

Devotions: September 20 to September 26

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

Monday: The Great House Of God

1 Peter 1:8 - You have not seen Christ, but still you love him. You cannot see him now, but you believe in him.

As long as our eyes are on God's majesty there is a bounce in our step. But let our eyes focus on the dirt beneath us and we will grumble about every rock and crevice we have to cross. For this reason Paul urged, "Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to the things going on around Christ – that's where the action is. See things from his perspective" (Colossians 3:1-2 The Message).

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Tuesday: Just Like Jesus

1 Peter 5:8-9 - The devil, your enemy, goes around like a roaring lion looking for someone to eat. Refuse to give in to him, by standing strong in your faith.

For most of us, thought management is, well, unthought of. We think much about time management, weight management, personnel management... But what about thought management? Shouldn't we be as concerned about managing our thoughts as we are managing anything else? Jesus was. Like a trained soldier at the gate of a city, he stood watch over his mind. He stubbornly guarded the gateway of his heart...If he did, shouldn't we?

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Wednesday:

In The Eye Of The Storm

John 14:8 - Lord, show us the Father. That is all we need.

Biographies of bold disciples begin with chapters of honest terror. Fear of death. Fear of failure. Fear of loneliness. Fear of a wasted life. Fear of failing to know God. Faith begins when you see God on the mountain and you are in the valley and you know that you are too weak to make the climb...Paul mastered the Law. He had mastered the system. But one glimpse of God convinced him that sacrifice and symbols were not enough...Faith that begins with fear will end up nearer the Father.

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Thursday:

When Christ Comes

John 14:1 - Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me.

Our [little] minds are ill-equipped to handle the thoughts and eternity...Consequently, our Lord takes the posture of a parent...Trust me...do not be troubled by the return of Christ. Do not be anxious about things you cannot comprehend...for the Christian, the return of Christ is not a riddle to be solved or a code to be broken, but rather a day to be anticipated.

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Friday:

When Christ comes

John 11:26 - Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Whether it be at a school or a cemetery, separation is tough. It is right for us to weep, but there is no need for us to despair...You and I might wonder why God took them home. But they do not. They understand. They are, at this very moment, at peace in the presence of God...When it is cold on earth, we can take comfort in knowing that our loved ones are in the warm arms of God. And when Christ comes, we will hold them, too.

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Saturday: When God Whispers Your Name

Revelations 2:17 - I will also give to each one who wins the victory a white stone with a new name written on it.

Makes sense. Fathers are fond of giving their children special names. Princess. Tiger. Sweetheart....Is not it incredible to think that God has saved a name just for you? One you do not even know?...Your eternity is so special no common name will do. So God has one reserved just for you. There is more to your life than you ever thought. There is more to your story than what you have read....And so I plead....Be there when God whispers your name.

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Sunday: The Applause Of Heaven

Matthew 5:12 - Rejoice and be glad, because you have a great reward waiting for you in heaven.

Matthew 5 describes God's radical reconstruction of the heart....First, we recognized we are in need (we are poor in spirit). Next, we repent of our self-sufficiency (we mourn). We...surrender control to God (we are meek). So grateful are we for His presence that we yearn for more of Him (we hunger and thirst).... We forgive others (we are merciful). We change our outlook (we are pure in heart). We love others (we are peace-makers). We endure injustice (we are persecuted). It is no casual shift of attitude...The more radical the change, the greater the joy.

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