



2024 Pre-National Convention Spiritual Renewal Initiative

“21 Days To Get In Tune With God!”



DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

*“And you will seek Me and find Me, when
you search for Me with all your heart.”*

Jeremiah 29:13

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Read: Genesis 32:21-32

Day 1

“Wrestling with God”

So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” Genesis 32:24-26

Insight Into The Word: Jacob’s Isolation

Jacob was not expecting unseen visitors in the place of God. He isolated himself trying to escape everyone. This man is an Old Testament appearance of Christ.

God wants to do something in Jacob’s life so He shows up to strengthen and test him. This wrestling match is to get Jacob to conform to the Will of God and to quit conforming back into his old ways. However, Jacob refused to give up, turn away from, or submit to God. So, God inflicted him with pain in order to get his attention.

God had the power to hurt Jacob all the time, but He wanted him to willingly submit himself to God’s Will. When Jacob refused to give in willingly, God had to cause him some suffering in order for Jacob to humble himself.

Once the hip is out of socket, Jacob is now hanging on for life. He is in no position to wrestle anyone anymore. Clinging to God for dear life, he is now willing to do whatever God wants him to do and is finally dependent upon God alone.

Here are a few observations:

- God moves in our lives at unexpected times.
- God uses isolation to drive us into His presence.
- When we wrestle against God, He will sometimes inflict pain on us in order to get us to surrender our ways for His Will.

Thoughts to Ponder:

Have you ever had to wrestle with God over an issue in your life?

If so, what was the issue and why?

Read: Romans 12:1-2

Day 2

“A Call to Lay it All on The Line!”

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect Will of God. -Romans 12:1-2

Insight Into The Word: A Sacrifice on the Altar

The motive for dedication is love; Paul does not say, “I command you” but “*I beseech* you, because of what God has already done for you.” We do not serve Christ in order to receive His mercies, because we already have them (Romans 3:21–8:39). Instead, we serve Him *out of love and appreciation*.

That being said, true Christian service and living must begin with *personal dedication* to The LORD. However, the Christian who fails in life is the one who has first failed at the altar, refusing to surrender completely to Christ.

True dedication is the **presenting** of **body, mind, and Will to God** day by day:

1. It is daily yielding the body to Him, having the mind renewed by the Word, and surrendering the will through prayer and obedience.
2. And **do not** be **conformed** to this **world**, but be **transformed** by the **renewing** of your **mind**, that you **may prove** what is that **good** and **acceptable** and **perfect** will of God.

Thoughts to Ponder:

How is your sacrifice at the altar?

Are you surrendering yourself and your desires completely to Christ?

“The Salt of the Earth”

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

-Matthew 5:13

Insight Into The Word: The Severity of Salt-lessness

The Master in the second part of this verse raises the question of what will happen if we are not living as salt.

There are nine negatives of being a salt-less believer!

1. When we are salt-less, **the world cannot be salted.**
2. When we are salt-less, **the institutions of life cannot experience change.**
3. When we are salt-less, **the people around and with us cannot know the powerful love of Christ.**
4. When we are salt-less, **those who are without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ cannot experience His grace through us.**
5. When we are salt-less, **the hope for change is all but lost.**
6. When we are salt-less, **the conditions for peace are not good.**
7. When we are salt-less, **people cannot see why they need a Savior.**
8. When we are salt-less, **children won't need to know why they should be law-abiding and obedient.**
9. When we are salt-less, **we miss the opportunity to influence and have an effect on the earth.**

When The Master says we are to be the salt of the earth, this isn't an option; *it is a command*. And the power of our saltiness is going to be determined by the *character* of our life.

Thoughts to Ponder:

Which of the nine negatives of being a salt-less believer stands out most to you?

How can you better live out the command of being the “salt of the earth”?

Read: 2 Timothy 1:13-17

Day 4

“Be Committed No Matter What”

*“What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.
-2 Timothy 1:13*

Insight Into The Word: Keep Your Grip

In his letter to Timothy, Paul wants to give him three critical things *to do* as a follower of Christ. He also gives clear examples of what *not to do* as a follower of Christ. Following after his instruction will help the committed believer to go after God with all their life and pursue Christ with a clear mind.

Paul’s first critical point is a reminder for Timothy to **keep his grip**.

