

## **Devotions 2023: May 1 to May 7**

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

**Monday:**           The Great House Of God

*1 Peter 3:12 - The Lord sees the good people and listens to their prayers.*

You and I live in a loud world. To get someone's attention is no easy task. He must be willing to set everything aside to listen....When someone is willing to silence everything else so he can hear us clearly, it is a privilege....[Your] prayers are honored [in heaven] as precious jewels...Your prayers move God to change the world. You may not understand the mystery of prayer. You do not need to. But this much is clear: Actions in heaven begin when someone prays on earth.

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

**Tuesday:**           In the Eye of the Storm

*Matthew 14:28 - "Lord, if it is you," Peter says, "tell me to come to you on the water."*

Peter is not testing Jesus; he is pleading with Jesus. Stepping onto a stormy sea is not a move of logic; it is a move of desperation...We do the same, don't we? We come to Christ in an hour of deep need....We realize...that human strength will not save us. So we look to God in desperation. We realize...that all the good works in the world are puny when laid before the Perfect One.

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**Wednesday:** In the Eye of the Storm

*Colossians 4:2 - Continue praying, keeping alert, and always thanking God.*

Can you imagine the outcome if a parent honored each request of each child during a trip? We would inch our bloated bellies from one ice cream store to the next....Can you imagine the chaos if God indulged each of ours?...God's destiny for your life [is] salvation. God's overarching desire is that you reach that destiny....When his sovereign plan and your earthly plan collide, a decision must be made...If God choose between your earthly satisfaction and your heavenly salvation, which do you hope he chooses? Me, too.

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**Thursday:** How To Study The Bible

*Psalms 119:105 - Your word is like a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.*

Though the Bible was written over sixteen centuries by at least forty authors, it has one central theme – salvation through faith in Christ. Begun by Moses in the lonely desert of Arabia and finished by John on the lonely Isle of Patmos, it is held together by a strong thread: God's passion and God's plan to save His children....Understanding the purpose of the Bible is like setting the compass in the right direction. Calibrate it correctly and you will journey safely.

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**Friday:** In The Grip Of Grace

*Romans 8:33 - Who can accuse the people God has chosen? No one, because God is the One who makes them right.*

Every moment of your life, your accuser is filing charges against you....Who is he? The devil...As he speaks, you hang your head. You have no defense. His charges are fair. "I plead guilty, your honor, " you mumble." "The sentence?" Satan asks. "the wages of sin is death," explains the judge, "but in this case the death has already occurred. For this one died with Christ." Satan is suddenly silent. And you are suddenly jubilant... You have stood before the judge and heard him declare, "Not guilty."

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**Saturday:**           The Great House Of God

*1 John 4:4 - God's Spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world.*

To the first century church in Smyrna, Christ said, "Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer for ten days. But be faithful, even if you have to die, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10)...Christ informs the church of the...duration...the reason...and the outcome of the persecution...In other words, Jesus uses Satan to fortify his church.

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**Sunday:**            In The Grip Of Grace

*Titus 2:14 - He gave himself for us so he might pay the price to free us from all evil and to make us pure people who belong only to him.*

Do we ever compromise tonight, knowing we will confess tomorrow?...Is that the intent of grace? Is God's goal to promote disobedience? Hardly. "Grace....teaches us not to live against God nor to do the evil things the world wants us to do. Instead, that grace teaches us to live now in a wise and right way and in a way that shows we serve God" (Titus 2:11-12). God's grace has released us from selfishness. Why return.

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