

Thursday– We turn our attention to the Gospel of John, chapter three, verses one through seventeen. While we think John tells us this story of Jesus and Nicodemus from a historical perspective, we want to look at this encounter in light of allegory today. What story might ***you tell*** of this encounter using allegory as your literary guide? (*Allegory is writers or speakers typically use allegories as literary devices that convey hidden meanings through symbolic figures, actions, imagery, or events, which together create the moral, spiritual, or political meaning the author wishes to convey*). How would you describe this “story” behind the story? You might use the context of your own spiritual journey to write your allegorical interpretation of this story. Feel free to be as creative or imaginative as you would like to be in this exercise.

Friday– Our final reading this week takes us to Matthew’s Gospel (Matt. 17:1-9). This account shares the moment of Jesus’ Transfiguration in the company of James, John, and Peter. Read this text selection through a couple times taking note of any details or questions that come to mind, writing them down. Next, pray, asking God to reveal to you any experiences (current or past) that might reference these details and/or questions. Spend a few moments in silence “listening” for God to provide clarity to your details and/or questions. If you receive additional detail or clarity, is there anything God would ask of you in response to this reading? How will you respond?

Finally, consider this week’s reflections as a whole. Is there a theme or any commonality that God is revealing through the collection of your thoughts and/or experiences? What response might God be asking of you this week?

2017 Weekly Lenten Devotional Guide



Second Week of Lent (March 12-18, 2017)

Suggestions for your devotional weeks:

- ◆ Set aside a minimum of 30 minutes to work the reflection exercise.
- ◆ Purchase a small composition notebook to work in and journal your thoughts and prayers.
- ◆ Consider joining a group or starting a small group to work through the devotional exercises together in community.



940 Israel Rd. SW
Tumwater, WA 98501
(360) 943-0795

www.mountainviewlife.org

Prayer for the week: You may wish to begin and end your devotional time with this prayer.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Scriptures for reading and reflection this week:

- Genesis 12:1-4a
- Psalm 121
- Romans 4:1-5
- John 3:1-17 *or* Matthew 17:1-9

Daily Reflection Questions and Exercises:

Monday– At first glance, our Genesis text this week seems rather straight-forward and we can often miss dramatic truths that intersect our personal lives. Read through the text several times slowly. Is there a word, an image, or memory that “jumps” out to you? What is that word or image? What do you think is the reason it seems prominent? Do you think there is any direction coming from God to you through this Scripture reading? What is it?

Can you identify with any details in this passage that parallel your own Christian journey? If there is any intersection with your life, what are the similarities? What is God sharing and/or revealing to you through this interaction with the life of Abraham?

Write down any additional thoughts and/or any words of confession to God. Can you make these thoughts into a prayer?

Tuesday– Today’s reading takes us to the Psalms, specifically Psalm 121, known as one of the “songs of ascents.” It is unsure exactly what “song of ascents” refers to, there are several interpretations and none of them are so overwhelmingly compelling as to mitigate any one of the others. However, one interpretation suggests the songs were sung by pilgrims returning from exile and or pilgrims returning for any of the recurring feasts held in Jerusalem. Today we might imagine that we are one of the returning pilgrims “singing and praying” through this Psalm. As you prepare to read and meditate through this text, first, imagine yourself in the ancient Palestinian countryside... consider sights, smells, what you might be wearing, where you might be coming from, your occupation, and your reasons for returning to Jerusalem. Now, engage the passage and slowly linger over the words and what they might mean to you with these newly imagined circumstances. Can you “hear” God the Holy Spirit speaking to you through this exercise? If yes, what might God be saying? How might this imaginative exercise be applied or relative to your circumstances today? Do you sense there is any requirement for you to act on anything you may have experienced today? What is your response?

Wednesday– Our reflection begins with the Letter to the Romans, chapter 4 verses 1-5. The Apostle seems to say that Abraham’s righteousness is declared by God through Abraham’s faith and not through any “works.” Yet our earlier reading this week (Gen. 12:1-4) seems to indicate Abraham’s actions affirmed his faith. Similarly, faith is equated with obedience regarding the life of Abraham by the writer of the Book of Hebrews (Heb. 11:8-10, 17-19). Is there a way to reconcile all these passages so they teach a harmonious message? Do you think faith and righteousness are declarations of logic or do they demand actions of the heart? Can you give a personal example?