The first thing we see in this verse is that Paul charges Timothy to never lose or leave the teaching he has received from the faith. He is told to remember, copy, and embody it. The second thing we see is that not only does Paul want him to hold on, but he wants Timothy to remember to live in the faith and love that God has given! Living what you have been taught is just as important as remembering what you have been taught. If you live it, you believe it.

To live in the love of Jesus Christ means that we abandon all other ways of life. We choose not to live in fear, hate, greed, lust, envy, pride, greed, jealousy, or wrath. We are to be satisfied with Jesus and content with all He has given us. To live in His love encompasses loving everyone all the time for God’s good pleasure.

For the believer, we must have a grip on the truth that has been passed down. We must have an identity and affinity for the faith of Christianity. It is imperative that we know what we believe and *why* we believe it. It is also imperative that we *live* what we believe because we believe it.

The time is urgent, and the testimony of the church is at stake. To live in the faith and love that you have in Christ is a call for us to obey God in every area of our lives, even when it is uncomfortable.

Thoughts to Ponder:

How are you living out your faith and the love of God in your life?

Read: Luke 1:26-38

Day 5

“Chosen to Serve God”

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.”

-Luke 1:29-30

Insight Into The Word: Mary’s Anxiety

The call of God is a frightening thing. It completely catches you off guard, and it always alarms you. Mary was disturbed because the messenger Gabriel appeared to her, and Mary was alarmed because he had given her the word of The LORD.

Mary never thought of herself as having favor from The LORD. She never thought of herself as being blessed and favored among all women. In fact, Mary was poor, young, and had little to no education like we do today. She was a teenager who was struggling like everyone else, and now she finds out that The LORD is on her side. But, like any other teenager, she does not have a clue what this means!

However, the angel Gabriel comforts her with the charge that she is not to be afraid because God has decided to bless her. Mary did not have to be anxious or afraid because God had a plan for her life. She did not have to be worried about what all this meant because God was in full control, and He had all the details worked out.

Like Mary, we may find ourselves in situations where we may be terribly uncomfortable with a call of God upon our lives to serve Him in the earth. But even though we may feel terribly uncomfortable, there is always a call of comfort to accompany the call to serve.

God always comforts you to trust in Him and not be afraid of what it is that He has called you to do. Where and when God calls, He also provides for the one he has called. He equips us to fulfill His purposes.

Thoughts to Ponder:

When have you felt terribly uncomfortable with a call of God in your life?

How did God comfort you and equip you to fulfill this call?

Read: Joshua 3:1-8

Day 6

“How to Handle the Transitions of Life”

Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the Ark; do not go near it.

-Joshua 3:4

Insight Into The Word: Guided by The Word of God

The officers told the people that they must keep a distance between themselves and the Ark. Two thousand cubits measures out to a little over half a mile in our terms. Here's the interesting thing: distance was needed because the Ark was the Place where The LORD dwelled. Anyone not of the Levitical priesthood was not able to enter into the presence of the Ark or to come near to touch it. In fact, the punishment for touching the Ark was death. God had a reputation for putting to death those who became too familiar with Him. The LORD is holy and demands holiness. The people were to follow from a great distance so that they would have great reverence for the Word.

When the Ark of the Covenant moves through our communities, it looks like the Bible. We ought to follow it because it is a picture of the Word of God that leads, guides, directs, and takes us through our transitions in life. The charge in this text is for the people of God to follow the Word of God. However, they must not become too familiar with it. The Word of God is holy and is to be revered.

- When we follow *behind* His Word, **miracles take place.**
- When we follow *behind* His Word, **divine intervention takes place.**
- When we follow *behind* His Word, **God will do great things in our lives.**
- When we follow *behind* His Word, **God gives wisdom to face dangers.**
- When we follow *behind* His Word, **we can rest in the presence of God.**

In order to handle the transitions of life, we must stay *behind* God's Word. For any transitions you are facing today, if you will stay *behind* God's Word, you can make it through any Jordan River experience.

Thought to Ponder:

How are you following behind God's Word in your transitions?

Read: 1 Samuel 30:1-8,16-19

Day 7

“How to Encourage Yourself In The LORD”

Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelek, “Bring me the ephod.” Abiathar brought it to him, and David inquired of The LORD, “Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?” “Pursue them,” He answered. “You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue.” -1 Samuel 30:7-8

Insight Into The Word: David Empowers Himself

When we arrive at this portion of the text, we see that David empowers himself in the midst of the crisis. Normally, the priest would pray for David, but in this case, David’s crisis is personal, pivotal, and preeminent! He cannot wait on second-hand intercession; he’s got to pray for himself! He asks God two questions: “*Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?*” He seeks The LORD before acting.

David teaches us how to pray in a crisis. Doing nothing in a crisis is a sign of giving up, and David teaches us that we must never give up! Fighting to the end is what a warrior must do!

In seeking The LORD’s guidance, David empowered himself. He empowered himself to get God’s permission, to talk to The LORD about his troubles, and to hear the word of instruction for his family’s well-being. David took advantage of his position in God, his training in war, his mantle of leadership, and his life experiences. And because David sought The LORD, David got his answer that instructed him what to do.

Like David, when you get serious about a crisis and you pursue God in prayer, you too will get an answer for what you are supposed to do! When you learn to empower yourself and seek The LORD for yourself, nobody will have to tell you what God has said because you will have heard Him for yourself! When you learn to empower yourself to pray, you might not see God working, but you can surely feel Him and the empowerment of His Holy Spirit within you.

Thought to Ponder:

How can you better empower yourself through prayer and seeking The LORD?

Read: Mark 8:27-33

Day 8

“Hard Lessons for Hard Times”

He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. But when Jesus turned and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” He said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

-Mark 8:32-33

Insight Into The Word: The Master’s Rebuke

In this passage, we see The Master displaying several things:

1. Jesus has an **unchanging agenda** to go to Calvary.
2. Jesus has an **unyielding attitude** to Peter’s emotions!
3. Jesus has a **non-negotiable commitment** to The Father’s plan!
4. Jesus has an **undying love and loyalty** to humanity and its redemption!
5. Jesus has an **act of grace** because God was gracious with Peter! (He could have destroyed him for his outbursts, rebukes, and satanic suggestions.)
6. Jesus has an **act of mercy** because God was merciful to Peter! (By all rights, calamity should have been his for getting too casual with God.)

Jesus rebukes Peter, speaking directly to the one who influenced him to say such a thing (Satan). Peter was not Satan, but Satan was lurking in the crowd, waiting and watching for someone he could tempt in the fellowship. You see, Satan wanted Jesus to by-pass Calvary because he knew that if Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures, humanity would be saved from sin. So, he tried to use Peter’s emotions to change Jesus’ mind. And as a result, Peter tried to argue with God!

When you are I argue against what the Word of God says, we too must be rebuked. Jesus saw the future, and He knew what was needed in order to save us. He had to go to Calvary to pay redemption’s price and take away our sins. Without His sacrifice, Peter, the disciples, and all of humanity would not be saved. God knows the future, so in the situations we face, we should not argue with God. If His Word says it, we must obey it!

Thought to Ponder:

When have you responded like Peter? What was the outcome?

Read: Philippians 2:12-18

Day 9

“How to Live for Jesus In A Wicked World”

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God Who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose.

-Philippians 2:12-13

Insight Into The Word: The Christian Call

The child of God has a unique calling in the world. In this passage, Paul identifies for us what that calling is:

- We are to be careful to put into action all that God tells us to do.
- We are to be careful to show how God has saved us by obeying His Word in every area of our lives.
- We are to be careful to show how God has saved us by having a reverence and fear of God in the world. (If we have this, we will avoid worldly behavior because we believe that God is watching and desires us to be like Him.)
- As Christians, we are called to obey God because He is working in us to do what pleases Him.

This is a big deal! As Christians, we no longer just live for ourselves, but our lives now must be a reflection and display of Christ in us. We are called to be careful, remembering that how we live, respond, and act would bring glory to God, not ourselves or anyone else. The world is watching, and we are called to display and share God’s hope and love with those around us.

Thoughts to Ponder:

What are Christians called to do on the earth?

What does this calling mean to you?

Read: John 16:25-33

Day 10

“A Savior Who Overcomes”

“Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave Me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for My Father is with Me.” -St. John 16:31-32

Insight Into The Word: The Disciples’ Difficulty

In this passage, we discover that the time was on its way. It had not yet come, but they were all going to exercise fear!

- Fear was going to cause them to scatter.
- Fear was going to cause them to forget what they had said.
- Fear was going to cause them to fret.
- Fear was going to cause them to leave The Master alone.
- Fear was going to cause them to forsake their promise, flee their commitments, forsake their allegiance to Jesus, and forget that they said He was from God, knowing all things!

The problem was going to seem so great that they would think that they had to choose between their lives and being with Jesus. He is announcing for them that they do not know Him or believe in Him like they think they do. They will face circumstances that will reveal that their fear is still greater than their faith. When the guards come to the Garden of Gethsemane, we know that they scatter and run, and we know that Peter denied Him three times.

When trials come to test your faith, what will you do? Do not let your fear be greater than your faith.

Thoughts to Ponder:

Have you ever been in a similar situation where God showed you that you were not as committed as you thought you were?

Has He ever revealed your true self to you and made you think twice about who you were and what He was calling you to do?

“House Filled With Worship”

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. St. John 12:3

Insight Into The Word: Mary’s Worship

It would have required a whole year’s wages to purchase this perfume. And look at Mary’s posture. Warren Wiersbe puts it this way: “When she came to the feet of Jesus, Mary *took the place of a slave*. When she undid her hair (something Jewish women did not do in public), she humbled herself and laid her glory at Jesus’ feet. Of course, she was misunderstood and criticized, but this is what usually happens when somebody gives his or her best to The LORD.”¹¹

- **Mary’s act of worship was public.** She did it in spite of what others might say or think. She worshiped in spite of what it would look like to others. Her worship was on display. It was monitored, investigated, and criticized, but she worshiped anyway because her worship was for Jesus alone.
- **Her act of worship was personal.** It was between her and The LORD. It was designed to please just one person. It was only for Jesus’ enjoyment and honor. Her heart was only on what He thought, not the world.
- **Her act of worship was priceless.** This perfume was worth a year of a common laborer’s wages, and it was sealed in an alabaster jar. Once this was broken, its contents had to be used immediately. Her anointing of Jesus represents a major sacrifice and indicates the depth of her love. She gave her best and her all in a sacrificial offering to Jesus.

Like Mary, our worship ought to be priceless and the absolute best we can give. Our worship should give glory to God, personal for your soul, and priceless. He is deserving of our best for He has given us Jesus. Give Him the best you can!

Thought to Ponder:

What can you learn from Mary’s act of worship?

Read: St. John 13:18-30

Day 12

“Dinner With The Enemy”

As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So, Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do it quickly.”-St. John 13:27

Insight Into The Word: The Master’s Signal

Here we see a signal when things are set in motion for Judas to accomplish his diabolical plan. The text says that after he had taken the bread, Satan entered into him. The devil and Judas have been given the signal by Jesus.

Satan literally entered into Judas. He did not possess him, but Satan brought Judas under his influence by deceiving his mind and thoughts. Through the avenue of his mind, Satan entered Judas’ heart. He filled Judas’ mind with an evil passion and then influenced him to betray his Master.

There is a warning here for all of us. Satan does not have to possess you in order to make you misbehave or sin. He can enter your thoughts and change your behavior. He is always lurking about, looking for those who hunger for greed, wealth, lust, and covetousness. He seeks to destroy any witness of the Truth. And if he enters into Judas in the presence of Christ, he will not mind entering our churches, our Christian communities, and our homes.

Even more alarming is the portion of our text where Jesus says, “*What you are about to do, do it quickly.*” This is frightening because Jesus sends Judas on his mission. It was as if He said to Judas, “You are about to begin My suffering. Do it quickly! You are now on the side of Satan. Move away from My presence and do it quickly.” Judas’ sin was so reprehensible that Jesus would not tolerate His betrayal any longer. He gave Judas a signal to accomplish his evil plan.

Thoughts to Ponder:

How does this thought change your perception of Satan and how he works?

How can you take better care in guarding your mind and heart against him?

Read: St. John 17:1-10

Day 13

“Praying The Right Way, For The Right Reason”

“After Jesus said this, He looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify you.” John 17:1

Insight Into The Word: The Master’s Intercession

As Jesus prays in this text, He teaches us how to approach trials and tribulation while living for God in difficult times. The first thing we see in His prayer is His willingness to pray for Himself and request of The Father to work on His behalf. We notice that Jesus could approach God in prayer because of His divine relationship to The Father. As children of God, we too can approach the throne of God through Jesus Christ with confidence and assurance that He will hear us.

