

Devotions: July 26 to August 1

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

Monday: In The Grip Of Grace

Colossians 3:13 - Get along with each other, and forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, forgive that person because the Lord forgave you.

Unity does not begin in examining others but in examining self. Unity begins not in demanding that others change, but in admitting that we are not so perfect ourselves....The answer to arguments? Acceptance. The first step to unity? Acceptance. Not agreement, acceptance. Not unanimity, acceptance. Not negotiations, arbitration, or collaboration. Those might come later but only the first step, acceptance.

Tuesday: Just Like Jesus

Mark 10:45 - He came to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many people.

One of the incredible abilities of Jesus was to stay on target....As Jesus looked across the horizon of his future, he could see many targets....But in the end he chose to be a Savior and save souls..."The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them" (Luke 19:10)....The heart of Christ was relentlessly focused on one task. The day he left the carpenter shop of Nazareth he had one ultimate aim; the cross of Calvary.

Wednesday: When Christ Comes

John 14:1-3 - Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me so that you may be where I am going.

Reduce the [above] paragraph to a sentence and it might read: "You do the trusting and I will do the taking."

Thursday: The Applause Of Heaven

Isaiah 41:13 – I am the Lord your God, who holds your right hand, and I tell you, “do not be afraid. I will help you.”

We need to remember that the disciples were common men given a compelling task. Before they were the stained-glass saints in the windows of cathedrals, they were somebody’s next door neighbors trying to make a living and raise a family. They were not cut from theological cloth or raised on supernatural milk. But they were an ounce more devoted than they were afraid and, as a result, did some extraordinary things.

Friday: When God Whispers Your Name

Matthew 11:30 - The teaching I ask you to accept is easy, the load I give you to carry is light.

If you are at peace with yourself, if you like yourself, you will get along with others. The converse is also true. If you do not like yourself, if you are ashamed, embarrassed, or angry, other people are going to know it.... Which takes us to the question, “How does a person get relief?”...”Come to me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28)....Jesus says he is the solution for weariness of soul.

Saturday: When Christ Comes

1 Corinthians 15:23 TLB - Christ rose first; then when Christ comes back, all his people will become alive again.

God has made [a] promise to us. “I will come back...,” he assures us. Yes the rocks will tumble. Yes, the ground will shake. But the child of God need not fear; for the Father has promised to take us to be with him. But....is not there a cautious part of us that wonders how reliable these words may be?...How can we know he will do what he said?...Because he is already done it once.

Sunday:

When God Whispers Your Name

1 Timothy 6:7-8 - We brought nothing into the world, so we can take nothing out. But, if we have food and clothes, we will be satisfied with that.

As a child we say, “If only I were a teenager.” As a teen we say, “If only I were a adult.” As an adult, “If I only were married.”...We are not satisfied. Contentment is a difficult virtue. Why? Because there is nothing on earth that can satisfy our deepest longing. We long to see God. The leaves of life are rustling with the rumor that we will; and we will not be satisfied until we do.