

100th Anniversary Weekly Devotions

Week 5 – Pressing On

by Pastor Jim Borge

In Luke 9:51, we read about Jesus, “When the days drew near for Him to be received up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.”

I like that statement about the Lord. He was about to start the long march to the cross. Many things were going to happen in that week confronting Him that would have sent most men scrambling for safety. Jesus knew what he must do...He was born to die. The hope of mankind was at stake. And he followed through, until nailed on a cruel cross he uttered, “It is finished.”

It could be said of the Master that he refused to give up. In spite of opposition, he did not lose his spirit or zeal. Sure he was discouraged but did not become despondent. Sure he was disappointed but not to the point of defeat.

At this point let us remember that one of Satan’s most powerful weapons is discouragement. He tries to load us down with tomorrow’s troubles so that we will be quitters today.

There is a little nursery rhyme that may help us at times when feel weariness invading our lives:

One foot up and one foot down,
That’s the way to London town!

You can only take one step at a time...one day at a time. Endurance and perseverance mean just that. One foot up and one foot down is not only the way to London Town but to Heaven also. And our Lord says, “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.” May we walk by faith in the one who was faithful unto death for our sake.

Question: Have you grown weary in your walk? Have you invited Jesus to walk with you?

Week 6 – It’s So Simple!

Rev. Dr. Palmer Wold

“We have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.” - 1 John 4:16

Shortly before his death, Karl Barth, the famous European theologian, visited the United States. At universities, seminaries, and churches throughout the country, he discussed, clarified, and expounded upon many theological issues and ideas.

After lecturing at Princeton Seminary, Dr. Barth yielded the floor for questions and possible discussion. One student stood up and asked, “Sir, what is the greatest truth you have ever learned?” The brilliant

theologian paused for a moment and then replied, “The greatest truth I ever learned is that Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so.”

Question: Yes, Jesus loves me! How does that affect my living now?

Week 7 – God’s Peace

Pastor Darrin Vick

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 4:6-7

We live in a time of perpetual anxiety. And it’s starting to catch up with us. It is reported that more people are receiving treatment for anxiety and depression than ever before in modern history – including a startling number of teenagers. Has the stress and pressure of life really increased or are we simply more aware of it due to social media and the daily barrage of bad news being pumped into our homes via the internet? Someday, someone will look back on this period of history and have some answers.

God’s Word offers us a recipe for facing each day’s worries that we would be wise to follow. Prayers and petitions with a healthy portion of thanksgiving! Martin Luther said it this way: “Pray and let God worry.” That sounds like more than wise advice. It’s a summary of Jesus’ command, “Do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself.” (Matthew 6:34)

Billy Graham once said, “Take one day at a time. Today, after all, is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.” Let’s bring our prayers and petitions with thanksgiving to the ONE who loves us, saved us, and has a wonderful plan for our future with Him. And God’s peace be with you.

Question: Did what you worried about yesterday come to pass today? Can you trust God to give you peace for today and tomorrow?

Week 8 – Gone Fishing

Pastor Darrin Vick

“Come follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” – Mark 1:17

A right of passage for all the men in my family was attending opening weekend of the walleye fishing season in Minnesota. For over 65 years, the Vick’s have gathered at a resort on Lake Kabetogema for fellowship, fishing, and story-telling. It’s a tradition. Some years we catch lots of fish. Some years, we only catch a few. And then there are some years when all we do is “catch-up” with each other in the boats and along the shores. But no matter what, life is shared, memories are made, and our common history is passed-along from generation to generation.

Jesus loved to hang around fishermen. So much so that he invited them to follow him as his closest companions in ministry. Maybe he knew that these rough and smelly characters understood something about life that many others miss – life is more than the work you do, it's also the company you keep.

Followers of Jesus are called to make more followers of Jesus. This doesn't happen by accident. You have to make room to share life together with others so that the truth about Jesus can be "caught". We are the bait! That's a challenging statement because it means there needs to be something about us that makes others want to be around us, work beside us, and hear our stories of life with Jesus. That's doing life together! That's fishing for people.

Question: What about your life is good "bait" for non-believers?