

Daily Devotionals

August 14, 2019

Day 1: Jeremiah 23:23-29 “Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? Says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? (v.23-24).” God is big enough to fill the whole world and at the same time also able to journey with each one of us all of the days of our lives.

Day 2: Jeremiah 23:23-29 This passage distinguishes false prophets from faithful ones. For example, false prophets would interpret dreams to kings in a way that would benefit themselves. “Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully (v.28).” Those speaking God's word however may be a catalyst for consternation with those in power. “Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces (v.28-29).”

Day 3: Luke 12:49-56: Our reading from the Gospel of Luke reminds me of the words from Kermit the frog: “it ain't easy being green.” Jesus is clear in this passage from Luke, following him will be difficult and divisive at times. With his very life, Jesus would experience the consequences of serving God in a countercultural fashion.

Day 4: Luke 12:49-56 Families, cities, friends, etc. were divided over whether or not to follow Christ. In baptism, we are called to enter into a new way of living. Jesus calls us not to sweep our questions or struggles under the rug. Jesus calls us to embrace them, to lean into conflict, by God grace to find our way through the refiners fire and then to serve more fully.

Day 5: Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Picking up where the passage from Hebrews left off last week, the writer continues with the theme: by faith. In these verses, however, the author leans more into some of the physical costs of discipleship suffered by the faithful. Ultimately, the writer connects the suffering of these individuals to Christ, “the author and perfecter of our faith.” One of the themes appears to be: sorrow may last for the night but joy comes in the morning.

Day 6: Hebrews 11:29-12:2 The close of this passage encourages us: “Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.... (v.12:1-2a).” Are there particular sins in your life that are clinging to you and weighing you down? Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith greets us each day, ready to receive our guilt and shame so that we may more fully run the race of faith in Him.

Day 7: Psalm 82 Parts of verses 3 and 4 of the psalm sound like they could be excerpts from our Sunday morning prayers. “Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” These verses show social justice priorities for God. Righting the wrongs of injustice that take place in the world. How do we partner with God in this important work?