



Message #4:

"What Goes Around..."

Scriptures and Devotions for June 28-July 4

Monday, June 29 Read Psalm 40:1-17

List some adjectives that describe the psalmist's relationship to God. _____

What actions on God's part nurture that relationship? _____

_____ What actions on the part of the psalmist strengthen his relationship to God? _____

_____ In what ways is the psalmist's experience similar to your own and in what way is it different? _____

_____ Discuss this with God in prayer today.

Tuesday June 30 Read Genesis 33:1-20

Note that while there is reconciliation between Jacob and Esau there is still a fair amount of suspicion and mistrust. Trust, once lost, is very hard to reestablish and requires time, patience and a sad recognition that things can never return to previous ways. Think of times you have been wronged and times you have wronged another. What does it take to reestablish trust?

What Goes Around...

June 28, 2020

Scripture: Genesis 33:1-12

- 1. Striving with God always includes striving with other people.**
- 2. If we are to live into the new life that God has for us we must first...**
 - A. ...seek and offer forgiveness.**
 - B. ...find ways of living together graciously.**
 - C. ...bear in mind our call to be "ministers of reconciliation."**

Are you willing to do similar things to reconcile with someone else? Discuss these with God today in a prayer of confession.

Wednesday, July 1 Read John 4:1-26

Tradition holds that the city of Sychar is the same as the site of Succoth from Genesis 33:17. Millenia later there is still bigotry, mistrust and brokenness (and down to our own time) but Jesus begins bridging that gap as he calls the woman to look beyond ordinary, mundane physical situations. When we drink of the "water" of this world, satisfaction is fleeting. In your own experience how does partaking of Christ's "living water" change attitudes and perceptions? List some examples. _____



“What Goes Around...”

Thursday, July 2 Read 2 Corinthians 5:12-21

Reconciliation requires looking beyond the sources of division and towards something- or Someone- more important. For the church at Corinth, worldly differences had led to great pain and brokenness. Here Paul reminds us that as ambassadors for Christ, we called to move beyond such petty divisions, seeing things through Christ’s eyes and *actively* work to nurture and rebuild relationships. How does this calling line up with your own experience of discipleship? _____

What does it mean to *you* to be a “minister of reconciliation?” What might that look like today? _____

Friday, July 3 Read Matthew 5:23-26

Discipleship can never be simply an “add-on” activity that we do alongside everything else. It requires humility, change and growth. Here Jesus reminds us that our worship (in this case, offerings) is meaningless if we don’t allow our discipleship to makes us more Christ-like in day to day living. What is Christ-like about reconciliation with the people around us? _____

Prayerfully consider areas in your life where this needs to be a focus.

Saturday, July 4 Read Micah 7:18-19

The prophet reminds us that the God we worship is driven by love and grace, yearning for reconciliation with His creation rather than punishment and judgment. In Christ we see God’s nature fully displayed and in the gift of the Spirit we are given the power to be about that ministry. Take some time to memorize these verses and reflect on them through the day. How does an awareness of God’s graciousness help us to be gracious in return? _____

