

Devotions: August 30 to September 5

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

Monday: Just Like Jesus

Acts 1:8 - You will be my witnesses – in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world.

We are witnesses. And like witnesses in a court, we are called to testify, to tell what we have seen and heard. And we are to speak truthfully...Period. There is, however, one difference between the witness in court and the witness for Christ. The witness in court eventually steps down from the witness chair, but the witness for Christ never does. Since the claims of Christ are always on trial, court is perpetually in session, and we remain under oath.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Tuesday: A Gentle Thunder

Hosea 2:19 - I will make you my promised bride forever. I will be good and fair; I will show you my love and mercy.

The Bible has a simple story. God made man. Man rejected God. God would not give up until He wins him back. God will whisper. He will shout...He will take away our burdens; He will even take away our blessings. If there are a thousand steps between us and Him, He will take all but one. But He will leave the final one for us. The choice is ours.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Wednesday:

The Applause Of Heaven

Psalm 51:10 - Create in me a pure heart, God, and make my spirit right again.

We are thirsty. Not thirsty for fame, possessions, passion, or romance. We have drunk from those pools. They are salt water in the desert,. They do not quench; they kill. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...”

Righteousness.... That is what we are thirsty for. We are thirsty for a clean conscience. We crave a clean slate...We pray for a hand that will enter the dark cavern of our world and do for us the one thing we can't do for ourselves; make us right again.

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Thursday:

Walking With The Savior

Ephesians 1:7 - In Christ we are set free by the blood of his death and so we have forgiveness of sins.

Jesus spoke of freedom...the type of freedom that comes not through power but through submission...God wants to emancipate his people; He wants to set them free...He wants them governed not by law but by love. We have been liberated from our own guilt and our own legalism. We have the freedom to pray and the freedom to love the God of our heart. And we have been forgiven by the only one who could condemn us. We are truly free!

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Friday:

Walking With The Savior

Matthew 6:21 - Your heart will be where your treasure is.

The most powerful life is the most simple life. The most powerful life is the life that knows where it is going, that knows where the source of strength is, and the life that stays free of clutter and happenstance and hurriedness. Being busy is not a sin. Jesus was busy. Paul was busy. Peter was busy. Nothing of significance is achieved without effort and hard work and weariness....But being busy in an endless pursuit of things that leaves us empty and hollow and broken inside; that cannot be pleasing to God.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Saturday: When God Whispers Your Name

Psalm 62:6 - He is my defender; I will not be defeated.

Here is a big question. What is God doing when you are in a bind?...I know what we are doing. Nibbling on nails like corn on the cob. Pacing floors. Taking pills...But what does God do?...He fights for us. He steps into the ring and points us to our corner and takes over. "Remain calm; the Lord will fight for you" (Exodus 14:14). His job is to fight. Our job is to trust. Just trust. Not direct. Or question....Our job is to pray and wait.

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Sunday: He Still Moves Stones

Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed, because we can trust God to do what He promised.

Your disappointments too heavy? Read the story of the Emmaus-bound disciples. The Savior they thought was dead now walked beside them. He entered their house and sat at their table. And something happened in their hearts. "It felt like a fire burning in us when Jesus talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us" (Luke 24:32). Next time you are disappointed, do not panic. Do not give up. Just be patient and let God remind you He is still in control.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou