

June 3-9, 2018

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Sunday, June 3, 2018

Stop Defending Myself

Text: Romans 3:19

“ So that every mouth may be silenced [quietened] and the whole world held accountable to God.”

The thing I find most difficult of all my shortcomings is that I want to be RIGHT. It is only with great difficulty that I admit to ever being wrong. Sometimes to the point of asking “Why me?” To show me how guilty I can/have become- sometimes God places His hand over my mouth to quieten me – to show me that self-righteousness is so evident to Him. The result is my becoming aware of my faults and of God’s Grace. I am saved by grace. God loved me before I even realized what a sinner I am.

Let us Pray: *Father, thank you for your love - given by sending your beloved Son to die for me. Amen*



Monday, June 4, 2018

Called to Bear the Cross

Text: Luke 14:27

“Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple”.

Christ has many admirers but few followers. Which are we?

Christ said no one could be His follower without self-denial. We are only admirers, not followers. What is self-denial? How are we willing to go against our own wishes? This is not like giving up chocolate for Lent. Have we ever rejected something in favor of Christ? This is a very difficult thing to actually do. We do not volunteer for this. We are drafted. God said, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me” (Matthew 16: 24). Only “under a cross” can we learn to deny ourselves and our proud and selfish ego and submit to Jesus quietly and humbly

If God has laid a cross upon you and He often makes a cross out of something insignificant, accept it from His hand. Do not argue with Him. We cannot believe and follow Christ if we do not take up our cross.

Let us Pray: *Our Blessed Father, too often we find ourselves denying our faults, in fact blaming You for our unhappiness. Thank you for all Your gifts and promises. Make me humble to accept my cross when offered. Amen.*



Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Blessings in Full Measure

Text: Romans 15:29

“I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessings of Christ.”

This is not Paul’s success or my success or your success or perfection. We cannot earn or even deserve the full blessing in full measure. This was given to Paul when he realized that he, too, was made right with God through faith in Christ who at the right time died for the ungodly (Romans 5:1). Perfection was not Paul’s perfection but Christ’s. “He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him” (Hebrews 7:25). Paul knew that his debt of sin had been fully paid on the cross. The riches of Christ is His perfect righteousness that covers all our sins as though they were no more. That is the “full measure of blessing of Christ.

Let us Pray: *Father, we thank You for Your Son, who willingly and lovingly died on a cross for us. Who provided us with everlasting life... the full measure of the blessings of Christ. Amen*



Wednesday, June 6, 2018

The Truth Will Come Out

Text: Proverbs 10:19

“When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise. “

Words can be any kind—good, and bad, friendly or unfriendly, honest or dishonest. Words reveal who we are, and Jesus said we are judged by our words (Matthew 12:37). “By your words you will be acquitted and by your words you will be condemned. Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34). Sometimes words slip out of our mouths before we realize and so we rationalize that these words do not really represent who we are. Sometimes what I say is not completely true- but I don’t lie. Or I may once in a great while make an unkind remark to

someone: but I'm only thinking of what's best for that person. Sometimes I might spread rumors about a friend- but I'm not a gossip. So we rationalize. Jesus, who knows our hearts, disagrees. Carefully chosen words are not a true expression of who we are. Spontaneous and unpremeditated conversation, when we pay no particular attention to what we say, reveals a deeper truth of who we are. It is not by chance that the Bible warns us against idle talk. Not only does it condemn us, but it can corrupt others.

Let us Pray: Father, please help us to always speak kindly and always with a guard over our tongue. We ask in Your Son's Holy Name, Amen.



Thursday, June 7, 2018

The Power of Persistent Prayer

Text: James 5: 16

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

As parents we are always concerned and fretting over our family. What if this or what if the other. Sometimes we forget to pray. That is, we forget until there is a crisis. Then we pray ever so hard. We are crisis prayers. As parents we need to be always praying for and lifting up our families. Each one individually and by name and situation. Yes, God knows but we should every day ask Jesus to watch over our child by name to guide his/her activity, conversations, and reactions in all situations. This is personal, this is individual and constant. How is it that we expect God to watch over our child when we are too busy to lift up that child to our Lord? Individual prayer about each and every child is critical - and tell the Lord everything. Also, be sure the child is aware that you love that child so much that you are on an at least daily conversation/communication, asking for additional observation and interception. Pray and discover the power of Persistent Prayer.

Let us Pray: Father, I want to be a more persistent prayer. I want to pray more regularly for all my loved ones on an individual basis. If I need reminders to begin, please help me. In Jesus Name, Amen.



Friday, June 8, 2018

The Lord Provides Friends

Text: Ephesians 2: 18

“You are fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's Household.”

God does not intend for anyone to walk the Christian way without friends. In this day and age when life has become so intense and challenging, Christians need friends who are supportive and share our Christian values. We need to share time and conversation with other like-minded Christians. If you are alone, please look to your house of worship for others who share your beliefs. There is where you will find those who believe as you believe. There is where you will find opportunity to help your fellow man/woman/children. There is where there is a need for help in ever so many ways and opportunities. Over and above the in-house activities that are always needed, such as Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, also the need at Food Pantry, single Moms, preschool children, homeless families, single fathers, libraries, nursing homes, and hospitals. Our place of worship is always aware of the need and there is where you can meet a friend. There is hymn that says, If Jesus you love truly, Friends you will have surely. If we can talk about Jesus, then even among strangers we will find friends.

Let us Pray: *Father, help us to find those friends who are searching for you. In Jesus Name, Amen.*



Saturday, June 9, 2018

Prayer Changes People

Text: Luke 9:29

“As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed.”

Everyday life can become so busy, people expect so much from us. Our family is involved in so many things that are not necessarily Christ-centered that it is easy to “not have time for prayer”. At least until some terrible thing happens. We are quick to “resort” to prayer on behalf of illness, divorce or drugs. We not only have no time for ourselves to pray, we fail to teach our children to pray. Paul wrote to the Philippians to “Let your gentleness be evident to all” (Philippians 4:3). In Colossians he wrote, “As God’s chosen people, holy and dearly beloved, clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience” (Colossians 3:12). Jesus has no room for harshness or cruelty. Our text suggests how we might become more kind, compassionate, gentle, and a blessing to others. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed. Perhaps if we persevered in constant prayer, our image also will change,

Let us Pray: *Father, instill in me today the desire to pray, morning, day and night. In Jesus name, Amen.*

