

Week 18 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

Day 1

Read

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col. 3:17

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men. Col. 3:23

Reflect

To act in someone's name means you are representing them. We are to live as authorized and authentic representatives of Jesus. This has far reaching implications for our lives. It means that there is nothing we do or say that is outside the realm of this mandate. There is no menial task and no super-spiritual task...all things equally are to be done as his people who represent and reflect him.

Respond

What menial tasks lay before you today? What do you feel is petty or irksome for you to complete today? What do you dread or wish were behind you? Meditate for a few minutes on our verses for today. Ask God for his perspective on what the day will bring.

Day 2

Read

Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work — this is a gift of God. Ecc. 5:19

Reflect

"Lot" means what has been portioned to you...it is what God has determined to give you in your life. The word translated "work" actually means "toil". Toil is the kind of work that we would not normally enjoy. So Solomon is speaking of the gift of "attitude" in what God has given us to do. We have a say in our attitude about our life's lot. To be happy is a gift but it is a gift that comes as a result of the pursuit of God and contentment in him. To learn to be happy in God is to learn to be happy in God's allotment for our lives.

Respond

What "allotment" has God given you? Are you learning contentment? Practice contentment now. It is an acquired trait, not merely something for the "lucky" few. Talk to God about all you are grateful for and all you should become grateful for.

Day 3

Read

Luke 12:16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."' "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

Reflect

Retirement per se is not a bad thing, but living for self certainly is. The man in this parable spent his life on himself but did not make himself "rich toward God." What does it mean to be "rich toward God?" Jesus said elsewhere we are to store up riches in heaven. These riches come as the result of a life lived loving God and others.

Respond

Who does God want you to communicate love to today? Send them a text or email right now? Pray for them. Look for opportunities to put them first today. Make an eternal investment today.

Day 4

Read

Gen 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it

Reflect

This verse is part of what is called the "Creation Mandate" or "Great Mandate." It along with the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19,20 and the Great Commandment of Matthew 22:37-40 form the three "greats" of the Christian's life. We are to know and love God and make God's love known to others. We do this through evangelism and discipleship and also through the normal affairs of our lives. As we do good work in our day to day lives we are acting as God's representative image bearers in the world.

Respond

Consider the creative work you will do today. Teaching, leading, caring for the needs of others, designing, building, repairing, writing. Your job, whatever it is, is creative. You will act as an image bearer of God today. Pay attention to this. Rejoice in this.

Day 5

Read

John 17:13 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Reflect

We are not to live apart from the world. We are not to live submerged in the world. We are to live "in but not of" the world. Jesus prayed that we would be protected from the evil one, Satan, even as we roam about in his evil sphere of influence. We go into the world that is dominated by Satanic impulses, ideas, and energy. God has both set us apart for his purposes and set us squarely in a world that is far from him. We will not do well if we do not rely on him fully.

Respond

Is your impulse to "run" from the world or to "give in" to it? Are you able to live "in but not of" the world around you? Take an honest look at your life, evaluate if you need to move towards a more biblical balance. Perhaps you "over avoid" the world, perhaps you "over indulge" the world. Be honest, talk with God about this.

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:

Ephesians 6:14-18

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.