

DEVOTIONAL READINGS AND PRAYERS

June, 2009

Monday, June 1

Read Job 1:1-22, considering that God sometimes allows the work of the enemy in our lives, that our internal realities may be exposed and healed. Give thanks for this difficult but ultimately good thing.

Read Psalm 112:1-6, understanding that the blessing of God is upon those who fear Him, who face the struggles of life with the determination to do what is right.

Read Mark 12:1-12, and worship God for the high place He has given to Jesus Christ. All people will have to contend with Him. Give thanks that He allows us to know His mercy instead of His wrath.

Tuesday, June 2

Read Job 2:1-10, and meditate on Job's determination to trust God, even when his circumstances were difficult and seemingly contrary to God's will and purpose.

Read Psalm 112:1-2,7-9, seeing how the fear of the Lord enables us to look all other fears in the face, and be victorious. Set your heart to serve Him today, regardless of how things seem to be.

Read Mark 12:13-17, giving thanks that in Jesus, we have a Lord Who lives in the fear of God, Who is unaffected by man's opinion, and Who gives us of His Spirit that we might live in that same place of security.

Wednesday, June 3

Read Job 3:1-26, considering the times of your life when overwhelming disappointment seemed to be the only reality. Consider Job, and give thanks that God's Word deals realistically with the difficulties of life.

Read Psalm 25:1-9, and make David's prayer to be your prayer. Without denying the difficulty of your circumstance, choose to speak the truth about God, Whose love never changes, and Whose purposes are good and holy.

Read Mark 12:18-27, considering how the religious leaders, in their foolish debates over theology, missed the very heart and character of God. Give thanks that He is about life, and that all His ways are good.

Thursday, June 4

Read Job 5:17-27, which is the counsel of Job's friend Eliphaz. Consider that sometimes good theology is bad counsel, for Job's friends were assuming that his trouble was the result of sin. Later, God would rebuke the friends for their lack of understanding.

Read Psalm 128:1-5, allowing yourself to feel the tension of these promises when received in the context of difficulty. Once again, set your heart to speak the truth about God, even though your experience may not measure up to His reality.

Read Mark 12:28-34, taking courage from the Holy Spirit to remember the main and plain things of loving God with everything you are, and loving your neighbor as yourself.

Friday, June 5

Read Job 38:1-18, and 40:1-5, seeing that in God's good time, He revealed Himself and His greatness to Job, and Job's complaint was silenced. Give thanks in your difficulty, for you will surely see the goodness of the Lord revealed.

Read Psalm 146:1-10, again affirming and giving thanks for the goodness of the Lord. Set your mind in line with the truth, and entrust yourself to the Father's love for this day.

Read Mark 12:35-37, giving thanks that Jesus is the Eternal God, worshipped by David, and established by the Father as Lord over all time.

Saturday, June 6

Read Job 42:1-17, and rejoice in the vindication and restoration that God brought to His servant Job. Consider that in all of Job's complaining, he had a truthful perspective about God, and was honored for it.

Read Psalm 71:5-24, and join with the writer in praising God for His faithfulness through all kinds of circumstances.

Read Mark 12:38-44, seeing that God values a heart of generosity and worship more than a great outward show of religious zeal that has no compassion..

Sunday, June 7

Read Genesis 3:9-15, considering that from the first moment of sin, God set in place His plan for our salvation and for the victory of His Son over the work of the devil. Give thanks to God for His great mercy, and set your trust in Jesus again today.

Read Psalm 130:1-8, letting your heart identify with the grateful cry of the soul that is dependent upon God for salvation. Give thanks that He has not remembered your sin, but has set you free through His Son Jesus Christ.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1, reflecting on the peace that comes to the heart that is settled in the goodness of God. Give thanks that His plan is big enough to include you, and that He works all things to your ultimate benefit as one of His own.

Read Mark 3:20-35, seeing that even Jesus had to deal with family members that did not believe what He was doing. Set your heart upon radical obedience today, and rest in God's promise to give you spiritual family members that are focused on following Jesus.

Monday, June 8

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-7, receiving from the Holy Spirit the hope that comes from knowing your sufferings have a purpose - that you might receive consolation from the Lord, and be empowered to share that with others who suffer in similar ways.

