

Week 26 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

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down." Exodus 12:21-28

Reflect

If you have tried to read the Old Testament it is likely you have gotten bogged down in the seemingly endless details contained in some passages and even entire books. If your beginning point is "I sit in judgment on the Bible" then your conclusion might be, "These details are unnecessary." If your beginning point is "I sit under the teaching of the Bible" then your question would be, "These details are here for a reason, God is never without purpose in what he does and says." The instruction given in this passage regarding Passover have several purposes. One is that they point to Jesus, the final sacrifice for human sin. Think about other reasons why God might have been so specific in this instructions.

Respond

Are you cutting corners in any area of your life? What about your thinking? What you watch? Your words? Time use? How you treat others? If you are ignoring some of what you know God wants for you repent right now. Ask God for forgiveness then purpose to obey him.

Day 2

Read

“What have you done?” asked Samuel. Saul replied, “When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Micmash, I thought, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD’s favor.’ So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.” “You acted foolishly,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD’s command.”

1 Samuel 13:11-14

Reflect

Samuel said he felt "compelled" to offer the burnt offering. Some of those compelling factors were...his people were afraid and running from the battle, his own felt need for God's help, and possibly a well-meaning desire to do what he thought was right at the moment. The problem is God didn't want a Co-partner or even a Jr. Partner...he wanted an obedient son. The "man after God's own heart" that God found in David was not perfect but he was, in the overall trajectory of his life, obedient.

Respond

Being faithful in the small things sometimes requires the "courage of conviction." Are you being tested in this area right now? Are there costs that you might be facing if you live this principle out in your life? Will you trust God with those costs? Will you believe God and be faithful regardless of those costs?

Day 3

Read

Therefore, holy brothers who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. He was faithful to the one who appointed him.

Hebrews 3:1-2

Reflect

Contemplate all the ways Jesus was faithful to his Father. Not just the cross but start in your thinking back to his childhood and move forward. The cross was the "big obedience" what were the thousands of small choices he had to make throughout his life, choices the Bible doesn't mention but you can imagine were there?

Respond

Perhaps there is a chance at a "big obedience" in front of you right now and that will take faith and courage. Whether there is or isn't a "big obedience" there is certainly the chance and many "small obediences" in front of you. Will you embrace these fully? Will you see them as God's invitation to join him and enjoy him?

Day 4

Read

So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him. Romans 16:25

Reflect

The "secret things of God" refers to the gospel. Of course the gospel of Jesus is no longer a secret it has been fully made known. This "hiddenness" of the Gospel refers to the fact that it was being revealed by God over time. In ages past the prophets only saw in part what we now know in full. A Jewish friend recently told me that he is still waiting for the Messiah to come. We believe he has come. This knowledge or experience of the gospel is our sacred trust. If you follow Christ this is your sacred trust. You must be found faithful with that trust. Contemplate what that might mean for you.

Respond

Your stewardship is all that God has given you. Every experience, relationship, gift, talent, opportunity is a part of your stewardship. This includes every pain and problem. All that has happened is part of God shaping your life in a way that you can uniquely reveal him and bring him glory. You don't have to figure it all out. Isn't that a relief? You only have to do your best to be found faithful today. What is next, right now, that God wants you to be faithful with?

Day 5

Read

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.” Luke 16:10

Reflect

This principle from Jesus is one of his teachings that not many would even try to refute. It is obvious by experience. In our own lives if someone cannot be trusted with small things we are not likely to trust them with things that have great consequence. Throughout Scripture we see God looking for people with a certain kind of life direction. Not perfection in every action but a settled life direction. He wants us to BE people who are learning to joyfully and habitually DO what he wants done.

Respond

There is no neutral place or time in your life. Everywhere, all the time...you are being "formed" into a certain "shape." God desires that you be formed in the image of Jesus. Your part in that is to say "yes" to the many shaping opportunities that come your way each day. Forgive someone. Act against a mood and be kind instead. Turn your eyes and mind from impurity. Speak a kind word. The opportunities today to be shaped into the image of Christ are numerous. Make the most of those opportunities.

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:

Philippians 4:4-8

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 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 all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.