

MONDAY 11.18.24 - Matthew 5:8

Matthew 5:9, Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Christ died so that we could experience peace with God. God desires that we not only experience peace with Him, but that we experience peace from Him. God also wants us to be the bearers of peace to our brothers and sisters in Christ and to the world. As Christians when we experience people, our selves included, who are disgruntled, angry, unforgiving, bitter, ... the problem is that we have taken our eyes off Christ. Instead of ignoring these situations when we encounter them, God has called us to point people to Christ and encourage them to focus on Him. As we put our eyes on Christ and what He did for us, God starts to become much larger, and the problems we encounter become much smaller. Do you know someone who is struggling with finding peace in their life. Ask God for help and then purpose to point them to Christ.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 11.19.24 - Philippians 4:6-7

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

'Do not be anxious for anything' certainly resonates in our age of anxiety. Yet, although many of us can recite this verse, we too often ignore its wisdom. How many of us lie awake in our beds, in the darkness of night, and worry?

It's not like we can say, "But Paul doesn't understand what I'm going through. Anyone would worry if they knew what I'm up against." Can you even imagine the conditions of the prison cell Paul was writing from two thousand years ago?

Paul knows worry will accomplish nothing and leads to our own destruction. He is telling us to reject all worry and place our

complete trust in God through prayer. The result will be a profound peace that we can scarcely comprehend. Perhaps we fail to experience that peace, because we foolishly think we are somehow able to control the situation if we continue to think about it, or worry. Is it time for a change?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 11.20.24 - John 14:25-31

While most people have heard of common phobias such as the fear of heights (acrophobia) or the fear of spiders (arachnophobia), there are many strange, less talked about phobias such as arachibutyrophobia (fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth) and nomophobia (fear of being without your mobile phone).

Upon hearing of Christ's imminent death and their inability to go with Him (John 13:33), the disciples found themselves in a swirling vortex of confusion (14:5, 22). Just as they were about to go under, Jesus threw them a lifeline: "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (v 27b). Jesus' words are important—they imply that the disciples had the ability to control the reaction of their hearts. If they could keep their emotions afloat during the tempests they experienced, perhaps there is hope for us as well. Turn to the Lord when fear grips you!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 11.21.24 - Isaiah 26:3

Many things cause us fear, but the base cause is our lack of control - fear of the unknown. This is the kind of fear that the Lord addressed in Joshua 1:9. Joshua is now the leader of

Israel, leading his people into the Promised Land after 40 long years of wandering in the wilderness because of their fear to obey the Lord and claim the land. But the Lord commanded Joshua not to be afraid; rather he should be strong and courageous because the Lord will be with him wherever he goes. That same promise is echoed in Psalm 139 where we learn that no matter where we are, the Lord is there. When we confront a potentially life-changing unknown, we, too, are often consumed by fear. We should take heart in the comfort that as believers, the Lord is with us. Remember: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10a). Reliance on Him will see us through.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 11.22.24 - Psalm 4:8

Fear is a terribly disabling emotion. When it grips our hearts, we are often unable to think correctly or especially proactively, or to take appropriate action without guidance from outside. If some outside advisors are not available, we are enmired by our fear so that inaction is the only possible path. Yet today's verses describe a different path for the believer.

The principal verse 8 is the capstone of the chapter. Verse 4 tells us to lie on our beds and search our own hearts for that which leads us into our fear, what sin has brought us to this point. Or perhaps not our sin but life's circumstances have created a kerfuffle from which there appears no exit. But God is never constrained by our circumstances. Offer the sacrifices of the righteous, bring a contrite and broken heart. When we realize that God is God and we are not, He brings our deliverance, and we sleep in peace.

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** **WINTER QUARTER** - begins December 1st
LOCATION: B8-10 - Gene Steinruck - begins Dec. 1st.
EXPLORE THE BIBLE - Exodus and Leviticus remind us that imperfect people can depend on a perfect God to lead them through whatever wilderness they face.
LOCATION: B11 - Teacher: TBA - begins Dec. 1st.
BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE
Looking Forward to Christmas Be reminded that Christmas is, first and foremost, a celebration of Christ's coming to earth.
LOCATION: B1-2 - Joel Day - begins Dec. 1st
GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON YOU - What Jacob's Story Teaches Us About Grace, Mercy, and God's Relentless Love.
LOCATION: B11 - Shawn Devlin - Begins Jan. 19th
THE HEART OF WORSHIP - Learn how Scripture tells us God is the One we are to worship, and it shows us the ways we are to engage in worship, so we are drawn into a deeper walk with Him.

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)
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

WINTER E2 SMALL GROUPS

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY - Dec. 4th-18th- 6:30pm- Room B8-10.
ADVENT 2024 - THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS
Teaching from the Gospel of Luke in three sessions, bestselling author and pastor Rick Warren helps you see not one but three purposes of Christmas. Celebration, Salvation, and Reconciliation.
Leader: Barry Wills.

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

John 14:1-24 *Cure For Troubled Hearts*

The Apostles' hearts were troubled. They experienced turbulence regarding:

- D _____ (13:33a)
- D _____ (13:33b)
- D _____ (13:37-38)

Application

How do you stop your heart from being troubled amid turbulence? What is the cure for a troubled heart? Jesus tells you to look in four directions. Look ...

1. F _____ To Heaven (vv 1-6)

Jesus assures you: I'm going to my Father's house to prepare a place for you. When that place is ready, I'm returning to get you. I'm coming back so we can be together forever!

2. U _____ In Prayer (vv 7-14)


Jesus does not want you to have a troubled heart. So, when you experience turbulence in life, go to the Lord in prayer. Ask Him to calm your heart amid the difficulty that you're facing.

3. I _____ To The Helper (vv 15-20)

When you encounter turbulence in your life, ask the Holy Spirit who lives within you to give you peace, comfort, wisdom, guidance, and direction in your challenging situation.

4. O _____ In Obedience (vv 21-24)

Three times in these verses, Jesus tells you to obey His teaching. Often the cause of a troubled heart is disobedience to the Word of God. So, do God's will. Obey the commands of Christ.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



November 18 - November 22

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 November 17th, "Cure for Troubled Hearts", with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on November 24th, "Fear Factor", with Pastor Doug Lyon.

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