

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE JUNE 18-23: HUMBLE LIVING REQUIRES STEADY TRUST

DAILY PRAYER: Holy Lord; God of power and might; as we read today's scripture, fill us with your flowing Spirit that, grounded in trust, we might hear a word of challenge and a word of hope. Amen.

Mon., June 18 Read 1 Corinthians 13: 1-5 Exactly WHO is the noisy gong?

These opening sentences set the stage for what is to come. Have we heard talk about pretentiousness and arrogance lately? Turn the question on ourselves. When have we sounded like a noisy gong or a creaking gate? Is God challenging us to offer an alternative to the noisy gong and clanging symbol?

Tue., June 19 Read Micah 4 "And NO ONE shall make them afraid."

Before Micah reminds us of what the Lord requires of us (6:8), he promises days of "peace and security through obedience." Many of us participate in peaceful protests or share articles on Facebook that express our personal positions. Why do we do this? Is it in obedience to something God has called us to do? Or could it be self-serving? Out of pure anger? Vs. 2a says "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord...that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." What are the ways that God is teaching us to walk today, in this 21st century field of faith? Be specific.

Wed., June 20 Read Philippians 2: 1-5 Imitating Christ's Humility

A well-known passage, is difficult for flawed humanity to follow. In those days of disagreement (and in these) the passage calls us to "be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord..." Is this possible? How much trust in God would it take to evoke this kind of humility? According to the writer of Philippians, it may come when we *first* "look to the interests of others."

Thur., June 21 Read 2 Chronicles 32: 26 Is humility a sign of weakness or of strength?

King Hezekiah and Isaiah prayed together that Yahweh would save them from the wrath of their enemies. They were spared. The King who had great wealth, and gained even more, responded to God's mercy by "humbling himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem." The King and the entire nation did not see humility as a weakness, but as an appropriate way to lead and respond to God. How humble are we? How humble are our leaders? Is this level of humility even possible today? If so, it requires "steady trust."

Fri., June 22 Read Matthew 6: 5-6 Remembering the prayers of Ash Wednesday

This passage is often read during the season of Lent. The 40 days of Lent call on us to fast and pray. Jesus reminds us that prayer is itself an act of humility. We know this call is for more than 40 days. How do we pray? Perhaps the question is DO we pray and how often? What has it meant to you to "pray in secret?" How do we cope with today's "Pharisees" who do not?

Sat., June 23 Read Psalm 86 "Prayers for help against that which seems to work against us."

Psalm 86 is a song of absolute trust in the LORD. When we read words like *enemies*, *ruffians*, or *insolent* (depending on the translation used), change them into words that reflect the *specific* challenges of *our* lives. How does trust in God give hope to the psalmist? As we prepare for tomorrow's Sabbath, pray that God will restore in us any lost trust and open our hearts to hear a new word.

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