

## **Devotions: November 22 to November 28**

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

**Monday:** The Applause of Heaven

*Ephesians 2:10 - In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.*

The desire for excellence is a gift of God, much needed in society. It is characterized by respect for quality and a yearning to use God's gifts in a way that pleases him....But there is a canyon of difference between doing your best to glorify God and doing whatever it takes to glorify yourself. The quest for excellence is a mark of maturity. The quest for power is childish.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

**Tuesday:** He Still Moves Stones

*Mark 3:35 - My true brother and sister and mother are those who do what God wants.*

Does Jesus have anything to say about dealing with difficult relatives?...You may not be aware that Jesus had brothers and sisters (see Mark 6:3)...And it may surprise you to know that his family was less than perfect...[Yet] he did not try to control his family's behavior, nor did he let their behavior control his. He did not demand that they agree with him. He did not sulk when they insulted him. He did not make it his mission to try to please them.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

**Wednesday:**

When Christ comes

*Matthew 24:46 - When the master comes and finds the servant doing his work, the servant will be blessed.*

For every million who aspire, only one achieves. The vast majority of us do not hit the big ball, do not feel the ticker tape, do not wear the gold medal, do not give the valedictory address. And that is OK. We understand that in the economy of earth, there are a limited number of crowns. The economy of heaven, however, is refreshing different. Heavenly rewards are not limited to a chosen few, but “to all those who have waited with love for him to come again” (2 Timothy 4:8).

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**Thursday:**

In The Grip Of Grace

*Palm 32:5 - I said, “I will confess my sins to the Lord,” and you forgave my guilt.*

Once there were a couple of farmers who could not get along with each other. A wide ravine separated their two farms...[and] each constructed a fence.... To keep the other out. In time, however, the daughter of one met the son of the other, and the couple fell in love. Determined not to be kept apart...they tore down the fence and used the wood to build a bridge across the ravine. Confession does that. Confessed sin becomes the bridge across the ravine. Confession does that. Confessed sin becomes the bridge over which we can walk back into the presence of God.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

**Friday:**

A Gentle Thunder

*Psalms 23:1 - The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need.*

Sheep are not smart. They tend to wander into running creeks for water, then their wool grows heavy and they drown. They need a shepherd to lead them to “calm water.” They have no natural defense; no claws, no horns, no fangs....Sheep need a shepherd with a “rod...” to protect them. They have no sense of direction. They need someone to lead them “on paths that are right.” So do we...We need a

shepherd to care for us and to guide us. And we have one. One who knows us by name.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

**Saturday:**                      Just Like Jesus

*John 15:10 - I have obeyed my Father's commands, and I remain in his love. In the same way, if you obey my commands, you will remain in my love.*

God rewards those who seek him....Can you think of a great gift than to be like Jesus? Christ felt no guilt; God wants to banish yours. Jesus had no bad habits; God wants to remove yours. Jesus had kindness for the diseased and mercy for the rebellious and courage for the challenges. God wants you to have the same.... He wants you to just like Jesus.

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**Sunday:**                              Walking With the Savior

*Psalm 68:19 – Praise the Lord, God our Savior, who helps us every day.*

Christ will not turn away from you. He came first and foremost to those who have no hope. He goes to those no one else would go to and says, "I will give you eternity." Only you can surrender your concerns to the Father. No one else can take those away and give them to God. Only you can cast all your anxieties on the one who cares for you. What better way to start the day then by laying your cares at his feet?

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou