on the ways you've changed and grown closer to God in the last year. If you don't feel you have, prayerfully ask God "why not?" _____

Be sure to listen carefully and honestly for God's answer!

Sermon notes for

"What Are You Going to Do About It?"

August 2, 2020

Scripture: Matthew 14:13-21
(New Revised Standard Version)

- 1. Our primary concern, like Jesus' is to be for the lost and broken.**
- 2. As disciples, Jesus needs our willingness much more than our ability.**

Wednesday, August 5 Read Isaiah 55:1-5

Faithfulness is not about following certain doctrinal points. Rather it is about getting to know and experience the Almighty in profound and personal ways. It is about finding meaning and value beyond the insubstantial things of this material world and in the limitless graciousness of God. Take some time to reflect on your own testimony. How would you explain this passage's invitation to abundant living to an unbeliever? _____

Thursday, August 6 Read Matthew 14:13-21

There is an important link in this passage between v.14 and v. 16. Jesus' prime motivation is concern for the crowd and their brokenness, while the disciples see them more as an inconvenience and a logistical problem. In v.16 Jesus makes the welfare of the crowd the disciples' responsibility. Why does he do this? _____

What might this suggest for our own motivations behind our discipleship? _____

Friday, August 7 Read Romans 9:1-5

As a devout and well-educated Jew, Paul is distressed for the state of his own people as regards their ignorance of the reality of Christ. How do we as a church model the same evangelistic concern for our own community and neighbors? _____

What concrete forms does such a concern take in your own personal ministry? _____

Saturday, August 8 Read Psalm 145:8-9;14-21

Imagine this was the only part of scripture available to you. What would it tell you of the nature of God and of God's relationship to humanity? _____

Do you think this understanding of God is the one held by most people, particularly those who are not practicing disciples? Why or why not and if not, how can we, as the Body, go about correcting that misunderstanding? _____

How can you, personally? _____
