



Sermon Notes and Weekly Devotional Guide

July 27-August 1, 2020

Monday, July 27 Read Psalm 128

The word in v.1 often translated as “fear” might be better understood in our day as “reverence” or “values.” Why is it important that we truly wrestle with the meaning of v.1 before we move on to the specific forms of the blessings (plenty, fertility and growth) that follow? _____

Tuesday July 28 Read 1 Kings 3:5-12

Solomon’s request for wisdom is based on his understanding that he has been called, like his father David, to care for God’s People and further God’s covenantal plans. He therefore asks for what will help him best accomplish God’s purposes. To what extent do our prayers reflect similar awareness? _____

In a similar situation, given the talents, resources and life God has given you, what would your prayer be? _____

What’s hindering you from actually praying this? Why? _____

Wednesday, July 29 Read Matthew 6:1-21

A common thread in Jesus’ teachings regarding worship, discipleship and prayer is what- and Who- our focus is on. Note that the Lord’s Prayer is not an incantation designed to convince God to give us what we want, nor is doing good deeds or making sacrifices. How does our prayer

Sermon notes for

“You Know What I Meant to Say!”

July 26, 2020

**Scripture: Romans 8:26-39
(Contemporary English Version)**

- 1. God responds to our hearts, not our eloquence, ability or deeds.**
- 2. Our good is found only in our connection and relationship with God.**
- 3. When are truly connected to God, the result is confidence and a passion to serve.**

focus (and discipleship practices) shape what we pray (and act) for? _____

Thursday, July 30 Read Romans 8:26-39

Go back and look at Romans 7:18 and reflect on how today's passage is such good news for sinful people. Many of us are familiar with v.31 but the real importance is a recognition that God is for us even when we are patently not good enough or even able understand, much less articulate, our desires, fears and concerns. Why is grasping this passage crucial to the shape our faith and ministry takes? _____

Friday, July 31 Read Matthew 13:31-33;44-52

The kingdom of heaven is, broadly speaking, where God's will and way holds. It's why Jesus told his evangelists to proclaim that the Kingdom "has come near to you this day. (Mark 1:14-15; Luke 10:9 and many others)" In today's reading Jesus uses five metaphors to describe the Kingdom's impact on people. Using these examples as a model, what are some of the ways we experience the Kingdom (and it's closeness) today? Be as specific as possible. _____

Saturday, August 1 Read Psalm 119:129-136

Notice the reciprocal quality of the interaction here: We don't do what God wants to get what we want. Rather, adhering to God's will helps us get ever more attuned to God and God's purposes. What does this passage tell you about the proper relationship between God and us? Meditate on v. 134 especially as you pray over this. _____

How might this be said to sum up all of the sections in Romans 7-8 we have been exploring the last few weeks? _____