

## **Devotions: April 19 to April 25**

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

**Monday:** He Still Moves Stones

*Matthew 1:23 – “She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel,” which means “God is with us.”*

The white space between Bible verses is fertile soil for questions. One can hardly read Scripture without whispering, “I wonder...” But in our wondering, there is one question we never need to ask. Does God care? Through the small face of the stable-born baby, he says yes. Yes, your sins are forgiven. Yes, your name is written in heaven....And yes, God has entered your world. Immanuel. God is with us.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

**Tuesday:** The Great House of God

*Psalm 40:8 – My God, I want to do what you want. Your teachings are in my heart.*

Want to know God’s will for your life? Then answer this question: What ignites your heart? Forgotten orphans? Untouched nations? The inner city?... Heed the fire within! As a young man I felt the call to preach....I sought the counsel of a minister I admired....”Don’t preach,” he said, “unless you have to.” As I pondered his words I found my answer. “I have to. If I don’t, the fire will consume me.”

What is the fire that consumes you?

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

**Wednesday:**

Just Like Jesus

*Luke 5:16 NIV – Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*

How long has it been since you let God have you? How long since you gave him a portion of undiluted, uninterrupted time listening for his voice? Apparently, Jesus did. He made a deliberate effort to spend time with God.... Let me ask the obvious. If Jesus, the Son of God, the sinless Savior of humankind, thought it worthwhile to clear his calendar to pray, wouldn't we be wise to do the same?

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

**Thursday:**

Just Like Jesus

*1 John 3:2 – We know that when Christ comes, we will be like him, because we will see him as he really is.*

When you arrive [in heaven]...something wonderful will happen. A final transformation will occur. You will be just like Jesus...Of all the blessings of heaven, one of the greatest will be you! You will be God's magnum opus, his work of art. The angels will gasp. God's work will be completed. At last you will have a heart like his....Your heart will be pure, your words will be like jewels, your thoughts will be like treasures.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

**Friday:**

In The Grip Of Grace

*John 15:15 – I no longer call you servants, ...but I call you friends.*

Through Christ's sacrifice, our past is pardoned and our future secure. And, "Since we have been made right with God by our faith, we have peace with God" (Romans 5:1). Peace with God. What a happy consequence of faith! Not just peace between countries, peace between neighbors, or peace at home; salvation brings peace with God...God is no longer a foe, but a friend. We are at peace with him.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

**Saturday:** The Great House Of God

*Psalm 32:1 – Happy is the person whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned.*

If we are already forgiven, then why does Jesus teach us to pray, “Forgive us our debts”? The very reason you would want your children to do the same. If my children violate one of my standards or disobey a rule, I don’t disown them...But I do expect them to be honest and apologize. And until they do, the tenderness of our relationship will suffer....The same happens in our walk with God. Confession does not create a relationship with God, it simply nourishes it.

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**Sunday:** When Christ Comes

*Romans 1:20 – There are things about him that people cannot see...But since the beginning of the world those things have been made easy to understand by what God has made.*

God’s judgement...is based upon humanity’s response to the message received. He will never hold us accountable for what he doesn’t tell us. At the same time, he will never let us die without telling us something. Even those who never heard of Christ are given a message about the character of God....Nature is God’s first missionary....If a person has nothing but nature, then nature is enough to reveal something about God.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou