

## **Devotions: January 25 to January 31**

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

**Monday:**                      The Great House of God

*Romans 8:16 – The Spirit bears witness with our Spirit that we are children of God.*

When we come to Christ, God not only forgives us, he also adopts us... Here is how it happens. You come before the judgement seat of God full of rebellion and mistakes. Because of his justice he cannot dismiss your sin, but because of his love he cannot dismiss you. So, in an act which stunned the heavens, he punished himself on the cross for your sins. God's justice and love as equally honored. And you, God's creation, are forgiven.

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

**Tuesday:**                      He Still Moves Stones

*Luke 11:40-42 – “Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me alone to do all the work?” ... “Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things,” the Master explained to her. “Only one thing is important. Mary has chosen (it).”*

What had Mary chosen? She had chosen to sit at the feet of Christ. God is more pleased with the quiet attention of a sincere servant than the noisy service of a sour one... What matters more than the type of service is the heart behind the service.

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**Wednesday:**

In The Grip of Grace

*Romans 8:39 – Nothing...in the whole world will ever be able to separate us from the love of God.*

Can anything separate us from the love Christ has for us/ God answered our question before we asked it. So we'd see his answer, he lit the sky with a star. So we'd hear it, he filled the night with a choir; and so we'd believed it, he did what no man had ever dreamed. He became flesh and dwelt among us. He placed his hand on the shoulder of humanity and said "You're something special."

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**Thursday:**

He Still Moves Stones

*Mark 5:34 – Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.*

Maybe all you have (is) a crazy hunch and a high hope. You have nothing to give. But you are hunting. And all you have to offer him is your hurt. If that describes you, note carefully...one person (whom Christ) commended...for having faith...was a shame-struck, penniless outcast...(a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years)- who clutched onto her hunch that he could and her hope that he would. Which, by the way, isn't a bad definition of faith.

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**Friday:**

Just Like Jesus

*James 3:17 – The wisdom that comes from God is first of all pure, the peaceful, gentle, and easy to please.*

The heart of Jesus was pure. The Savior was adored by thousands, yet content to live a simple life... Jesus' heart was peaceful. The disciples fretted over the need to feed the thousands, but not Jesus. He thanked God for the problem. The disciples shouted for fear in the storm, but not Jesus. He slept through it. Peter drew his

sword to fight the soldier, but not Jesus. He lifted his hand to heal. His heart was at peace.

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**Saturday:** In The Eye Of The Storm

*Matthew 14:14 – He had compassion on them.*

The Greek word for compassion is *splanchnizomai* ...”Splanchnology” is a study of...the gut. When Matthew writes that Jesus had compassion on the people, he is not saying that Jesus felt casual pity for them...Matthew is saying that Jesus felt their hurt in his gut. He felt the limp of the crippled. He felt the hurt or the diseased. He felt the loneliness of the leper. He felt the embarrassment of the sinful. And once he felt their hearts, he couldn't help but heal their hurts.

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**Sunday:** The Great House of God

*Philippians 4:7 – God's peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

The Lord came to Gideon and told him he was to lead his people in victory over the Midianites. That is like God telling a housewife to stand up to her abusive husband or a high school student to take on drug peddlers... “Y-y-you-b-b-better get somebody else,” we stammer. But then God reminds us that he knows we can't, but he can, and to prove it he gives a wonderful gift. He brings a spirit of peace.

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