

Devotions 2023: April 17 to April 23

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

Monday: The Great House of God

Romans 4:5 - People cannot do any work that will make them right with God.

If Christ had not covered us with his grace, each of us would be overdrawn on [our heavenly bank] account....Our holiness account show insufficient funds, and only the holy will see the Lord; what can we do? We could try making a few deposits. Maybe if I wave at my neighbor or...go to church next Sunday...But how do you know when you have made enough?...You are trying to justify an account you cannot justify..."It is God who justifies" (Romans 8:33).

Stay safe, stay healthy, take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Tuesday: Walking With The Savior

2 Corinthians 5:21 - Christ had no sin, but God make him become sin so that in Christ we could become right with God.

When the one who knew no sin became sin for us...God did not call his army of angels to save him. He did not, because he knew he would rather give up his Son than give up on us. Regardless of what you have done...It is not too late...It is not too late to dig down, pull out that mistake, and then let it go- and be free. What makes a Christian a Christian is not perfection but forgiveness.

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Wednesday: He Still Moves Stones

Matthew 1:23 - "She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel, " which means "God is with us."

The white space between Bible verses is fertile soil for questions. One can hardly read Scripture without whispering, “I wonder....” But in our wonderings, there is one question we never need to ask. Does God care? Through the small face of the stable-born baby, he says yes. Yes, your sins are forgiven. Yes, your name is written in heaven....And yes, God has entered your world. Immanuel. God is with us.

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Thursday: The Great House of God

Psalm 40:8 - My God, I want to do what you want. Your teachings are in my heart.

Want to know God’s will for your life? Then answer this question: What ignites your heart? Forgotten orphans? Untouched nations? The inner city?....Heed the fire within! As a young man I felt the call to preach....I sought the counsel of a minister I admired....”Do not preach,” he said. “unless you have to.” As I pondered his words I found my answer. “I have to. If I do not, the fire will consume me.” What is the fire that consumes you?

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Friday: Just Like Jesus

Luke 5:16 - Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

How long has it been since you let God have you? How long since you gave him a portion of undiluted, uninterrupted time listening for his voice? Apparently, Jesus did. He made a deliberate effort to spend more time with God....Let me ask the obvious. If Jesus, the Son of God, the sinless Savior of humankind, thought it worthwhile to clear his calendar to pray wouldn’t we be wise to do the same?

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Saturday: Just Like Jesus

1 John 3:2 - We know that when Christ comes, we will be like him, because we will see him as he really is.

When you arrive [in heaven]....something wonderful will happen. A final transformation will occur. You will be just like Jesus...Of all the blessings of heaven, one of the greatest will be you! You will be God's magnum opus, his work of art. The angels will gasp. God's work will be completed. At last, you will have a heart like his....Your heart will be pure, your words will be like jewels, your thoughts will be like treasures.

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Sunday: In The Grip Of Grace

John 15:15 - I no longer call you servants,but I call you friends.

Through Christ's sacrifice, our past is pardoned and our future secure. And, "Since we have been made right with God by our faith, we have peace with God" (Romans 5:1). Peace with God. What a happy consequence of faith! Not just peace between countries, peace between neighbors, or peace at home; salvation brings peace with God....God is no longer a foe, but a friend. We are at peace with him.

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