



Devotions and Notes for the week of September 28-October 3

Monday, September 28 Read Psalm 51

Focus especially here on v.4 and v.6. In what ways is God the primary victim of our sinfulness?

Note that David mentions no specific actions but rather a state of being. What does God desire according to v.6 and why? _____

Why are we often unwilling to offer this? _____

What is the result? _____

Tuesday September 29 Read 2 Samuel 12:1-12

We are often blind to our own failings, failings which are patently obvious to those around us! Notice how easy it is for David to become righteously angry at another for doing the same things (or less!) than he has done himself. Take some time to reflect on your own actions today and share a prayer of confession with God. Where might changes be called for and are you willing to address them? _____

Wednesday, September 30 Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

In light of our readings in the Psalms and Samuel this week, what is Paul saying about the relationship between God and humanity, especially in vv. 26-29? _____

If we understand sin as separation from God and elevation of our own selfishness, how does the attitude expressed in the first part of this passage (the need for signs, wisdom, etc.) contribute to such sinfulness? _____

What is the logical result in terms of our relationships, service and church life? _____

Thursday, October 1 Read John 6:24-35

Re-read vv.26-27. What does Jesus say was motivating the people who came to him? Another way to ask it is to ask what is most important to these people and how are they like us? Give some specific

Lesson #3: September 27, 2020

“You The Man!”

2 Samuel 12:1-12 (The Message)

- 1. Often our harshest wilderness is the one we make through our own sinful actions.**
- 2. Our sin always has consequences for ourselves as well as others.**
- 3. The primary victim of our sinfulness is God...yet through Christ He offers complete reconciliation.**

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examples from your own life and experience. _____

What is Jesus' remedy and what might such a response look like in your own life? _____

Again, give some specific examples and discuss this with God in prayer.

Friday, October 2 Read 1 John 1:5-10

In what ways might this passage be considered the Christian answer to the challenges posed by Psalm 51?

Why is confession so necessary to our growth in faith and discipleship? _____

Reflecting on your readings this week, what does it mean (in daily, practical terms) to "walk in the light?"

What does walking in the darkness look like? _____

Saturday, October 3 Read Psalm 78:1-16

This psalm celebrates God's faithfulness even in the face of stubbornness, complaining and outright rejection by His people. Grace is given when it is manifestly undeserved but the "dark sayings (v.2)" remind us also that there are always consequences for our actions. If you read the whole of the psalm you will note that Israel's refusal to be faithful inflicts a terrible toll. How can we guard against taking grace cheaply and for granted? _____

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

If you use these devotions as a basis for a small group study, here are some suggested guidelines for framing your study and your discussion

Part 1: Discovering our wildernesses

1. Read Psalm 51 aloud and discuss the questions from Monday's devotions.
2. See if anyone had any particular question or insight from this week's readings and share them with the group.

Part 2: The consequences of sin

1. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-12. Ask: Why didn't David recognize himself in Nathan's story? What might this tell us about our own sinfulness and need for grace?
2. Look at sermon notes #1 & 2. Do you agree or disagree? How might our own actions contribute to feeling "lost" in the wilderness? How do our actions tend to drive us deeper into more sin and why?

Part 3: Heading into the wilderness

1. Share 1 John 1:5-10 with the group. Discuss the questions from Friday's reading with the group and try to use as many specific examples or actions as you can.
2. Close with prayer