

Read - Think - Pray

Proper 12A, 25-29 July, Prepared by: Angus Kelly

Monday

Psalm

Psalm 119:129-136

Think:

'My eyes shed streams of tars because your law is not kept' - Psalm 119:136

Each of the verses of this selection warrant attention; the final verse is interesting; it reflects deep distress caused in people's hearts because God's laws are not kept.

Have we hardened ourselves too much?

Pray:

Spend some time praying the selected verses; or choose one of the seven and meditate on it.

Ask God to make us more sensitive to his will for the world; and to soften our hearts so that we may mourn injustice with the Psalmist.

Tuesday

Old Testament

1 Kings 3:5-12

Think:

Solomon asks for 'an understanding mind... able to discern between good and evil.'

In answer to that prayer Solomon has the reputation for being one of Israel's most wise Kings. Despite his wisdom he didn't leave a great legacy for the people of Israel having formed alliances through marriage with foreign powers and deities.

As wise as we may be - we all make mistakes.

Pray:

Pray for Wisdom. Also pray for discipline - that we would not only know what we should do - but also have the courage to do it.

Wednesday

Epistle

Romans 8:26-39

Think:

Paul flies from thought to thought; starting with instructions about prayer - and ending with a promise that absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Perhaps this points to the fact that the power of prayer is not in OUR faith - but rather in God's love for us.

Another point here is intimacy - the intimacy with which God knows us; understanding the 'groans' of the Spirit; close to our hearts.

Pray:

Its sometimes a good discipline to be silent; simply asking God to examine our hearts; to hear the prayers that we do not know how to word.

Thursday

Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33 and 44-52

Think:

The Kingdom of Heaven is like...

Through this chapter the parables seem to hinge on Seeds. Small things that cause big reactions.

So often we lose hope of seeing God's Kingdom will done on Earth because we think that means we will have to be big shots like Mother Theresa - Jesus seems to be pointing to the lasting effect of small things.

Pray:

Ask God to help us to see the small things that we can do to make a big difference in the world.

Friday

Next week's gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

Think:

Speaking of small things that make a big difference; Jesus takes a few loaves and a couple of fish and feeds five thousand.

Pray:

Pray that God would help us to be faithful in small things.

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