

Community of Grace

DAILY WALK WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

Faith in Action:

Creating Community & Fellowship

Written by Alexia Cunday

Monday, September 19th

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." Luke 16:10-13 As followers of Jesus and in relationship with the Triune God, daily we are confronted with contradictions. As we navigate each day with one another, remember God's promise to be with you and provide for you. Let us ask and seek God's guidance to love our neighbor and put God above the worldly distractions that hinder our trust in God. Invite God into all aspects of your life (relationships, workplace, home, finances, etc) and see how serving God in all we have and all we do brings joy beyond understanding in our lives. Prayer: Prayer: Almighty God, thank you for your promises to always be with us as we navigate each day. May we see you each day and embrace your presence in all we do. Amen

Tuesday, September 20th

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 en-

trust 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." Luke 16:10-13 Hate verses Love. Devoted verses Despise. When you hear these words in this passage, what comes to mind? This passage provides a sense of discomfort as we journey in this life that encourages us to seek wealth and power. How are we to completely love and devote ourselves to God as we face daily challenges? When we take our daily challenges and bring them to God we open our lives up to recognizing our need for Christ each day. God promises to be with us and his reply is one of love, mercy, and forgiveness. Serving God means we must spend time with God; make time for prayer, attend worship, read the Bible, serve in the church and community, embrace spiritual friendships and give with joy and thanksgiving your financial resources and spiritual gifts. Prayer: O God, you sent Jesus to provide us with an example of a relationship with you. Give us wisdom and courage and understanding to serve you and to seek you each day. Amen

Faith in Action:

Grow Spiritually, learn to be generous

Written by Pastor Karen Boda

Wednesday, September 21

Amos 6:7 "Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away." Amos was God's mouthpiece and used this platform to warn those who enjoyed their own luxu-

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ries at the expense of the poor. Wealth, power and authority comes with the responsibility to live out God's mission, *not* to seek our own privilege. So Amos speaks a word of God's anger and judgment - and it's harsh. Rolf Jacobson argues that God's anger is *not* opposite God's love, but God's judgment is an *expression of God's love*. Because God loves all of us, when one person or several cause others to suffer, God gets angry. This anger is a sign of God's deep love for those who are oppressed, hurt, or hunger. God. God wants the absolute best for us, because God loves us. Prayer: Dear and gracious God. Open our eyes today to see as you see, hear as you hear, and love as you love. Amen.

Thursday, September 22

Psalm 146:5-7 "Happy are they...who gives food to the hungry..." A church I served collected a different food item each week for a community food bank. One week it was canned fruit, then mac 'n cheese, then spaghetti, then beans - pinto, lima, string, cannellini, garbanzo - you name it! Each week, we told jokes (What did one bean say to the other? How you bean doing), sang silly songs about spaghetti, posted ridiculous grapefruit cartoons, and gave God thanks for mac 'n cheese. We got permission to borrow shopping carts from the Dollar General next door and the kids pushed in the carts full of food during offering time. The mountain of food grew and grew until we blessed it and gave it all away. The joy of giving to the hungry was palpable. Prayer: Dear and gracious God. Thank you for beans and mac 'n cheese and canned peaches. Help us to see those who need your good food and to reach out. Amen.

Friday, September 23

Psalm 146:2 "I will sing praises to God all my life long." I had the honor one day to visit an elderly woman who lay silent in a hospital bed, unable to communicate. Her son was holding vigil and as we talked, he began to reflect a bit about her life and what she loved. He shared that she had been a teacher by trade, loving especially the elementary school children and treasuring each interaction. When she retired, she helped with Vacation Bible School as the song leader. She enjoyed doing the children's sermons and teaching Sunday School. Her son now expressed his deep sadness that he could no longer communicate with her. It was then that he and I began to sing - *This Little Light of Mine, Jesus Loves Me*, and *Deep and Wide* - the songs she had taught the children at church. As we sang quietly, ever so slightly, her lips began to move. A tear formed and dribbled down her cheek. We experienced a holy moment, seeing the depth to which the songs of God's people marinate deep into us...giving us life, when there appears to be none. We do indeed sing praises to God all our life long. Prayer: Dear God. Thank you for the hymns which marinate deep down into our souls and give us life. Amen.

Saturday, September 24

1 Timothy 6:7 "...for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it..." Have you seen the original bumper sticker that reads "The one who dies with the most toys wins"? There are now takes offs to the original, i.e. "she who dies with the most fabric (or books or tools) wins." There's also the counter bumper sticker that reads "The one who dies with the most toys misses the point." And perhaps the one which best fits the 1 Timothy verse is "he who dies with the

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most toys is still dead.” The feuding bumper stickers capture quite well what the text of Timothy offers us today. Nothing in this world – fabric, tools, books, cars, electronics, jewelry, homes – will give us the abundant and eternal life that is available to us in the promise of Jesus Christ. The abundant life that Christ offers is available today, and tomorrow. It’s a relationship with Jesus on this side of the grave and the next. Count on it. Prayer: Dear and gracious God. Thank you for the gift of abundant and eternal life that you offer us so freely – no strings attached. Help us to graciously accept it. Amen.

Sunday, September 25

Luke 16:15 “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things...” Are possessions in and of themselves a bad thing? Am I wrong to work hard and earn money? It’s been said that we are to *love using* our possessions, instead of *loving* our possessions. That seems to be a subtle difference, but is it? A dear friend of mine called one day last week and wanted to know more about a particular ministry that I’ve been involved with. She wanted to hear all about it and after I told her she said “Hmm. That sounds like fun. I’d like to be a part of that so here’s \$x to support it.” I hung up the phone and had this enormous smile on my face. She had literally used the word “fun” and was thoroughly enjoying herself by giving, even just a tiny amount, to something she believed in. When was the last time we had “fun”? Prayer: Dear and gracious God. You have blessed us with so much – our time, our talents, and our resources. Help us to use these to your glory and to have “fun” blessing others, as you have blessed us. Amen.