

Devotions 2023: April 24 to April 30

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

Monday: The Great House Of God

Psalm 32:1 - Happy is the person whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned.

If we are already forgiven, then why does Jesus teach us to pray, “Forgive us our trespasses”? The very reason you would want your children to do the same. If my children violate one of my standards or disobey a rule, I do not disown them...But I do expect them to be honest and apologize. And until they do, the tenderness of our relationship will surer...The same happens in our walk with God. Confession does not create a relationship with God, it simply nourishes it.

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

Tuesday: When Christ Comes

Romans 1:20 - There are things about him that people cannot see...But since the beginning of the world those things have been made easy to understand by what God has made.

God’s judgement...is based upon humanity’s response to the message received. He will never hold us accountable for what he does not tell us. At the same time, he will never let us die without telling us something. Even those who never heard of Christ are given a message about the character of God...Nature is God’s first missionary...If a person has nothing but nature, then nature is enough to reveal something about God.

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Wednesday: The Applause of Heaven

Psalm 139:13 - You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Think on those words. You were knitted together. You are not an accident. You were not mass produced. You are not an assembly line product. You were deliberately planned, specifically gifted, and lovingly positioned on this earth by the Master Craftsman....In a system that ranks the value of a human by the figures of his salary or the shape of her legs....let me tell you something: Jesus' plan is a reason for joy!

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Thursday: He Still Moves Stones

Luke 23:43 - I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.

What has [the thief on the cross] done to warrant help?...Who is he to beg for forgiveness?...What right does he have to pray,..."Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom"? Do you really want to know? The same right you have to pray....You see, that is you and me on the cross. Naked, desolate, hopeless, and estranged...We, like the thief, have one more prayer. And we, like the thief pray. And we, like the thief, hear the voice of grace.

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Friday: The Applause of Heaven

Psalm 31:24 - All you who put your hope in the Lord be strong and brave.

How many people do you know who have built a formidable exterior, only to tremble inside with fear?...We face our fears with force...or...we stockpile wealth. We seek security in things. We cultivate fame and seek status. But do these approaches work? Courage is an outgrowth of who we are. Exterior supports may temporarily sustain, but only inward character creates courage.

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Saturday: Just Like Jesus

James 4:8 - Come near to God, and God will come near to you.

Some of us have tried to have a daily quiet time and have not been successful....So rather than spend time with God, listening for his voice, we will let others spend time with him and then benefit from their experienceAfter all, is not that why we pay preachers?...If that is your approach...I would like to challenge you with this thought: Do you do that with other parts of your life?...[There are] certain things no one can do for you. And one of those is spending time with God.

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Sunday: The Great House Of God

Matthew 6:11-12 - Give us the food we need for each day. Forgive us for our sins, just as we have forgiven those who sinned against us.

We would be wise to take seriously Paul's admonitions: Why do you judge your brothers or sisters in Christ? And why do you think you are better than they? We will all stand before the Lord to be judged (Romans 14:10)...Your sister or brother would like me to remind you that they need grace. Just like you need forgiveness, so do they.

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