

Week 5 Daily Devotional

I. Prayer to enter the Lord's presence:

Be still for a moment. "Lord, I give the day that is now past to you. It is yours. I give the day that is to come to you; help me to see where you are working and to join you there. Speak to me during these moments. I commit them and myself to you."

II. Prayer of Confession:

"Lord, you are faithful to forgive me and cleanse me of my sin when I confess it to you. I confess my sin(s) of _____ . Thank you for forgiveness." (1 John 1:9)

III. Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Choose to be thankful, speak out loud of what God has done.

"Thank you, Father, for _____ . Fill my heart and my mouth with gratitude throughout this day."

IV. Scripture Reflection

Scripture

Day 1: Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Day 2, 3, & 5: Josh. 1:6 "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. ⁷ Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸ Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Day 4: Joshua. 5:13-15 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Reflect

Day 1: It has long been common practice for people to sit in judgment on Scriptures. They are said to be inconsistent, contradictory, outdated, and even evil. There are those who are less overt and aggressive in their questioning of the validity and authority of Scriptures. They quietly disregard them as being hard to understand and virtually impossible to apply in the real world. But now or later God's word will lay bare the intent of every heart. All will give account to the one who has given his Word so we might know him.

Day 2: Courage is not an emotion. People may "feel" unafraid but they "act" with courage. Joshua's challenge to act with courage was based on his understanding of and experience with, God. He was not to "drum" up courage. He was to be courageous as an act of faith. The fact that God repeated himself indicates Joshua was going to be tempted to be terrified and discouraged. We tend to think courage means we do not struggle with fear, this is simply not true. The fearless person may not have courage at all.

Day 3: "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth" is tied to the ancient custom of "muttering" or talking out loud while studying or meditating. The Hebrew word translated "meditate" here means to "mutter." It is "mind muttering" not merely "mouth muttering." We are all shaped by what we think most about. We all "mutter" constantly in our minds. What we "mutter" determines to a large degree whether we will be able to be strong and courageous or not.

Day 4: Jericho was a stunning victory for Israel. Ai was a stunning defeat. Jericho should have been a difficult victory while Ai should have been an easy win. The difference in the two was at Jericho they obeyed while at Ai they were living in rebellion. God does not join us, we can only join him. We often maneuver to get God on our side. This can be subtle "God, I've been good, please do this for me." Or not so subtle "God you must do this, can't you see!" God is for God, and it is a good thing for us that he is. He alone is wise and if we are wise we will learn to look for where he is moving and join him there.

Day 5: The name "Jesus" is the Greek form of the Hebrew name "Joshua." They both mean "The Lord gives victory." Joshua who led his people to victory in Canaan pointed forward to Jesus who would lead to victory over sin and death. What we call the Old Testament is a unified story line that leads straight to the New Testament. It is all about "Jesus...the one who gives victory." Consider the wisdom and power of God...he can accomplish a plan that would unfold over thousands of years, on several continents, involving whole nations. Can he accomplish his purposes in your life as well? How has he woven details together in ways that you can see looking back over your life?

Respond

Day 1: Let the Word of God judge your thoughts and attitudes. If they are wrong you want to know it. What has God been saying to you about your response to Him and others? How will you respond?

Day 2: Are you terrified? Are you discouraged? What do you fear? What has you down? How are you dealing with fear and discouragement? Are you trying to "think" your way out? Are you waiting for them to dissipate? Perhaps you simply run from them. Will you choose to be strong and courageous by letting God's word counter your fear and discouragement? This is not about merely trying it is about training to take God at his word.

Day 3: Spend the next few minutes reading today's Scripture out loud. Do it slowly, do it over and over. Emphasize different words or phrases as you do.

Day 4: Ask God to examine your heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to expose any attempts at manipulating God to adjust to your will. Look for signs of "bargaining" with Him. Look for evidence of demanding and then corresponding anger in areas where he is not acting like you want him to act. Repent of this; it is sinful and it is foolish.

Day 5: Will you take the trust he has earned in your life looking back and apply it to your life looking forward? If you feel you do not have a strong history with God will you believe what he has written in Scriptures and "borrow" trust from there? This is important if you want to build your own "bank" of trust going forward. Speak a prayer of confidence in God regarding your future, it doesn't matter if you "feel" like you trust him right now...speak truth regardless. The truth is He is trustworthy.

V. Prayer for others:

Pray specifically for the concerns of your life and the lives of others.

VI. Prayer of commitment:

“Lord God, I commit to love you with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my strength and with all my mind and to love my neighbor as myself. Empower me today to love you and others with everything that I am.” (Luke 10:27)

This Month's Scripture Memory:

Psalm 23:1-6

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.