Read Psalm 34:1-10, and meditate on the reality that those who turn their faces to the Lord are radiant and delivered from shame. Give thanks for this, and enjoy His liberty!

Read Matthew 5:1-12, considering these "values of the Kingdom", that you might see the kinds of attitudes that are important to God, and how He rewards those whose hearts are after His.

Tuesday, June 9

Read 2 Corinthians 1:18-22, rejoicing in the truth that because Jesus is Who He is, every promise has already been fulfilled! Consider God's promises to you, and thanks Him for their fulfillment in Christ.

Read Psalm 119:129-136, considering again the high value there is upon the Word of God. Let the delight of God's Word fill your heart today, and give thanks.

Read Matthew 5:13-16, seeing that God has created us to do good works, so that His Name may be glorified among those who do not know Him.

Wednesday, June 10

Read 2 Corinthians 3:4-11, giving thanks that we live in the covenant of the Spirit, which is powerful, and glorious, and gives eternal life to all who participate.

Read Psalm 99:1-9, meditating on the fact that you worship the same God as Jacob, Moses, Aaron, and Samuel, and that He is the same today as He was then, saving His people by the power of His love and faithfulness.

Read Matthew 5:17-19, seeing that as Jesus fulfilled the Law, He also released to His followers, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the ability to keep God's commands, that we might be pleasing to Him as obedient sons and daughters.

Thursday, June 11

Read 2 Corinthians 3:7-4:6, seeing that the reality of living in God's power and nature happens simply by intimacy with Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Take time today to wait upon the Spirit to strengthen and refresh you in His Presence.

Read Psalm 85:1-13, giving thanks for His reviving Presence, and for the peace and joy that come to those who trust and obey Him.

Read Matthew 5:20-26, seeing that the Good News of God's love takes us right to the center of our character, and gives us the power to be changed and healed even in our deepest emotions and thoughts. Give thanks for this!

Friday, June 12

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-15, seeing how Paul lived out the tension of blessing and difficulty, and that the main reason for this reality was that He might be a doorway to others who would be saved through his ministry.

Read Psalm 116:1-19, seeing how the Lord brings deliverance to those who call upon Him, and allows them to bring the pleasing sacrifice of praise in the presence of His people.

Read Matthew 5:27-32, seeing the depths of righteousness demanded by God's law, and giving thanks that through Christ we are made clean in the deepest of realities.

Saturday, June 13

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, rejoicing that through Christ we may see ourselves and others through the eyes of the Spirit, rejoicing that He has made all things new!

Read Psalm 103:1-14, giving thanks for the compassionate, merciful ways that God pours out His grace upon His people. Give thanks that He is a good God and Father!

Read Matthew 5:33-37, seeing how the Holy Spirit works truth in the inner being, so that your words are true and reliable. Let your words be simple and true today, by the power of Christ at work in you.

Sunday, June 14

Read Deuteronomy 5:12-15, understanding that God has given us a day of rest to remind us that in His free gift of salvation, our Father eliminated human effort as a means of being saved, and brought us to Himself through His love. Thank Him for that!

Read Psalm 81:1-10, seeing that the foundational testimony of God's people is their story of deliverance from bondage and death to being the chosen ones of God. Reflect on your own story of salvation, and give thanks to the Lord!

Read 2 Corinthians 4:6-11, giving thanks for the treasure of God's life, which shines through our weaknesses and failings. Ask the Holy Spirit to shine through you today as you live transparently before your friends and acquaintances.

Read Mark 2:23-3:6, considering that God gave us holy things, not to make us religious for His own sake, but for our blessing that we might receive His mercy and experience His love and care.

Monday, June 15

Read 2 Corinthians 6:1-10, seeing the character and the confidence in God's sovereign power that is required of His servants. Give thanks that God gives the grace to embrace the costs of following Him, and to count them as nothing in the light of His love for you and for the world.

Read Psalm 98:1-9, and allow your spirit to soar with the joy of the Lord as you reflect on His power and love, and as you praise Him together with all creation.

