

Read - Think - Pray

Proper 20A, 19-23 September, Prepared by: Angus Kelly

Monday

Psalm

Psalm 145:1-8

Think:

The Psalm selected for this week gushes with praise. As I read it I sense the Psalmists passionate excitement.

Are you still passionate and excited about God?

Pray:

Lord, as I pray this morning, reignite my passion for your name, open my eyes to your miracles in every waking moment.

Amen.

Spend a few moments meditating on things that make you passionate about God - the marvel of creation, the intricacies of a flower / the beauty of music.

Tuesday

Old Testament

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Think:

Jonah is a funny prophet; refusing to speak up for God - because he knows God is 'gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, steadfast in love, and ready to relent from punishing' (4:2).

When God blesses him with a shady bush to shield his head from the sun, he doesn't give thanks - he moans when its taken away.

He is a bit of a grump.

Pray:

Lord, thank you for the lesson of Jonah. Help me to appreciate your grace and love - and help me to recognise all the positive things you do in my life. When I am grumpy, forgive me - and help me become the person you created me to be.

Amen

Wednesday

Epistle

Philippians 1:21-30

Think:

In this passage Paul speaks of the Christian life with interesting words: 'striving,' 'not intimidated,' 'suffering,' 'struggle.' Its not always easy - in fact, its most often difficult.

How do you feel about exerting more effort?

Pray:

Thinking of the Psalmist's passion, Jonah's grump and now Paul's call to perseverance what do you need to help you in your walk with God?

Pray for that thing that you most need, strength / community / the Spirit's power?

Thursday

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

Think:

Jonah resented the grace that God showed the Ninevites; in this story the labourers hired earlier in the day resent those hired later and paid the same. Resentment grows in each of us; you work harder than the next person - but they make more money! You eat less - but they're more skinny!

They got the promotion, and you didn't.

Pray:

Lord, help us not to resent others, but to know that in your Kingdom all will be fair and just. In this life - give us the grace to live to your glory with our eyes firmly on you.

Amen

Friday

Next week's gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

Think:

We say so much; we say we will do something, we say we believe something - but we refuse to 'act on our convictions'.

Pray:

Help us to have the courage and strength to act on what we say we believe.

Amen.

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