

Devotions: August 2 to August 8

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

Monday: The Applause Of Heaven

Psalm 23:3 - He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

It is hard to see things grow old...I wish I could make it all new again... but I can't. But God can. "He restores my soul," wrote the shepherd. He does not reform; he restores. He does not camouflage the old; he restores the new. The Master Builder will pull out the original plan and restore it. He will restore the vigor. He will restore the energy. He will restore the hope. He will restore the soul.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Tuesday: The Applause Of Heaven

Romans 12:1 - Since God has shown us great mercy, I beg you to offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him.

There is a dangerous point which anger ceases to be an emotion and becomes a driving force. A person bent on revenge moves unknowingly further and further from being able to forgive, for to be without the anger is to be without a source of energy....Revenge is the raging fire that consumes the arsonist. Bitterness is the trap that snares the hunter. And mercy is the choice that can set them all free.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Wednesday:**When Christ Comes**

Isaiah 62:5 - As a man rejoices over his new wife, so your God will rejoice over you.

Have you ever noticed the way a groom looks at his bride during the wedding? I have...If the light is just so...I can see a tiny reflection in his eyes. Her reflection. And the sight of her reminds him why he is here.... And such are precisely the feelings of Jesus. Look long enough into the eyes of our Savior and there, too, you will see a bride....And who is this bride for whom Jesus longs?...You are. You have captured the heart of God.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Thursday:**Just Like Jesus**

Psalms 37:4 - enjoy serving the Lord, and he will give you what you want.

When we submit to God's plans, we can trust our desires. Our assignment is found at the intersection of God's plan and our pleasures....Each of us has been made to serve God in a unique way... The longings of your heart, then, are not incidental; they are to be consulted. As the wind turns the weather vane, so God uses your passions to turn your life. God is too gracious to ask you to do something you hate.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Friday:**When God Whispers Your Name**

Romans 12:2 The Message – Fix your attention on God. You will be changed from the inside out.

Real change is an inside job....allow me to get specific. Our problem is sin. Not finances. Not budgets....We are in rebellion against our Creator. We are separated from our Father. We are cut off from the source of life....That is why the Bible uses drastic terms like conversion, repentance, and lost and found. Society may renovate, but only God recreates.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Saturday: The Inspirational Study Bible

Psalm 89:14 – Your kingdom is built on what is right and fair. Love and truth are in all you do.

The single most difficult pursuit is truth and love. That sentence is grammatically correct. I know every English teacher would like to pluralize it to read: The most difficult pursuits are those of truth and love. But that is not what I mean to say....pursue truth and love at the same time and ...you are in for the ride of your life. Love in truth. Truth in love. Never one at the expense of the other...to pursue both is our singular task.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Sunday: When Christ Comes

Romans6:5-6 The Message - When Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end.

The resurrection is an exploding flare announcing to all sincere seekers that it is safe to believe. Safe to believe in ultimate justice. Safe to believe in eternal bodies. Safe to believe in heaven as our estate....Safe to believe in a time when questions will not keep us awake and pain will not keep us down. Safe to believe in open graves and endless days and genuine praises. Because we can accept the resurrection story, it is safe to accept the rest of the story.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

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