Read Matthew 5:38-42, seeing that what was required of the apostles is also the standard for everyday life. Entrust yourself to the Lord's mercy as you choose a non-resistant life today.

Tuesday, June 16

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, seeing how giving yourself to God and then to His people enables you to live above the difficulties of your circumstance. Ask the Lord for this spirit of generosity to fill your life today.

Read Psalm 146:1-10, entrusting yourself again to the Lord Who sets captives free and sustains those who are in need. Give thanks that you have a good and generous Father!

Read Matthew 5:43-48, noticing that the realization of sonship and daughterhood comes by giving mercy to those who don't deserve it. Let the character of your Father be established in you today, that you might be like Him.

Wednesday, June 17

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, seeing that as you live in generosity, all your needs are covered and more, so that you might increase in generosity. In this way you become a vehicle of thanksgiving to the Father.

Read Psalm 112:1-10, seeing that the one who fears and obeys the Lord is established in confidence, even in the face of difficulty. Let the delightful fear of the Lord be your operating reality today.

Read Matthew 6:1-6,16-18, considering how important it is to the Father to do spiritual things in secret. He sees the secret things, and repays them openly.

Thursday, June 18

Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-11, seeing again the passion of God's heart for His people reflected in Paul's life. Give thanks for those who were and are the messengers of God in your life, through whom you have received God's mercy and grace.

Read Psalm 111:1-10, worshipping the Lord for His faithful love and goodness, and allowing the fear of the Lord to guide you today.

Read Matthew 6:7-15, seeing each line of the Lord's prayer as a topic for your own prayers. Let forgiveness flow through you as you pray today, that the mercy of God may be fully revealed in your life.

Friday, June 19

Read 2 Corinthians 11:18-30, understanding that in Paul's reasoning, it is not the positive things that qualify him as God's servant, but the difficulties he has endured in the power of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Lord to help you with endurance in the hard things you face today.

Read Psalm 34:1-7, giving thanks for the Presence of the Lord that delivers those who fear His Name.

Read Matthew 6:19-23, again allowing the Holy Spirit to impress you with the things that God values, things that are eternal in their nature.

Saturday, June 20

Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, understanding that Paul's thorn in the flesh (probably persecution and resistance) was permitted so that he would develop a dependency upon the grace of God. Thank the Father for the areas in your life in which you are forced to depend upon Him.

Read Psalm 34:8-14, setting your heart in agreement with these truths about the care of the Father in your life. Give Him thanks for His faithful love.

Read Matthew 6:24-34, again allowing the values and priorities of the Kingdom to form your values. Allow your mind and spirit to come to a place of rest in the certainty of the Father's love and care for you.

Sunday, June 21

Read Genesis 3:9-15, considering that from the first moment of sin, God set in place His plan for our salvation and for the victory of His Son over the work of the devil. Give thanks to God for His great mercy, and set your trust in Jesus again today.

Read Psalm 130:1-8, letting your heart identify with the grateful cry of the soul that is dependent upon God for salvation. Give thanks that He has not remembered your sin, but has set you free through His Son Jesus Christ.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1, reflecting on the peace that comes to the heart that is settled in the goodness of God. Give thanks that His plan is big enough to include you, and that He works all things to your ultimate benefit as one of His own.

Read Mark 3:20-35, seeing that even Jesus had to deal with family members that did not believe what He was doing. Set your heart upon radical obedience today, and rest in God's promise to give you spiritual family members that are focused on following Jesus.

Monday, June 22

Read Genesis 12:1-9, giving thanks for Abraham, the father of faith, who was obedient to the Lord's leading, and brought the promise of Godly family to the rest of us.

Read Psalm 33:12-22, giving thanks that the eyes of the Lord are upon you today. Set your heart to fear Him, obeying His voice and waiting for Him to act on your behalf.

Read Matthew 7:1-5, seeing that we receive back whatever we give to people. Set your heart to give mercy today, that mercy might be measured back to you in proportion.

Tuesday, June 23

Read Genesis 13:1-18, seeing that because of the Lord's promise to Abraham, he could be generous with his relative, Lot. Reflect on how you might be generous today in light of God's promise of provision to you.

