

MONDAY 05.04.26 - Luke 17:1-4

Today's passage in Luke almost seems to discuss two different issues: the danger of being a stumbling block and the need to forgive others. But if we think about it, one of the biggest stumbling blocks in people's lives is the tendency to hold grudges, grievances, and animosity toward others. These negative feelings can influence our interactions, fellowship, and speech. We become a stumbling block when we can't let go of our anger and hostility in order to forgive those who have "trespassed against us." Our behavior can result in being a negative witness, destroying unity and preventing worship. This hostility is sin. When we don't forgive, we can't have fellowship with the Lord, leaving us vulnerable to Satan's wiles with the danger of falling more deeply into sin. We must guard against hardening our hearts toward others; instead, we should allow the love of Christ to flow through us, pointing people to Him.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 05.05.26 - 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

This is an important session. In essence, repentance is feeling grief over our sin, behavior and thoughts, over the way that we have continually managed to disobey our God and Father, whom we love. We pray for forgiveness but we must grieve over our sins. Paul explains here that it means to have a Godly grief over having our sins exposed by the spirit and found wanting in goodness. We should be ashamed before our God and recognize our need for his forgiveness in order to restore our relationship.

This is different from the way the world experiences grief, which is merely feeling sorry for the loss, the discovery or the experience. To have only sorry feelings does not lead to restoring a relationship with God. If we are not a believer, then death is coming, eternal death. But if we are a believer, then Godly grief brings eternal life with our God and Savior, without regrets.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 05.06.26 - Ephesians 6:5-9

Howard Hendricks was a Professor at Dallas Seminary in Texas. He tells of a time when he was on a flight back to his home. He noticed that one of the flight attendants performed an exceptional job. She was friendly, polite, courteous, and attentive to the passengers aboard the plane. At the end of the flight he remarked to the attendant, "I'm going to write a letter to American Airlines and tell them what an outstanding employee you are." She said, "Oh, that's very thoughtful of you, but I don't work for American Airlines." Hendricks had a puzzled look on his face. So, she explained to him, "I don't work for American Airlines. I work for Jesus Christ." That flight attendant had the right perspective. She happened to work at American Airlines, but she worked for the Lord. *Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men.*

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 05.07.26 - Ecclesiastes 3:12-13

I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

Although it may not be exactly what Solom had in mind when he penned today's scripture, none the less the song "Working for the Weekend" has is a ring of truth to it. Many people would describe their job as a necessary evil rather than something that brings them satisfaction. I think it is fair to say that what Solom did have in mind is that we should view our jobs as an avenue for many of the blessings God brings into our lives, not the least of

which is the blessing of being generous and kind to the people in our lives. If we would try to see our jobs through God's eyes, committing our work to Him and the furtherance of His kingdom, our perspective on work would likely be very different. We might even be able to come to the place of seeing work as an enjoyable experience.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 05.08.26 - Proverbs 24:30-34

Springtime is a wonderful reminder of a frustrating reality: weeds. Whether it's dandelions in the yard or unwanted plants in a garden, weeds don't need an invitation, they just show up! And yet, with diligence and consistency, they can be managed. That's the key: work.

From the beginning, before sin entered the world, God gave Adam and Eve work to do. Work isn't the curse; it's part of God's design for those who trust Him

In Proverbs 24, the issue isn't merely a run-down field, it's the neglect of the one responsible for it. If the attitude were different, the field would be fruitful instead of overgrown.

The same is true in our lives. Left unattended, "weeds" overtake good things in life. But with faithful effort—and God's help—fruit grows.

Thank God for the work He's given you and ask Him for the diligence to do it well.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY - 6:30pm. Began April 15th.

**“God of the Ordinary”, A Study in the Book of Ruth
Led by Barry Wills, Rm B8-10**

This is a 6 session study by Alistair Begg. God still protects His people and accomplishes His purposes. Through all of life’s circumstances, we discover His loving hand at work.

SUNDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Begins June 7th - 9am in Room 2

**Ecclesiastes: “Finding Meaning When Life Feel Meaningless”
By Lydia Brownback.**

This 10 week study helps women understand the themes of sin, vanity, enjoyment, and death, ultimately encouraging believers to follow the will of God for their lives, no matter their current circumstances.

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

Kids CHILDREN’S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level

Youth E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)

Adults **SPRING QUARTER** - Sunday Mornings

LOCATION: B8-10 - Dave Heineman- began Mar. 1
**EXPLORE THE BIBLE:
Matthew 14-28**
Gaining a better understanding of what it means to live out our faith each day.

LOCATION: B11 - Lane Kemler - began April 19th
BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE: part 2
Seize the Day: Embracing a Mission with Purpose
Through the book of Acts, we’ll see examples from the early church of what it looks like to joyously embrace the mission.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

Youth YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)

Adults LOCATION: Worship Center

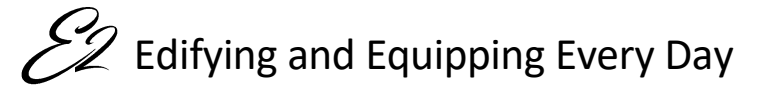
*TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES,
USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.*

**The Joy of Forgiveness
Psalm 32**

I. The Joy We Want:

II. The Shame We Feel:

III. The Forgiveness God Offers:



TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



May 04 – May 08

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Sunday, May 3rd, the message will be from Psalm 32, “Joy of Forgiveness”. Sunday, May 10th, we will hear a message from Ephesians 6:5-9, “What to Wear to Work”.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children.
Ephesians 5:1