

MONDAY 10.14.24 - Matthew 23:12

There is little else that speaks more of a hard heart than pride. Pride was a part of the Fall when Adam and Eve lusted after the fruit and desired to be like God. When self is ruling the heart, Christ is not.

How many stories in Scripture illustrate the truth of today's verse? One of the most notable, and humorous, is the story of Haman found in the book of Esther. Here we find a man who exalted himself even as God was using Mordecai to publicly humiliate him!

We read in Philippians 2 that our Lord and Savior humbled Himself even becoming obedient to death on a cross. "Therefore, God exalted Him".

Are we not commanded to be conformed to His image - and Jesus' image is one of humility. All that we have and all that we are we owe to Him and Him alone!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 10:15.24 - James 4:6

Dr. Harry Ironside was Pastor of Moody Church in Chicago for 18 years. As a young man, Ironside felt he was not as humble as he ought to be so he asked an elderly Christian what he could do about it. The older gentleman suggested, "Make a sandwich board with the plan of salvation in Scripture on it and wear it. Then walk through the business and shopping areas of downtown Chicago for a whole day." He followed the man's advice. Upon completion of this humiliating experience, he returned to his apartment. Ironside caught himself thinking, "I bet there's not another person in Chicago who would be willing to do what I just did for Christ!"

What Ironside hoped would bring humility in his life fueled the fire of pride. God opposes proud people. Ask God to help to build humility in your life so you will experience His grace.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 10:16.24 - Daniel 4:17

'The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people.'

I believe that as Christians we have an obligation to do our best to see that people who are in line with our Christian beliefs are elected to office. We must also remember that God is sovereign, it is He who is over all the kingdoms on earth. On November 6th, no matter who is in office, God is still in control. It is He who has brought them into power and we are called to pray for them unless doing so goes against our fundamental Christian values/beliefs. Believing that God is in control should give us the freedom to do these things and should give a sense of God's peace no matter what the outcome of the upcoming election. As you consider the upcoming election, consider today's scripture that tells us "*the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes*", and may this thought give you peace.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 10:17.24 - Proverbs 29:23

We are all under authority, and various levels of authority. Government from the federal, state, county and municipal; employment, education, church, family; these all embody

various levels and spheres of authority over us. Yet because we desire to rule over ourselves in our inner hearts, we grate against that authority.

Often it hurts us because we find that we do not obey naturally what we should. Yet today's Scripture admonishes us to obey the commands given to us from our authorities. We do have certain areas, in fact many areas of discretion. But beyond those we are safer staying in the right place of obedience to our authority. What blessing for us is there? The answer is peace and joy, for 'the wise heart knows the proper time and the just way.'

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 10:18.24 - Psalm 22:27-28

When I find myself in a situation that is chaotic, I want to know who is in charge; I want to know who my leader is. And I want direction from that leader. I also want to be confident that my leader is wiser and more knowledgeable than I am. As I watch the daily news, the world seems to be full of chaos. I find myself wanting to shout, "WHO is charge here??!!". Praise God, as Christians, we know the answer to that question. The author of Psalm 22 tells us that ALL families of ALL nations will bow to God, that dominion (kingship) is His. The knowledge that He is in charge, and that He is not only all-wise and all-knowing, but also good and loving should give us great comfort as well as courage when we observe what is happening around the world today.

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** **FALL QUARTER** – began September 1st
LOCATION: B8-10 - Lane Kemler - began Sept.1st.
Explore the Bible – Acts 13-28. As we study the missionary movement of the early church, we're reminded of our own call to share the gospel – our own responsibility to fulfill the Great Commission.
LOCATION: B11 - Dave Delcamp - begins Oct. 20th.
Bible Studies for Life – Navigating Family Conflict. Discover how we ought to relate to others by studying family relationships in Genesis.
LOCATION: B1-2 – Randy & Treva Hutchison -This 6-week class begins Oct.13th.
Parenting: Getting it Right. This study helps parents of children from newborn through high school identify and embrace their *IT*; their win as parents. Offered at 9:40am & 11:00am. Childcare is provided for Nursery to Grade 4.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
5th–8th Grade meet downstairs.
9th–12th Grade meet upstairs.
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

E2 FALL SMALL GROUPS

- Morning E2 Ladies Study** - Began Oct. 3rd at 9am in Rm. B8-10.
Luke in the Land - Walking with Jesus, with Brenda Ross.
Evening Study – Begins Tues. Oct.15th at 6:30pm at the YAC.
The Titus Ten - Foundations for Godly Manhood, with Vince DiLoretto & Mike Williams.
Evening Study - Begins Tues. Oct.15th at 6:30pm in Rm 2.
Come Home - This is a study for teen girls. It points us to our truest home, which is found in Him, with Elizabeth Williams.

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

John 13:1-17 People of the Towel

Jesus' lesson to His followers in the opening of chapter 13 is:

Demonstrate Love By _____ To Others.

Jesus demonstrates love to His Apostles. The word "love" in verse 1 is the Greek word *agape*, and there is an emphasis on love in the Upper Room Discourse. The word "love" appears six times in chapters 1-12, but it appears thirty-one times in chapters 13-17.


Agape love is defined as the _____, _____ giving of yourself for the benefit of another without expectation of repayment.

Spiritually speaking, a bath symbolizes getting saved. When you trust in Jesus for eternal life, God spiritually cleanses you completely—like taking a spiritual bath. That is something you only need to do once. You do not need to get saved repeatedly. However, as a Christian, you will commit sin. When you do, you do not lose your salvation, but you do break fellowship or friendship with God. To restore your fellowship, you simply need to confess your sin to God (1 John 1:9). Confessing your sin as a Christian is like spiritually getting your feet washed.

Application

- Cultivate an attitude of humility by:
 - _____ God's estimate of yourself
 - _____ yourself to God daily
 - _____ on Christ and His blessings
- Practice actions of service:
 - At _____
 - At _____
 - In _____

This week, I will demonstrate love by humbly serving _____

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



October 14 - October 18

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's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message from October 13th, "People of the Towel" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on October 20th, "Eight Mistakes Christians Make" with Pastor Bob Lehman.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
John 10:10