Read Psalm 15:1-5, considering these matters of character that must come in the hearts of those who would be close to the Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit to work these things in your heart today.

Read Matthew 7:6-14, understanding that knowing Jesus and obeying His voice is the only doorway to eternal life. Let your heart be filled with His love for you today.

Wednesday, June 24

Read Genesis 15:1-18, seeing that Abraham's decision to entrust himself to God's care was the act that made him righteous before God. Set your heart and mind again to entrust yourself to His wisdom and care today.

Read Psalm 105:1-11, giving thanks to the Father, Who has included you in His plan for having a people for Himself. You belong to the Father!

Read Matthew 7:15-20, understanding that it is the fruit of God's character, and the presence of the things He values that indicates true followers of Christ. Those who claim to know Him, yet do not exhibit His nature are not to be trusted.

Thursday, June 25

Read Genesis 16:1-16, giving thanks that the Bible does not hide the reality of human failure. God's blessing was still upon Abraham, even though he made a tragic mistake. Thank the Father that His blessing is upon you, even after you fail!

Read Psalm 106:1-5, joining in the praise of the Father, and receiving the blessing that comes to those who faithfully follow His ways.

Read Matthew 7:21-29, seeing that obedience to Jesus' words is the reality that settles us in our identity as His family. Set your will today to obey the last thing He has told you to do.

Friday, June 26

Read Genesis 17:1,9-22, seeing that God is able to do astounding things to bless those who find favor with Him. Give thanks that you belong to Abraham's family since you believe in Jesus, God's only Son.

Read Psalm 128:1-5, considering the benefits of living in the fear of the Lord, that delightful place of humbly obeying and serving the Father.

Read Matthew 8:1-4, seeing the compassion of Jesus as He not only was willing to heal, but also to touch and restore the man to relationship in the community. Rejoice in the mercy of our Lord!

Saturday, June 27

Read Genesis 18:1-15, considering what Abraham and Sarah must have felt in response to the Lord's surprising word. Also notice how ready Abraham was to show hospitality to strangers, and by doing so, welcomed the Lord into His home.

Read Luke 1:46-55, rejoicing in the Lord's favor toward those who serve Him and wait upon Him. Give thanks for His blessings in your life.

Read Matthew 8:5-17, considering the connection between being under authority and having the ability to exercise authority. See that there is a powerful dimension of faith released to those who operate in this understanding.

Sunday, June 28

Read Ezekiel 17:22-24, enjoying the poetic majesty of the victory of God's kingdom. Rejoice that this victory is certain, and that you are included among those who rest in the shade of His branches.

Read Psalm 92:1-15, considering especially verse 13, that to be planted in the Lord's House (that is, to focus on worship and intimate relationship with the Father), is the resource we need to flourish in the daily business of life. Draw close to Him today, and enjoy the blessing of His Presence with you.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, and follow Paul's example of making it your priority to live a life that is pleasing to God today. Rejoice in knowing that your faithfulness will be rewarded by the pleasure of the Father.

Read Mark 4:26-34, resting in the knowledge that God's purposes are being accomplished in your life even when you are not aware of it. Relax in His goodness, and follow His leading today with the settled joy that comes from trusting in His love for you.

Monday, June 29

Read Genesis 18:16-33, considering the seeming presumption that Abraham exercises in his prayers to God. Be encouraged to ask bold things in your prayers, since the God you serve is a great God.

Read Psalm 103:1-11, giving thanks for the merciful and gracious nature of God, Who forgives and restores those who call upon Him.

Read Matthew 8:18-22, seeing again the single-minded focus that following Jesus requires. Set your heart on Him alone for this day.

Tuesday, June 30

Read Genesis 19:15-29, considering that sometimes the mercy of God seems harsh to us, because of our limited perspective on reality. Give thanks that our Father is willing to insist sometimes, so that we may continue in His protection and grace.

Read Psalm 26:1-12, seeing how right living, prayer, and God's mercy all work together for the protection of those that fear His Name.

Read Matthew 8:23-27, receiving comfort that the Lord of the creation is your Friend and Brother, Jesus Christ. Worship Him today for His beauty and power.