The second thing we see is that Jesus declares that the hour has now come. It is a direct statement indicating that the time to fulfill the plan of The Father has arrived. It is the divine plan of redemption of God for humanity. Jesus had faced plenty of challenges and trouble. But now the actual hour of His trial was upon Him, and He needed The Father to glorify Him. This request for glorification included sustaining Jesus in suffering, accepting His sacrifice, resurrecting Him, and restoring Him to His previous glory.

The purpose of this request was that The Father would be glorified by The Son and that God’s wisdom, power, and love might be known through Jesus.

We too can pray like this. When the trials of this life come upon us, we can learn to intercede for ourselves, asking God to do something glorious in our behavior that will please Him while we suffer for His Name’s sake! We can learn to pray for God’s glory to be seen in the midst of the struggles we face. We can learn to pray for God’s perfect plan and for His Name to be glorified even in the trouble we face. This is praying with wisdom, power, and love so that God might be known through our relationship with Him.

Thoughts to Ponder:

How can you grow in your prayer life?

When faced with trials for the sake of Christ, how can you bring God glory?

Read: 1 Peter 1:22-2:3

Day 14

“Revival Starts With Us”

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. -1 Peter 2:1

Insight Into The Word: Getting Rid Of Some Stuff

We have learned from Peter that there must be a change when a believer comes to faith in Christ. God has called us to a new standard of living, and He has empowered us to live like Him in a fallen world. In this study, Peter teaches us how to live this way and gives us the keys to this new standard.

The first key to rising up to a new standard of living is to deny our old nature. We can do this by doing the following things:

- Getting rid of **malicious behavior** (having or showing a desire to cause harm to someone).
- Getting rid of **deceitful behavior** (the act or practice of not being truthful).
- Not **pretending to be good** but actually being good in every area of our lives.
- Being done with **hypocrisy** (feigning to be what one is not or to believe what one does not, giving a false assumption or appearance of virtue, morals values, or religion).
- Being done with **jealousy** (covetousness and envy).
- Being done with **backstabbing** (hurting others or saying evil things about them behind their backs to others).

Peter is mentioning these things because they will keep the believer from rising up to the new standard of righteous living in Christ. These are all the works of the flesh, and they wage war against The Spirit and the new nature of the believer. If we get rid of these sinful things of our old nature, we can do what God commands us to do and live how He commands us to live.

Thoughts to Ponder:

Where might you still need to get rid of parts of your old nature?

How will getting rid of these sinful things strengthen your witness for Christ?

Read: Jonah 1:17-2:10

Day 15

“When Jonah Got A Reason To Pray”

“I said, ‘I have been banished from Your sight; yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.’ The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But You, LORD my God, brought my life from the pit.”

-Jonah 2:4-6

Insight Into The Word: Jonah’s Discouragement

The prophet is in despair and great discouragement. He is in trouble! He believes that The LORD has driven him from His presence! Jonah is feeling this way because he is experiencing the consequences of his behavior. And because he has rebelled against God’s calling, he has been thrown in the depths of the ocean and is now experiencing an absence from the presence of The LORD.

In his prayer, Jonah says that he will once more look toward God’s holy temple. In other words, Jonah has come to himself and feels the sting of his disobedience. He now looks again towards God.

For the believer who acts like Jonah, it is good to have their attention turned back to God in times of trouble and despair. It is good to remember Who God is and where He is when guilt, despair, and discouragement have engulfed them. It is good for the “Jonah-type believer” to be shocked into remembering the holiness of God. And every now and then, every believer should revisit Who God is.

Jonah, in his prayer, is aware that God sees him and knows exactly where he is. God has brought his life from the pit and saved him from death. God still hears His prophet from the belly of the fish. And if God can hear Jonah’s prayer in a time and situation like this, God can certainly hear yours too!

Thoughts to Ponder:

When have you faced discouragement like Jonah?

Every now and then, it is good for every believer to revisit Who God is for them. Ponder and reflect on this: Who is He for you?

“Warnings Against A Lack Of Reverence”

“You are under a curse – your whole nation – because you are robbing Me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this,” says The LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says The LORD Almighty. -Malachi 3:9-11

Insight Into The Word: The Anger And Challenge Of God

Because of the wickedness of Israel, their sin had to be judged. When they robbed God, He pulled back the hedges of His grace and let stuff go wrong in their lives. The whole nation had to suffer because of the wickedness that God’s people had committed. In the case of Israel, the nation suffered when people held back from God what rightly belonged to Him.

Israel was cursed because of their sins. The people had created God and got the same results in their own dealings. They reaped what they had sowed. It would have been better for them to obey and surrender to God instead of suffering the consequences of their disobedience and dishonesty.

It is a terrible thing to rob God, and it is even more foolish to buy into the lie that He will not mind being cheated of what is rightfully His.

- When you rob God, you will never get ahead.
- When you rob God, you will always have your finances under a curse.
- When you rob God, you will never have something to save, something to treat yourself, and something to help someone else.

God challenges Israel to test His faithfulness. If they offer the whole tithe He is due, He will bless them abundantly and take away the curse they have inflicted on themselves by their own sin. When we give to God what is His, He blesses us and even gives us more than we need.

Thought to Ponder:

What speaks to you the most about this passage and study?

Day 17

Read: St. Luke 9: 28-36

“A Close Look At Jesus”

About eight days after Jesus said this, He took Peter, John and James with Him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As He was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

-Luke 9:28-29

Insight Into The Word: Background

There is no greater joy on the Christian journey than to have an invitation from God, to get alone with Him, and to see what no one else has had the privilege to see. Every now and then when we pray, God has a way of revealing Himself to His children so that they can have the assurance of knowing that He is really God.

In this passage, Jesus is showing Peter, John, and James what they can look forward to when they pray. He gives them a deeper glimpse into His deity.

We live in a fallen world. There are times in my life that mess with my mind, and that is when I need to pray so that I can see Jesus like I have never seen Him before. When I retreat to pray, I need to be reminded that God is God and that He has the power to help me through the difficult stuff in life. I need to be reminded that when I call on Him, He will meet me in the secret place and reveal Himself to me like I have never seen Him before.

For the disciples, they do not know it fully yet, but Calvary is coming, and it is going to change the world. They do not know it yet, but they will run when the soldiers come for Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Difficult times will come for the disciples too, but Jesus gives them this glimpse of His true glory beforehand. We can also take encouragement in this. Even though we may face difficulties and trials in the future, we can rest in the truth that God is still in control, He is full of glory, and He is more powerful than any situation we face in this world.

Things to Ponder:

What difficulty are you facing right now?

How does the truth of God's glory encourage you?

Read: Exodus 34:1-9

Day 18

“Secret Conversations With God”

The LORD said to Moses, “Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. Be ready in the morning, and then come up on Mount Sinai. Present yourself to Me there on top of the mountain. No one is to come with you or be seen anywhere on the mountain; not even the flocks and herds may graze in front of the mountain.” Exodus 34:1-3

Insight Into The Word: Instructions For The Servant

In the passage, God wants Moses to bring two stone tablets like the ones Moses had broken when he saw the idolatry of the Israelites. God is going to give the commandments again. The stone tablets were to be exactly like the first ones. The original tablets had been personally provided by God. Here, Moses would have to chisel them out of stone.

God also calls Moses to come up on Mount Sinai the next morning, ready to present himself before God. Mount Sinai was set apart, sacred, holy, and a reminder that God’s presence must be entered with great reverence and respect. God instructs Moses that he is to come alone; no one is to come with him or be seen anywhere on the mountain.

God’s holiness is powerful and demands that no unholy thing be in His presence. Nothing and no one who He does not specifically declare acceptable may safely approach Him. Accordingly, God issues a warning against the people and animals that they are not to be anywhere on the mountain.

God’s holiness demands great reverence, honor, and respect. We should never forget Who God is. He is The Maker of Heaven and Earth, The Sustainer of life, and The LORD over all creation. Through Jesus and the New Covenant, we have the special privilege of coming before His throne with boldness.

Thought to Ponder:

What does the holiness of God mean to you and how you approach His throne?

Read: Jude 20-25

Day 19

“To God Be The Glory”

To Him Who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to The Only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our LORD, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. -Jude 24-25

Insight Into The Word: The Power Of Our Praise

As we come to the final point of this study of the end of Jude’s letter, we discover the power that is proclaimed in the hymn! The doxology that Jude includes in the final verses of his letter is a song that proclaims the exclusive power that only belongs to God. It is a hymn that reminds, centers, leads, guides, directs, and keeps your heart and mind on Jesus Christ.

Firstly, Jude says that glory and majesty are distinctly reserved for Christ. The word used for glory here is a word that describes the sum total of all that God is and does. In other words, the sum total of His glory is that everything about Him is glorious! God is not like us. The glory we may achieve in this life fades just like the grass, but the glory of God is eternal. He is majestic and glorious!

Secondly, Jude refers to the authority and dominion of Christ. God is sovereign and above all things. He has complete control and exclusive power of all things. This power and authority is eternal, and it continues forever and ever! The power of God is more than any we can find on earth. God’s power is great and wonderful. It is a power that transforms, renews, restores, rejuvenates, regenerates, and reinvigorates. It gives birth to new beginnings and saves what is lost and broken.

With all glory, majesty, power, and authority, Jesus is worthy of all our praise and worship. His reign and dominion will never end! Hallelujah!

Thoughts to Ponder:

What encourages you most as you think about the eternal glory of God?

How will you praise God today for His great and saving power?

Read: 1 Samuel 7:1-8

Day 20

“The Elements Of Revival”

Then Samuel said, “Assemble all Israel at Mizpah, and I will intercede with The LORD for you.” When they had assembled at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before The LORD. On that day they fasted and there they confessed, “We have sinned against The LORD.” Now Samuel was serving as leader of Israel at Mizpah. -1 Samuel 7:5-6

Insight Into The Word: Corporate Prayer

When we come to these verses, we see what happens when Samuel’s words are taken to heart. His public proclamation led to corporate prayer and confession. And in this call to prayer, Samuel asks Israel to do one thing: gather everyone together in a specific place. We should take note of this because it is strategic for revival. In strategic revival, everybody should be present and active in prayer.

Once everyone has gathered together, Samuel says that he will intercede with The LORD for them. Samuel makes this statement and request with boldness and assurance. He says this because his relationship is right with God. He has the authority to pray corporately as an intercessor. Samuel also has a certain confidence that God hears him when he prays because he walks with God and has committed his life to Him.

There is also a ritual mentioned in this passage. The people of Israel drew water and poured it out before God. The pouring out of water was symbolic that they were going to empty themselves of their transgression against God. They were no longer going to fill themselves with sin and wickedness. Instead, they were going to fill their lives with God, obey Him, and follow His ways.

The people also fasted and confessed. They were in prayer for themselves, their families, and their nation. From their ritual, we can learn how we ought to assemble for corporate prayer and repentance. Perhaps if we would pray like this, we could do so much more for God and see His power like we have never seen it before!

Thought to Ponder:

What stands out to you most in the corporate prayer ritual of the Israelites?

Read: St. John 4:21-30

Day 21

“The Joy of Finding Jesus”

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a Man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be The Messiah?” They came out of the town and made their way toward Him. St. John 4:28-30

Insight Into The Word: The People’s Decision

Isn’t it ironic that the ones that caused the woman so much grief were the ones that she ran to first to tell about Jesus? And isn’t it strange that God can fill your desires in such a way that the thing you thought you needed the most becomes the thing that you give up first?

At first, this woman could not live without a man, no matter how much grief it caused her that she had to have one. None of these men could bring her joy, and none of them could give her the love that she was truly looking for.

When God met her at the well, He was MORE than enough! He satisfied her thirst, and she left all her past behind. God lifted her burdens of disappointment, set her free from guilt, and took away her pain.

God wants to meet you at the well today. And when He does, you will be willing to go to the ones who have hurt you and tell them what The LORD has done for you. You will tell them that you have discovered Jesus!

And note another thing: The people were so moved by her report that they left from the Gate of the city to go and see Jesus for themselves. They left their tasks, stopping what they were doing to discover Jesus for themselves! The people saw the true transformation of the woman, and they wanted to meet God too!

Thought to Ponder:

How has God lifted your burdens of disappointment and helped you to share His joy with those who have hurt you?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Rev. Dr. Angulus D. Wilson serves as the Chaplain of Wheaton College, where he provides spiritual guidance and support to the college community. With a profound dedication to Christian ministry, Dr. Wilson is a renowned international preacher, bringing the message of the Gospel to diverse audiences around the world. He is also an accomplished author, having penned numerous books that inspire and challenge readers to deepen their faith and live out their Christian convictions.

As a missional leader, Dr. Wilson is passionate about evangelism, discipleship, and community engagement. His leadership is characterized by a commitment to fostering spiritual growth and empowering individuals to make a transformative impact in their communities. Through his ministry, Dr. Wilson continues to inspire countless individuals to pursue a life of faith, service, and purpose.