

Read - Think - Pray

Proper 10A, 11-15 July, Prepared by: Angus Kelly

Monday

Psalm

Psalm 65:1-13

Think:

The Psalmist - like us - goes through various seasons. Some are dark, some are light; even the darkest Psalms remember God's grace through all things.

This week's Psalm is one of rejoicing - a time of harvest, of abundance.

Remembering in all the abundance - God's provision - and God's good grace.

Pray:

Give thanks.

Tuesday

Old Testament

Isaiah 55:10-13

Think:

Isaiah writes for people living in dark hopelessness; people living in exile. He promises a better future. God's work WILL bear fruit. God's words and God's promises are not empty - they accomplish God's goals.

The goal that God has in mind:

The Kingdom.

Pray:

Sometimes we wait years before our prayers are answered; and those years are long and difficult. Pray for those who wait - perhaps someone you know. If you are waiting for God to answer your prayers; ask for hope and patience - hear God's promise:

His word will not return to him empty, but will accomplish his delight. (Isaiah 55:11)

Wednesday

Epistle

Romans 8:1-11

Think:

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1)

"But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit..." (Romans 8:9)

"The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you." (Romans 8:11)

Pray:

Meditate on the verses above. Allow them to fill you with courage. Know that the power of God that produced the joy of Psalm 65; that gives the hope of Isaiah 55, and that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you.

Face the world with the confidence that the Spirit gives.

Thursday

Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23

Think:

Some people argue that this parable has more to do with the nature of the farmer than with the nature of the soil or the seeds. The farmer scatters his seed wildly and generously - believing in even the rockiest ground's capacity to bear a harvest.

Pray:

Give thanks for a God who believes even in people like you and me; know that the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead - can also make our hard ground soft - in order to bear fruit for the Kingdom.

Friday

Next week's gospel

Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43

Think:

When someone says of someone 'he's a bad seed' I wonder if this parable is what they're talking about. It is important not to stretch a parable too far - but there is truth that in life there are those of us who work for the Kingdom and those of us who work against.

What kind of seed are you being?

Pray:

In the parable angels throw the 'causes of sin and evildoers' into a fire to be burned up. There is so much in each of us that makes us less than who we were created to be - ask God to help us identify the bad seeds in our lives - and throw them on to his purifying fire.

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