

Community of Grace

Daily Walk for the week of October 4, 2021

Give us a Clean Heart: For Living in Relationships Written By Kerri Lawton

Monday, October 4, 2021

Mark 10:15-16 Jesus is saying “Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.” To receive the kingdom as a “little child” certainly needs a little clarification. I know many Christians who came into the fold as an adult, having never known Christ as a child. So I will throw in “child-like” to help interpret the verse. I remember an adult friend finding God during a trying time for them. The love and gratitude they showed was as if they were in a new relationship. They were excited and almost seemed carefree (as a child) that it was refreshing for all to witness. We must always look for reasons to celebrate each day in our relationship with God as he celebrates our own accomplishments. Prayer: Dear God, “As I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I shall die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.” Amen

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Genesis 2:22-24 “And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, ‘This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.’ Therefore a man

leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.” Since the beginning of human race, men and women were created as partners. They are of the same flesh and bone (with many complicated differences, I have to add!) and all born by God’s hands. The relationships we have created with others, good and bad, usually stems from our desire to be loved, basically. We strive for more and often are successful but not always. I have several friends that I am close with and our relationships go back many years. Sometimes there are breaks in time that we don’t talk but that doesn’t matter when we actually do. We catch up on things, often feeling happy to just talk to a familiar voice. This goes the same for a relationship with God. He is always willing to listen no matter the time or distance. We desire his love and acceptance only to make our relationships stronger. Prayer: Heavenly Father, we praise you for being a constant in our lives. The beauty of your love should inspire us to keep old and new relationships alive through you. Amen

Give us a Clean Heart: For Seeking God

Written by Vicar Jared Fischer

Wednesday, October 6th

“Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD,

the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.” Amos 5:14-15. The greatest challenge for a human being is the constant fighting against sin. Sin is in all of us and despite being redeemed from sin through the reconciliation on the cross, the struggle to fight against our own evil and the evil of the world is a very real one. The reality is we will lose this war against sin without the support of Jesus Christ but every battle we win brings us closer to God in our attempt to walk with him. Prayer: “God grant me the strength to seek you in the fight against evil, to clean my heart so that I may be a better soldier for the light against the darkness.”

Thursday, October 7th

“Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands—O prosper the work of our hands!” Psalm 90:16-17. The most significant local community event for the Lutheran church in recent decades has been the “God’s Work Our Hands” Day of Service. We are reminded on this day that the good work of God sometimes needs to be done by us human beings. In Psalm 90 we pray that we can discern what needs to be done in the Lord’s name and how we can best help. You are encouraged to look for the needs in the world that you can fill with the time and talents that the Lord has given you. Prayer: “God, clean our hearts of earthly desires and wants so that we can better use our

efforts to seek out and accomplish your works in this world.”

Friday, October 8th

“Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.” Hebrews 4:12-13. When we ask for a clean heart in prayer we are doing so in complete nakedness. We can not escape the knowledge of God, and we are before Him accountable of our thoughts, words, and deeds. God knows us to our core; we have no way to obfuscate ourselves to his sight. But in Christ Jesus we are saved. We know that our sin is reconciled and that we are forgiven. In honor of that sacrifice, we look towards God’s word and try to have the best intentions and actions that we can. Prayer: “God, clean our hearts and intentions in the same way that the blood of your Son cleaned the sin of the world. We give thanks for your patience and pray to always try and be better.”

Saturday, October 9th

“...Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’

He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'" Mark 10:17-21. If only it would be so easy to receive salvation. If we were to just follow simple commandments like to not murder or commit adultery, but Christ Jesus reminds us that in everything we do and succeed in, it is rife with sin. How many of us could live with so little that Jesus would be proud of us and not ask the same of us. We are all surrounded by wealth, even when we feel like we are stricken and impoverished. Prayer: "God we pray for the contentment to look around at the abundance that you have blessed us with and the selflessness to provide for our brothers and sisters around us that have less. Amen."

Sunday, October 10th

"...Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'" Mark 10: 26-27. In the many discussions with the apostles, Jesus prepares them for his death and resurrection that is to come. He explains to them that no matter what is done, or how hard they sacrifice they are not capable of salvation; only God can give salvation to man that will reconcile original sin. Jesus must go to the cross for the sake of humanity, without that reconciliation, all of mankind will be forever in the inescapable throes of sin, unable to earn forgiveness

from God. Prayer: "Good and grateful God we give thanks to you and your Son for His sacrifice on the cross; that He has succeeded where all of us would fail in reconciling our lives with sin. We are undeserving of that love and pray that we can do good in your name, as you have done so much good to us. Amen."