

Devotions:

Monday: The “Wait” Room

This morning’s scripture is Psalm 62:5 MGS – “God, the one and only-I’ll wait as long as he says. Everything I hope for comes from him, so why not?”

Waiting doesn’t fit today’s immediate-results world. Technology and time-saving gadgets have conditioned us to be impatient people. We rush from place to place, from appointment to appointment. We fidget when we find a line blocking us from our goal or when the stoplight is red for more than a couple of minutes or when the preacher goes on “too long” with his/her sermon.

Yet much of life is learning to wait. The dictionary defines waiting as a time of stillness with an attitude of readiness or expectancy. Some Bible versions translate waiting as “resting.”

God’s timetable cannot be rushed. He is not bound by time, nor does He run on man’s schedule. So He gives us warm-up exercises of short waits or delays in our schedule; a light that stays red longer than we think it should or lines at the bank, grocery store, or pharmacy; to prepare us for the more intense times of life, such as wait times in doctor’s offices and hospital testing rooms or beside a loved one’s deathbed. These are the times He calls to rest in His time schedule, not anxious of the outcome, not striving for our own way, agenda, of deadline.

Take advantage of the “wait” training God has for you today. He will reward you with so much more when you do. Pray to our Father to help you to wait on Him today, resting in the knowledge of who He is and knowing that His plan, His timetable, is perfect.

Stay safe, stay healthy, take care and God Bless. Pastor Mary Lou

Tuesday: Receive Rest

This morning’s scripture is Matthew 11:28 – “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

We are not our own, for we were bought with a price. And that price was exorbitant, Christ’s very Life! He went through excruciating pain and humiliation as He sacrificed Himself for our sins. This was a gift of infinite value, an act of indescribable Love. Hear His invitation calling out: “Come to Me, all you who are

weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Sin is terrible, crushing burden, but He has paid the price in full to remove it from us forever.

When we awaken each morning, say to ourselves: “I am not my own. I belong to Jesus.” Then keep in mind Whose we are as we make our way through the day, especially as we make plans and decisions. Knowing that you belong to Him helps us keep our feet on the path of Peace. This knowledge meets deep-seated needs. We can find spiritual and emotional security by remembering that we are His; His beloved.

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Wednesday: Just God’s Name

This morning’s scripture is Psalm 75:1 – “We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks, for your Name is near; men tell of your wonderful deeds.”

We trust certain names. There are products with particular brand names we buy over and over. We rely upon a certain repair company that we know provides quality services. Someone shares a good report about his/her doctor and we see if he’s taking new patients. Hearing the name of an old friend brings a smile to our faces.

“What’s in a name?” William Shakespeare asked. If it’s a reliable, honest name, we know we can put our faith in that name. Hearing that name brings peace and hope. We are thankful that name is present whenever a need arises.

Sometimes for us, the reliable, honest name of God can become a one-word prayer. We don’t have the clarity or the energy to say much more. Just God’s name. The pain of grief or the feeling of loneliness may be so deep that repeating His name is our only comfort. Just God’s name.

Friends and family may let us down, making us feel all alone. God’s name goes with us through our dark times of life. Just God’s name. We can trust God’s name. It is all we need. Just God’s name.

Let us thank almighty God for being near. He knows what we need, and we can trust Him with our present and our future. He is our Lord, our God, and Our Savior.

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Thursday:**Hope of Heaven**

This morning's scripture is Romans 8:24-25 – "For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance."

Sometimes our journey through this world is wearisome. We feel as if we have been plodding uphill wearing leaden clothing, and we don't want to take another step. At such times we need to stop and re-center our thoughts on Christ. Remember that He is our constant Companion, eager to help us take the next step and then the next. We have to take only one at a time! Instead of staring grimly into the future, dreading the journey ahead of us, we should direct our focus to the present and to Christ's Presence with us.

As we walk with Him along our life-path, let hope of heaven shine brightly on us, lighting up our perspective dramatically. Though the way ahead may be steep and difficult, the end of our journey is stunningly glorious, beyond description! And every moment we look at Him in faith; trusting in His finished work on the cross, the Light of heaven's hope shines upon us and brightens the path just before us. Stay safe, stay healthy, take care and God Bless. Pastor Mary Lou

Friday:**Knee Mail**

This morning's scripture is James 5:16 – "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

We've all had those inevitable days when we're exhausted or discouraged and it seems too hard to carry on. We feel as dry as the desert sand, with nothing left to give. This is a time when we could use nourishment for our souls.

The prophet Zechariah said, "Ask the Lord for rain in the spring, for he makes the storm clouds. And he will send showers of rain." (Zechariah 10:1) Commentator Matthew Henry explained this scripture by saying, "Spiritual blessings had been promised... We must in our prayers ask for mercies in their proper time. The Lord would make bright clouds and give showers of rain. This may be an exhortation to seek the influences of the Holy Spirit, in faith and by prayer, through which the blessings held forth in the promises are obtained."

When these times occur, use “knee mail”. Carve out some time to pray, to praise, and to petition our Heavenly Father for the strength to carry on. He is faithful to answer our pleas and send refreshment to our hearts; maybe in the form of a restful night’s sleep, a friend to encourage us, or a stranger’s greeting.

We never know just how the Lord will answer our prayers, but answer He will. God’s inbox is never too full. We long for our Heavenly Father’s presence. Know that He does hear our prayers; and extends His hand of mercy to each of us in different ways.

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Saturday: Nothing will Separate

This morning’s scripture is Romans 8:37-39 – “But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us.³⁸ I’m convinced that nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers³⁹ or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.”

We are overwhelmingly conquered through Christ, the King of Glory who loves us. No matter what is happening in this fractured, fallen world or in our own lives, we are victorious. Christ won the Victory once for all time through His sacrificial death and miraculous resurrection. His unfailing love has accomplished this wondrous conquest and made us much, much more than a conqueror. We are heirs of the Kingdom of eternal life and Light!

Nothing will be able to separate us from His Love! Ponder what it means to have Him as the Lover of our souls every moment, forever and ever. Our souls are the eternal part of us, the part that can never be separated from Christ. It is not what we see in the mirror or what other people reflect back to us. It is the essence of who we are, the “real you” that is being transformed from Glory to Glory. Therefore, do not be discouraged by the defects we see in ourselves. Instead, remember that we are continually being transformed into His image and rejoice!

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