

Week 27 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

John 17:13-22 “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. 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. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Reflect

Jesus has prayed for you. When he prayed for the disciples he also said he was praying for all those who might believe in me through their message. He has not forgotten us and left us with no purpose in the world. Your life sometimes can seem like it is an endless cycle of activity. Mow the yard, go to work, do the dishes, prepare for school...these are all culture creating activities. God has sent us to this culture into this world. He has not left us here. He has sent us on purpose.

Respond

Are you feeling forgotten or left behind and summer days speed by? Can you take some time to engage with those around you? There are no important or unimportant people just people made in God's image. How can you join God today as you are sent into the world?

Day 2

Read

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Do not conform to the patterns of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:1

Reflect

Culture is built on ideas. Ideas are carried through champions. Artists take the ideas of champions and write songs, write poems, and make movies that carry the idea of champions. Overtime the ideas get embedded in the life of a culture. Satan championed the idea of a life apart from God found in the endless pursuit of pleasure and possessions. Pleasure and possessions are not bad but it's the lust for these things that leads to an empty life. Our challenge is to discipline our minds to not let these lies take root.

Respond

Are you letting the lust for pleasure or possessions guide you to a life away from God? It can happen in subtle ways. Are you letting your mind long for just a little bit more? At each meal today take time to savor and enjoy the gift that God has given you in the food. These simple pleasures are a taste of the future life we have with him. Look for opportunities to enjoy his gifts today and be grateful throughout the day.

Day 3

Read

John 17:13-22 “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. 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. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

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John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came **from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Reflect

Jesus entered into the world. He wants us to enter into the world as well. He entered into a world that had already rejected him. As we represent Christ we will not be welcomed in the world either. When Jesus came into the world he came full of grace and truth. He was all grace and all truth. Each person was graciously welcomed because he knew the truth that they were all people made in God's image. He had a right to reject each person he encountered but instead as he entered the world, he invited people to come and be with him.

Respond

Are you making room in your life for people? These people could be people far from God or they could be people you know from church. Grace and Truth means we accept people where they are and treat them with dignity. We have to speak truth but in love. Who can you make room for today? If you have opportunity to speak truth will you commit to speak in love?

Day 4

Read

John 14:1-6

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.”

5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

Psalms 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Phil 1:21 For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.

Reflect

Do not let your hearts be troubled, Jesus said. He says this because he has just told the disciples that he is leaving. He will be going away but you can be sure that he has made a place for the disciples and that he will return. Jesus is the way to be at home finally with God. He is truth. He was the true human. In him is life. He called himself the “light of life.” Light illuminates, provides energy, and is energy. Jesus is the substance of life. Walking faithfully with him is the place of joy and pleasure.

Respond

Do you really believe Jesus is the way, the truth and the life? Do you believe it in the way that you would stake your life on it? Jesus is life. Do you look for life and substance from things that can never satisfy? Jobs, finances, praise of others? If so will you commit to stop looking for life in Christ plus something else? Confess that life is found in Christ alone.

Day 5

Read

John 17:13-22 “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. 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. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

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Reflect

Being sent is a privilege. God could bring us home to be with him at any moment but for now we are sent. Staying behind could seem like a punishment but it is a privilege. Being here IN and not OF the world is what Jesus has for us right now. If we are here it is his best and it is his plan. It is right to long for home, but while we are here we are set apart for a purpose. To go into the world so that the world might believe in Jesus.

Respond

Do you see being sent as a privilege? Do you even think about being sent or do you just think of the next thing that needs to be done? Jesus has sent you. Are you living set apart as a sent one into the world? Are you bored with waiting on him and now you find yourself pursuing the lies of the world? If so, confess your pursuit of the lies of the world and tell Jesus you are ready to be sent again.

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.