

Roots

March 4, 2015

Wednesday

Read Psalm 27

If you had one thing to ask of the Lord, what would it be? Would you ask to be as wise as Solomon? Would you ask to understand dolphins or other animals? Would you ask to be the greatest at something? The psalmist's one thing is found in verse 4 of today's reading, to dwell in the Lord's house. As we continue to follow Jesus down the road to death this Lent, may we learn to be as confident and secure as the psalmist knowing that all we need is found in the Cross of Christ. May we learn well that is where we receive eternal life.

Thursday

Read Ephesians 5: 1-2

"Imitate God and walk in love, as Christ loved." That is a tall order. Take a moment to examine your life and think about the people who have walked in this way. What were some of their qualities? The ones in my life showed an extraordinary amount of patience and genuine care. These are two of the qualities it takes to walk the path to Calvary. What are some of the others? Now ask yourself, "How am I exemplifying Jesus on his way to the cross in my life?" I know that I am not the patient example of caring kindness that I have seen in other followers of Christ. This road is a hard road to walk. No one ever told us it would be easy. But, that is why we imitate Jesus together with all of our fellow Christians, so that we might build one another up,

encourage and strengthen each other on the journey. Sometimes, it is even necessary that we drag

our brothers and sisters, or be drug ourselves when the task is difficult. Let this Lent be a time where we bear one another to the Cross to witness the love Jesus had for us and be better examples of that love ourselves.

Friday

Read Matthew 16: 24-28

The words of our savior in this passage are not easy to hear. But, they do ask us what we truly hold dear. They ask us to examine where our hearts are at, where we store our treasures, if you will. When we exercise, when we start college, when we begin a new job we get to ask ourselves what really matters? These types of things require "the long haul commitment," and if we are not committed to the goal of these endeavors our hearts will not be in the things we have to do to get there. Those are easy life tasks in comparison to the journey to the Cross. On that path, Jesus presses us on the things that have eternal implications. So where is your heart this Lent? This season set your goal, set your heart on the Cross because that is the only goal truly worth having; all others matter little next to it.

Saturday

Read Acts 4: 5-12

As Christians, the question sometimes is posed to us, "How can you do the things that you do?" The answer, whether you realize it or not, is

by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Peter was asked by the authorities of the Jewish people how a crippled man was healed, and this is the same answer that he gave to them. Though our circumstances aren't the same as Peter's, our answer is. The love that we show, the mood that we project, the conduct we operate by are all testaments to the power of the name under which we have salvation. So today, we go to Christ, whom as sinners we crucified, that we might have strength, courage and love to bear his powerful name to the emotionally hurting and the spiritually crippled so that they can come to know the power of his name as well.

Sunday

Come to Church to receive Christ's blessings and strength.

Monday

Read Isaiah 26: 1-3

Remember that no matter what you face, no matter what fears or struggles befall you, we have a strong city, a mighty fortress in Christ. He is our shelter and our strong tower, and in him we have salvation. That is what he promises you today, eternal safety and eternal life.

Tuesday

Read Revelation 3: 7-8

To those that keep the faith, that is to those who live the gift of love that is given to them, the door to eternal salvation is open. No, I do not mean that somehow your actions keep the Lord appeased, or that living the faith earns you

the right of passage through the door. I mean that through Jesus' death and resurrection you have been given the gift of faith. By that gift your works are Christ working through you, and he is the one who can open or shut this door. To you who live by faith, to you who graciously receive all from the hand of the Lord, to you who trust that his love is working in and through you, the door is open and nobody can shut it. Thanks be to Christ.

Pastor Carl J. H.

