

Community of Grace

DAILY WALK WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

Faith in Action:

Conversion & Transformation

Written by Kerri Lawton

Monday, September 12, 2022

Luke 15:1-2: "Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming there to listen to him. And the Pharisees and scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." "All" the tax collectors and sinners were coming there to listen to him, wanting to hear his messages. Jesus seems to seek them out and invite them in. He seeks to bring sinners to repentance. It must be noted that Jesus never actually scolds or corrects a sinner. Instead, he shares a meal with them which is an act of acceptance. And yet "aren't we all sinners", some would say? In Luke's world God is so intertwined with his world that when one turns from God they become outcast sinners in need of repentance to be accepted. Jesus actually embraces the very people the rest of religious society rejects. We do live in a different world but we know in our hearts when someone needs that love and acceptance. Let us transform ourselves by following Jesus example of goodwill towards all. Look for the rejected and help open the door of salvation. Prayer: Christ our Lord, our lives have become one with you, inviting and sharing such grace with others. Support our efforts to set the table for the rejected and lost, rejoicing in your presence. Amen

Tuesday, September 13, 2022.

Luke 15:8-10: "Or what woman having 10 silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her

friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." This parable from Jesus, and the previous one (15:3-7) about the shepherd and his lost sheep, share a basic meaning. The shepherd and the woman each go to great lengths to seek out the lost property, and when found, they invite friends to joyfully celebrate their good deed. As Luke tells us, "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God," God invites his "friends," his heavenly host of angels to joyfully celebrate bringing home a lost sinner. We should share the news of people who turn their lives around towards the goodness they have come to love in Christ. Let them speak out and share, transforming themselves as they witness to others. Rejoice and celebrate, also, the efforts we make towards our own transformation. We are each worthy in God's eyes. Prayer: Got on high, it is not always easy to seek something lost. It is not easy to bring sinners to the light, but as a woman used a lamp to help her, let us use the light you provide to help guide all in need. Amen

Faith in Action:

Creating Community & Fellowship

Written by Alexia Cundey

Wednesday, September 14th

"Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶buying the poor for silver and

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the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.” ⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.” Amos 8:4-7 Our actions matter: how we treat others; how we conduct business; how we protect others. In this passage today, we are reminded that God remembers our deeds. As we live our lives, we are to reflect the character of God. Reflect on those in your circle (home, work, school, friends, family) and see how you can invite God to show you areas you can work to reflect God’s character. We are called to be kind. We are called to deal honestly with others. We are called to protect those who are vulnerable. Prayer: O God, open my heart and mind to your word today. Let me see where I can be kinder, deal honestly and protect those in my life. Give me the courage to go against worldly ways in order to reflect Kingdom ways. Amen

Thursday, September 15th

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD. ² Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time on and forevermore. ³From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the LORD is to be praised.” Psalm 113:1-3 These verses are a wonderful reminder to us that throughout each day we should Praise the Lord! God has been with us, is with us and will be with us. Beginning each day with God in prayer and praise allows us start our day knowing we are here to be God’s hands and feet in the world. There are so many distractions that move us away from our relationship with God. Take time throughout the day to re-

member God’s love and grace; Praising the Lord for walking with us. Prayer: O Lord, as you walk with me today help me to Praise you with a joyful heart. Amen

Friday, September 16th

⁵Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, ⁶who looks far down on the heavens and the earth? ⁷He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap, ⁸to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people. ⁹He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the LORD!” Psalm 113:5-9 Each of us has a story. Each of us has been through things. Our world likes to put people in categories; God turns that upside down. We must remain humble before God no matter which worldly category we may fall into. Are you reading this Psalm from a place of advantage today? Are you reading this Psalm from a place of dis-advantage today? How might you read it from the other perspective? Whichever perspective you are reading this Psalm in, open your mind and heart to hear what God is calling you to do for those in your life. Prayer: O Lord, you turn worldly ways upside down and provide love and grace. Help me to see this world as you do and to shine your love and grace where needed today. Amen

Saturday, September 17th

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.” 1 Timothy 2:1-2 The author is urging the use of all these different types of conversations with God to be

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made for everyone. As you pray today; stretch your conversations with God to someone you wouldn't normally include in your prayer. Share with God your concern and tell God specifically what may be needed. We are to be active in our faith and prayer an important ingredient. Be open to where the Holy Spirit may lead you in prayer today. Prayer: O God, time with you is precious. Guide me to spend more time in conversation with you and bring to you supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving for all. Amen

Sunday, September 18th

I encourage you to read the Parable of the Dishonest Manager Luke 16:1-13. For today and the next few days; I will focus on verses 10-13 ¹⁰ *“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”* The Parable of the Dishonest Manager is a tough one for a non-theologian like myself to write a devotion on, so I'm focusing on the last few verses. And these verses are saying a lot. They remind me of the First Commandment “You shall have no other gods.” In The Large Catechism of Martin Luther, Martin explains “A god is that to which we look for all good and in which we find refuge in every time of need...Many a person thinks he has God and everything he needs when

he has money and property; in them he trusts and of them he boasts so stubbornly and securely that he cares for no one. Surely such a man also has a god – mammon by name, that is, money and possessions – on which he fixes his whole heart. It is the most common idol on earth. He who has money and property feels secure, happy, fearless, as if he were sitting in the midst of paradise. On the other hand, he who has nothing doubts and despairs as if he never heard of God.” As humans, we struggle daily with our focus on other gods. God shows up in our lives each day with love and grace and forgiveness. Spend time with God today and be open to God's work in your life and those around you. Prayer: Jesus, thank you for teaching us boldly and reminding us God is with us always, we just need to turn towards God in our struggles and joys. Amen