

Devotions: January 18 to January 24

For daily devotions I am going to start using Grace For The Moment by Max Lucado.

Monday: The Applause of Heaven

Hosea 10:12 – Plant goodness, harvest the fruit of loyalty, plow the new ground of knowledge.

Want to see a miracle? Plant a word of love heart deep in a person's life. Nurture it with a smile and a prayer and watch what happens. An employee gets a compliment, a widow is hugged, a gas-station attendant is honored, a preacher is praised. Sowing seeds of peace is like sowing beans. You don't know why it works, you just know it does. Don't forget the principle. Never underestimate the power of a seed.

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

Tuesday: The Great House of God

Matthew 28:20 – I will be with you always.

David said: "I'm asking Yahweh for one thing, only one thing: to live with him in his house my whole life long" (Psalm 27:4 The Message) What is this house of God which David seeks? When David says, "I will live in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23:6), he is not saying he wants to get away from people. He is saying that he yearns to be in God's Presence, wherever he is.

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Wednesday: When Christ Comes

Isaiah 11:6 - Then wolves will live in peace with lambs, and leopards will lie down to rest with goats.

Can you imagine a world minus sin? Have you done anything recently because of sin? At the very least, you have complained. You have worried. You have grumbled. You have hoarded when you should have shared. Because of sin, you have snapped at the ones you love and argued with the ones you cherish. You have felt ashamed, guilt, bitter, but in heaven, all of this will end. Can you imagine a world without sin? If so, you can imagine heaven!

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Thursday: Just Like Jesus

Isaiah 64:8 - We are like clay, and you are the potter, your hands made us all.

Where did we get the idea we cannot change? From whence come statements such as, "It is just my nature to worry". Would we make similar statements about our bodies? "It is my nature to have a broken leg. I cannot do anything about it." Of course not. If our bodies malfunction, we seek help. Should we not do the same with our hearts? Of course we can. Jesus can change our hearts. He wants us to have a heart like His.

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Friday: God Came Near

Psalms 136:23 - He remembered us when we were in trouble. His love continues forever.

God chose to reveal Himself through a human body. So, people came to him. My, how they came to Him! They came at night; they touched Him as He walked down the street; they followed Him around the sea; they invited Him into their homes and placed their children at His feet. Why? Because He refused to be a statue in a cathedral or a priest in an elevated pulpit. He chose instead to be a touchable, approachable, reachable Jesus.

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Saturday: In the Grip of Grace

Psalm 23:5 – You prepare a meal for me in front of my enemies.

Paul in God's royal dining room. Driven not by our beauty, but by His promise, He calls us to Himself and invites us to take a permanent place at His table. We take our place next to the other sinners-made-saints and we share in God's glory.

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Sunday: In the Eye of the Storm

Mark 6:34 - When he arrived, he saw a great crowd waiting. He felt sorry for them... So he began to teach them many things.

When Jesus lands on the shore of Bethsaida, he leaves the Sea of Galilee and steps into a sea of humanity. Keep in mind, he has crossed the sea to get away from the crowds. He needs to grieve. He longs to relax with his followers. He needs anything, but another crowd of thousands to teach and heal. But his love for people overcomes his need to rest.

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