

## Getting Ready for Sunday

Devotions for the week of June 12 through June 16

**Monday:** This week we'll be looking at what Jesus found to be extremely important, letting his disciples know that they needed to continue his work. Today we read from Matthew 9:35-38. We are told in this passage that Jesus traveled all over to bring the Good News of the Kingdom and to show signs that the Kingdom had come near by curing every disease and sickness. But his going and doing what he did wasn't enough. He says to his disciples that they should pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers for the harvest, in other words others who would do what Jesus was doing, sharing the Good News of the Kingdom. Lord help us to hear what you have said to your disciples and do what you told us, as your disciples, to do; pray that the Good News of the Kingdom would be shared so that all might know the wholeness that you have for us. Amen.

**Tuesday:** Today we read the next section of scripture after what we read yesterday. Today we read Matthew 10:1,5-8. Yesterday we read that Jesus told his disciples to pray that people might be sent out to tell about the Kingdom of God but today we see that prayers aren't necessarily an inactive thing. In others words it is not just pray and done. Today we see that Jesus has an answer for his prayer that includes the disciples that he told to pray about those who would share the Good News. Jesus decides that his disciples should be the answers to his (and their prayer) by not only praying but going out to do what Jesus has done. So often Lord we find that we in some way are the answers to our prayers, we are the ones who are sent or are the ones who meet the need, or are the ones who do what your will is. Lord, help us not just to pray and be done, but also help us to seek Your will to determine in what way we are the answer to the prayer that we have prayed. Amen.

**Wednesday:** Today we read from Genesis 18:1-15. Yesterday we saw that we are often the answers to our prayers. We are the ones who are to represent God. In the passage that we have read Abraham shows hospitality to strangers. It seems to be a simple act, yet in doing what he has done he is showing hospitality to God and two angels. He has no idea that he is entertaining angels unawares and yet he is. As we share the Good News that Jesus has called his disciples to share we have no idea what our impact might be but whatever the impact is we know that God is as real a presence in our sharing as he was with Abraham as he showed hospitality to "strangers." We know this because we have the promised Holy Spirit with us at all times as we have claimed the promise of Jesus Christ. It doesn't matter if we are actually serving God and angels or another human being, either way God is present in what we are doing. Lord enable us to live our lives with the understanding that You are a very real and present part of our service to You and to others as we share the Good News of the Kingdom of God. Amen.

**Thursday:** Today we read from Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19. "What shall I return to the LORD for His bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD." The Lord has been so very good to us. As we realize this how can we not share His love with others by lifting up to them the cup of salvation, so that they too might realize how good He is? "Praise the Lord!" Serve Him in whatever way you are gifted. And thus lift up the "cup of salvation". Amen.

**Friday:** Today we read from Romans 5:1-8. You know what salvation is but sometimes it is good for us to be reminded, for as we saw yesterday, we are to lift up the cup of salvation so others might know him and you can't lift up the cup of salvation unless you know what it is. In today's reading we have read that we are "justified (that means made right with God) by faith in Jesus Christ. For at the right time Christ died for the ungodly." Jesus is our cup of salvation and as we put our faith in him we have claimed what he did for us. But that is not where our walk with the Holy Spirit ends. No indeed! After we have claimed Jesus for ourselves, our joy is to lift up those who would share the Good News of the Kingdom of God with others and to be the answer to our prayers with our own actions as we share who we are in Christ with the world of those who don't know Him. Lord, fill us with Your Spirit so we can accomplish what You desire. Amen.