

Devotions: September 6 to September 12

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

Monday: Just Like Jesus

Psalm 101:7 - No one who is dishonest will live in my house; no liars will stay around me.

More than once I have heard people refer to the story [of Ananias and Sapphira] with a nervous chuckle and say, "I am glad God does not still strike people dead for lying." I am not so sure He does not. It seems to me that the wages of deceit is still death. Not death of the body, perhaps, but the death of: a marriage....a conscience...a career....intimacy, trust, peace, credibility, and self-respect. But perhaps the most tragic...our [Christian] witness. The court will not listen to the testimony of a perjured witness. Neither will the world.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Tuesday: Just Like Jesus

Proverbs 12:22 - The Lord hates those who tell lies but is pleased with those who keep their promises.

Our Master has a strict code...God loves the truth and hates deceit. In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Paul lists the type of people who will not inherit the kingdom of God...Those who sin sexually, worship idols, take part in adultery, sell their bodies, get drunk, rob people, and –there is-lie about others.... You mean my fibbing and flattering stir the same heavenly anger as adultery and aggravated assault? Apparently so...For one reason: dishonesty is absolutely contrary to the character of God.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Wednesday:

In The Eye Of The Storm

1 Peter 4:10 - Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others.

“Blessed are the meek,” Jesus said. The word meek does not mean weak. It means focused. It is a word used to describe a domesticated stallion. Power under control...Blessed are those who recognize their God-given responsibilities. Blessed are those who acknowledge that there is only one God and have quit applying for His position. Blessed are those who know what on earth they are on earth to do and set themselves about the business of doing it.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Thursday:

In The Eye Of The Storm

Acts 16:25 - About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God as the other prisoners listened.

Great acts of faith are seldom born out of calm calculation. It was not logic that caused Moses to raise his staff on the bank of the Red Sea....And it was not a confident committee that prayed in a small room in Jerusalem for Peter's release from prison. It was a fearful, desperate, band of backed-into-corner believers. It was a church with no options....And never were they stronger. At the beginning of every act of faith, there is often a seed of fear.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Friday:

When God Whispers Your Name

Ecclesiastes 3:10 TLB - God has planted eternity in the hearts of men.

It does not take a wise person to know that people long for more than earth....We have our moments. The newborn on our breast, the bride on our arm, the sunshine on our back...God flirts with us...Those moments are appetizers for the dish that is to come. “No one has ever imagined what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9). What a breathtaking verse! Do you see what it says? Heaven is beyond our imagination...At our most creative moment, at our deepest thought, at our highest level, we still cannot fathom eternity.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Saturday:

When God Whispers Your Name

John 14:16-17 - I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever – the spirit of truth.

Do it yourself Christianity is not much encouragement to the done in and worn out....At some point we need more than good advice; we need help. Somewhere on this journey home we realize that a fifty-fifty proposition is too little....We need help. Help from the inside out....In part of us we do not even know. In the heart no one else has seen. In the hidden recesses of our being dwells, not an angel, not a philosophy, not a genie, but God.

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Sunday:

When Christ Comes

John 12:24 - Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain of wheat; but if it dies, it brings a good harvest.

WE do all we can to live and not die. God, however, says we must die in order to live. When you sow a seed, it must die in the ground before it can grow. What we see as the ultimate tragedy, He sees as the ultimate triumph. And when a Christian dies, it is not a time to despair, but a time to trust....The seed buried in the earth will blossom in heaven.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou