

Devotions: June 28 to July 4

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

Monday: Walking With The Savior

1 Peter 2:20 - If you suffer for doing good, and you are patient, then God is pleased.

Is there any emotion that imprisons the soul more than the unwillingness to forgive? What do you do when people mistreat you or those you love? Does the fire of anger boil within you....? Or do you reach somewhere to some source of cool water and pull out a bucket of mercy – to free yourself? Don't get on the roller coaster of resentment and anger. You be the one who says, "Yes, he mistreated me, but I am going to be like Christ."

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Tuesday: In The Eye Of The Storm

1 Peter 1:15 - Be holy in all you do, just as God, the One who called you, is holy.

I have something against the lying voices that noise our world. You have heard them. They tell you to swap your integrity for a new sale. To barter your convictions for an easy deal. To exchange your devotion for a quick thrill. They whisper. They woo. They taunt. They tantalize. They flirt. They flatter.... The world rams at your door; Jesus taps at your door. The voices scream for your allegiance; Jesus softly and tenderly requests it. The world promises flashy pleasure; Jesus promises a quiet dinner....with God. What voice do you hear?

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Wednesday:

A Gentle Thunder

John 3:36 - Those who believe in the Son have eternal life, but those who do not obey the Son will never have life.

When does salvation come? When we look to Christ. When we embrace him as Savior. Astonishingly simple, isn't it?...And for those who believe, he has promised a new birth. But despite the simplicity, there are still those who do not believe. They do not trust the promise....If only they would try. If only they would test it. But God is as polite as he is passionate. He never forces his way in. The choice is theirs.

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Thursday:

When God Whispers Your Name

Proverbs 20:22 - Wait for the Lord, and he will make things right.

Some of you are rehashing the same hurt every chance you get with anyone who will listen. For you, I have this question: Who made you God?..."Vengeance is Mine," God declared. "I will repay" (Hebrews 10:30 NKJV). Judgement is God's job. To assume otherwise is to assume God cannot do it. Revenge is irreverent....To forgive someone is to display reverence. Forgiveness is not saying the one who hurt you was right. Forgiveness is stating that God is faithful and he will do what is right.

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Friday:

Just Like Jesus

Psalms 139:23 - God, examines me and knows my heart; test me and know my nervous thoughts.

Imagine considering every moment as a potential time of communion with God.... By giving God your whispering thoughts, the common becomes uncommon. Simple phrases such as "Thank you, Father," "Be sovereign in this hour, O Lord," "You are my resting place, Jesus" can turn a commute into a pilgrimage. You need not leave your office or kneel in your kitchen. Just pray where you are. Let the

kitchen become a cathedral or the classroom a chapel. Give Gd your whispering thoughts.

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Saturday: Just Like Jesus

Psalm 40:3 - He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

God invites us to see his face so he can change ours. He uses our uncovered faces to display his glory....By his fingers, wrinkles of worry are rubbed away. Shadows of shame and doubt become portraits of grace and trust. He relaxes clenched jaws and smoothes furrowed brows. His touch can remove the bags of exhaustion from beneath the eyes and turn tears of despair into tears of peace. How?...God's plan is [simple]. He changes our faces through worship.

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Sunday: When God Whispers Your Name

Job 10:12 – You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your care you watched over my life.

Discipline is easy for me to swallow. Logical to assimilate. Manageable and appropriate. But God's grace? Anything but. Examples?...Peter denied Christ before he preached Christ. Zacchaeus, the crook....The thief on the cross....Story after story. Prayer after prayer...Seems that God is looking more foe ways to get us home that for ways to keep us out. I challenge you to find one soul who came to God seeking grace and did not find it.

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