

MONDAY 11.25.24 - Matthew 8:23-27

The School of Theology at Emory University is named after Bishop Warren Chandler. As Chandler lay on his deathbed, a friend asked him if he was afraid. The friend pleaded, "Please, tell me honestly—do you fear crossing over the river of death?" Chandler calmly replied, "Why should I? I belong to a Father who owns the land on both sides of the river."

Storms of life will blow around you, but it's not the exterior storms that pose the gravest danger. What's going on inside you is the greater threat to your spiritual life. Sometimes the Lord calms the storm such as He does in verse 26. Other times He lets the storm rage, and He calms His child. Jesus can give you the inward peace you need to weather the storms of life. Faith enables you to acquire God's peace inside you. Faith is the antidote to fear.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 11.26.24 - 1John 4:18

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. As we consider today's scripture, let us consider a few things. First, we need to understand that it is God's "perfect" love that drives out fear. Secondly, many of us have the misconception that God is just waiting for us to mess up so that he can punish us. God has no desire to punish. In His perfect love God wants what's best for us in every situation. That is not to say that sin does not have consequences. It is Gods desire that the consequences for our sin will bring us to repentance and back under His loving care. Knowing that God's love is perfect and that it is with this perfect love that He loves you should dispel all fear. Acknowledge that Gods loves you perfectly and give your fears to Him. If you truly do this, He will take your fears and replace them with His perfect peace.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 11.27.24 - John 15:1-6

Disciples need to remain in close fellowship with Christ if they are to be fruitful. Disciples who do not abide in Him suffer the opposite—even the danger of divine discipline. John 15:6 pictures a progression of the most unfortunate kind. Fruitless disciples are like a branch that is thrown away, implying a loss of abiding closeness and fellowship. They wither, losing their spiritual freshness and vitality. Then the text states that they are thrown into the fire and burned. Since the entire passage is set in the context of discipleship, we must interpret the fire as a portrayal of divine discipline instead of the literal fires of hell (cf. Deuteronomy 4:23-24 and Hebrews 12:28-29). Far from taking away a believer's assurance of salvation, this passage powerfully reminds us of our need for an abiding fellowship with Christ in order to be fruitful in our Christian lives.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 11.28.24 - Proverbs 1:1-5

Employers value it. Teachers look for it. Parents delight in it. What is 'it'? Teachability! The great virtue that Proverbs seeks to install in us is simply that - teachability - the willingness to grow in wisdom no matter how far along a person is! It is for the simple, the young, and the wise. Here we find instruction in wise dealing (*practical*), increase in learning (*intellectual*), righteousness, justice, and equity (*moral*), and understanding

(*instructional*). Here Solomon gives us a treasure chest full of gems to help us in our spiritual growth. Indeed, Scripture is God-breathed and is profitable to us for training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16). It is made useless, however, if it is never read, meditated on, prayed over and applied! That is why Solomon pleads that we "**HEAR**". May God grant us *teachability* to the end that He can form us through His Spirit to the image of His Son!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 11.29.24 - Psalm 1

Part of life is to grow. A small acorn falls to the ground and becomes a seedling, but it grows for decades. Every spring new growth appears. All life grows till it stops. Little children grow too fast. The prime working years are a blur. Then the golden years fly by. During those times we continue to grow, all of us do. Not only in various physical dimensions but in our spiritual life also.

Our spiritual life grows to full maturity, when we reach our final home in heaven. That growth can be slow and weak, or with fertilizer it be driven. What fertilizer exists to help the spirit? Scripture says to 'delight in the law of the Lord, and on his law meditate day and night.' If we do that, we shall be like a tree growing in the spring bringing forth fruit in its season and never withering.

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 14:25-31 **Fear Factor**

During the meal, Jesus revealed to His disciples that He was going to leave. Additionally, He told them that they would not be able to follow Him. That is when the monster of fear gripped their hearts. Jesus sensed this, and He tells them in verse 27: "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

How do you manage fear?

1. D_____ on the person of the Holy Spirit (vv 25-26)

The Holy Spirit is God Himself—the Third Member of the Trinity. He has taken up residence in your physical body. He has been given to you as a Paraclete—someone called alongside to help you in your time of need.

We are usually overcome by fear because we either ignore what God has said, or we forget what God has said. The Holy Spirit's ministry bridges that important information gap. The Holy Spirit gives us insight and recall.

Ephesians 6:17 tells us that the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. That is why it is important for us to read and study and meditate on and memorize the Scripture. The Holy Spirit can bring to mind the Word that you have hidden in your heart in order to calm you in times of fear.

2. C_____ the peace of Jesus Christ (v 27)


- Objective—Peace _____ God
- Subjective—Peace _____ God

We obtain the peace of God through prayer. So, when you begin to fear, pause and talk to God about your situation. Ask God to give you His peace (Philippians 4:6-7).

3. A_____ the plan of the Father (vv 28-31)

God has given us people and things to enjoy, and it is important to hold them with a loose grasp. Someday God may choose to take them from your hands. The loss will be less fearful if you are not clutching them so tightly.

"Stop being afraid" ~ Jesus

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



November 25 - November 29

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 24th, "Fear Factor", with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on December 1st, "Secrets of the Vine", 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