

Devotions: September 13 to September 19

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

Monday: The Applause Of Heaven

Exodus 20:11 - In six days the Lord make everything... On the seventh day he rested.

When I was ten years old, my mother enrolled me in piano lessons.... Spending thirty minutes every afternoon tethered to a piano bench was a torture....Some of the music, though, I learned to enjoy...But there was one instruction in the music I could never obey to my teacher's satisfaction. The rest. The zigzagged command to do nothing. What sense does that make? Why sit at the piano and pause when you can pound? "Because," my teacher patiently explained, "music is always sweeter after a rest."

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Tuesday: Just Like Jesus

Job 17:9 - But those who do right will continue to do right, and those whose hands are not dirty with sin will grow stronger.

What if someone were to film a documentary on your hands?...What would se see?...Oh, the power of our hands. Leave them unmanaged and they become weapons: clawing for power, strangling for survival, seducing for pleasure. Bu manage them and our hands become instruments of grace; not just tools in the hands of God, but God's very hands.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Wednesday: Just Like Jesus

Ephesians 4:25 TJB - Speak the truth to one another.

Are you in a dilemma, wondering if you should tell the truth or not? The question to ask in such moments is, will God bless my deceit?...I do not think so either. Examine your heart. Ask yourself some tough questions. Am I being honest with my spouse and children?...Am I honest in my dealings? Am I a trustworthy student? An honest taxpayer?...Do you tell the truth....always? if not, start today. Do not wait until tomorrow. The ripples of today's lie is tomorrow's wave and next year's flood.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Thursday: In The Grip Of Grace

Psalms 89:8 - Lord God All-Powerful, who is like you? Lord, you are powerful and completely trustworthy.

Ponder the achievements of God. He does not condone our sin, nor does He compromise His standard. He does not ignore our rebellion, nor does He relax His demands. Rather than dismiss our sin, He assumes our sin and, incredibly, sentences Himself. God's holiness is honored. Our sins is punished...and we are redeemed. God does what we cannot do so we can be what we dare to dream: perfect before God.

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Friday: The Great House Of God

Proverbs 18:10 NKJB - The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

When you are confused about the future, go to your Jehovah-raah, your caring shepherd. When you are anxious about provision, talk to Jehovah-jirch, the Lord who provides. Are your challenges too great? Seek the help of Jehovah-shalom, the Lord is peace. Is your body sick?...Jehovah-rophe, the Lord who heals you, will see you now. Do you feel like a soldier stranded behind enemy lines? Take refuge in Jehovah-nissi, the Lord my banner. Meditating on the names of God reminds you of the character of God.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Saturday: In The Grip Of Grace

Ephesians 4:31 - do not be bitter or angry or mad. Never shout angrily or say things to hurt others.

Let me be very clear. Hatred will sour your outlook and break your back. The load of bitterness is simply too heavy. Your knees will buckle under the strain, and your heart will break beneath the weight. The mountain before you is steep enough without the heaviness of hatred on your back. The wisest choice; the only choice; is for you to drop the anger. You will never be called upon to give anyone more grace than God has already given you.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Sunday: When God Whispers Your Name

Psalms 134:3 - May the Lord bless you from Mount Zion, he who made heaven and earth.

The Hebrew writer gives us a National Geographic piece on heaven....He says when we reach the mountain we will have come to “the city of the living God...To the meeting of God’s firstborn children whose names are written in heaven” (Hebrews 12:22-23)...Imagine the meeting of the firstborn. A gathering of all God’s children....We will be perfect...sinless...And imagine seeing God. Finally, to gaze in the face of our Father. To feel the Father’s gaze upon you. Neither will ever cease.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou