

MONDAY 5.19.25 - Mark 9:24

The pericope in Mark 9 focuses on the power of faith, acknowledging that “everything is possible for him who believes” and that even when facing doubt, we can cry out “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” Jesus’ words highlight the transformative power of faith. The man's initial doubt is relatable, and Jesus' response acknowledges that even with doubt, faith can be a starting point. The story reminds us that we should approach God assuming He can, and that faith is essential for unlocking God’s power in our lives. The writer of Hebrews reminds us that “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (11:6). Consider how Mark 9:23 applies to your own life. What situation are you facing that seems impossible? How can you trust in God's ability to help?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 5.20.25 - Hebrews 11:6

Today’s verse is encompassed in what has long been called “the Hall of Faith” as many patriarchs and other Scriptural heroes of faith are recounted there. The commencement of each of their experiences is in the presence of faith. So it is that today’s verse explains that without it no one can please God. Of course, we know that only by having it do we please him, for the just shall live by faith. This truth is expounded throughout the Old as well as the New Testament.

Faith is both assurance and conviction. See verse one of Chapter 11. Each of us must know for what we hope and be convinced of the things we hope for without seeing. Jesus said that the prophets of old believed and hoped without seeing. That is our example. Our God exists and rewards those who seek Him.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 5.21.25 - John 21:1-14

The Tour de France is the world’s most prestigious and most difficult bicycle race. It is staged for three weeks each July and typically comprises 20 professional teams of 9 male riders each. It covers some 2,235 miles, mainly in France, with occasional visits to such countries as Belgium, Italy, Germany, and Spain. Each year the Tour de France is broadcast on television. Most non-cyclists (like me) look for the person wearing the yellow jersey. He is the overall leader of the team. However, the most important person might be the team’s *domestique* (from the French word for “servant”). This individual will pave the way to enable their team leader’s success. Jesus is the ultimate “Domestique.” He sacrificed Himself to allow us to know God and to follow Him. Let’s copy the selfless example of Jesus and willingly serve others so they might know and follow the Lord.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 5.22.25 - Proverbs 19:17

“If you help them out, they’ll just beg for more.” This conventional wisdom is often the answer people give for not helping those who are in need. Perhaps it comes from being taken advantage of one too many times—or being plain old stingy. Yet, Proverbs 19:17 encourages us to help those who are poor.

Here’s a word of caution: There’s no promise that God will pay us our money back. The Lord rewards the faithful with a myriad of blessings, some material and some not.

The motivation for our kindness to those who have less than we do is not so the Lord will bless us. If we are moved, however, by the compassion of the Lord to help others, those generous moments will demonstrate our formation into the image and character of our Master and Example, Jesus. That “handout of kindness” is the best blessing of all.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 5.23.25 - Psalm 119:36

Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. NIV
Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness. NKJV
Today’s passage in the Psalms reflects back on the laws expressed in Deuteronomy 6:5 and looks ahead to the commands repeated by Jesus in Matthew 22:37-40: Love God first and love your neighbors. We are always to look past ourselves in obedience and worship to God followed by love and concern for others. We are to put ourselves last. I remember as a child learning the meaning of J.O.Y. as J for Jesus; O for others; Y for yourself. Jesus and others were always to come first. Today we are to meditate on selflessness in the Christian life. The little mnemonic is about joy, but to be truly joyful in the Lord we do need to focus less on our wants and strivings for money, position, or recognition, and instead direct our thoughts to worshipping our Lord and serving our neighbors, whether next door or around the world.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

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

SUMMER QUARTER – Sunday Mornings at 9:40

LOCATION: B8-10 – Gene Steinruck- begins June 1.
EXPLORE THE BIBLE – Psalms - Let the ancient words meet you where you are. Listen as God speaks to your heart and reminds you how much He cares about you.

LOCATION: B11 Teacher: TBD – begins June 1st.
BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE (part 1)
Risk Takers: The Adventure of Walking by Faith - Though exercising our faith can feel risky, see that the God we follow turns it into a grand adventure when we place our trust in Him.

LOCATION: B11 – Teacher: TBD – July 13th & 20th.
Safe and Secure: Our Eternal Security in Christ

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids

MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
RESUMES IN THE FALL
- Youth

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

LOCATION: Worship Center

SPRING SMALL GROUPS

THURSDAY EVENING STUDY- beginning June 5th 6:30pm – Rm. B8-B10.
REVELATION: Eternal King, Everlasting Kingdom - by Jen Wilkin.
Understand Revelation as the culmination of God’s great story. This is a 10-week study led by Denise Whitfield and Lisa Domenico. Sign up at the information tables or on the connect card!

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY - began April 23rd – 6:30pm - Rm. B8-10
TOGETHER – Community That Marked the Acts 2 Church - Be transformed by connecting to a community of believers. With Barry Wills

John 20:22-31
The First Seven Words of the Risen Savior (Pt. 3)

After His resurrection, Jesus appears to Mary and speaks to her.

“Why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

1. Q_____ Word (v 15)

“Mary.”

2. P_____ Word (v 16)

“Do not hold on to me.”

3. C_____ Word (v 17)

After Jesus’ encounter with Mary, He appears to His apostles.

“Peace be with you!”

4. C_____ Word (vv 19b, 21a)

“As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

5. C_____ Word (v 21b)

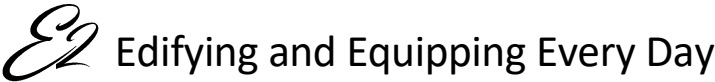
“Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

6. E_____ Word (vv 22-23)

“Stop doubting and believe.”

7. E_____ Word (v 27)

If you want to really live, turn the keys of your life over to Jesus. Surrender your life to Him. It may be scary at times, but you’ll have life—real life. You’ll be empowered. You’ll be encouraged, and you’ll realize He’s a better driver than you ever were.



TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



May 19 – May 23

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:
Monday and Tuesday’s readings will be a follow up on Sunday’s message from April 18th. “The First Seven Words of the Risen Savior ” (Part 3), with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday’s through Friday’s devotions will help prepare us for the message on April 25th, “Characteristics of a Committed Christian”, with Pastor Doug Lyon

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:
My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12