

# **Daily Devotional Guide**

Monday March 23, 2020

### <u>A</u> - Approaching God – Start with Prayer

**Psalm 84:10-12** - Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.

Father, you are a sun and shield for me. This morning, help me to remember that the light of your word gives meaning to what I experience and all that comes my way. Press upon my heart that the strength of your presence provides protection against despair. Shape these moments I have with you today and help me to be thankful for times of worship when I can listen again to your word and be reaffirmed by your presence. Amen

### **B** - Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Read this passage slowly 2 or 3x's.

**Luke 6:27-38** - **27** "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. **29** If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. **30** Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. **31** Do to others as you would have them do to you. **32** "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. **33** And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. **34** And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. **35** But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. **36** Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

#### Look in God's Word

- As you look over these verses, what are 1 or 2 things you most notice about God?
- How about people? What are 1 or 2 things you learn about you or other people?

 Are there any commandments to obey? Try to write down 2 or 3 that stand out as most important.

Now take a moment to choose the one verse or truth that is most striking and helpful to you today. Try to paraphrase that thought or verse in your own words.

#### **Look in Our Own Lives**

 How is Jesus Christ or the grace I have in him able to help me overcome the struggles I'm aware of in my life today?

#### **Look Outward Towards Others**

Take a minute and think about why God might have shown you what he did today?
What might be going on in your life right now that he would be bringing this to your attention? What might he want you to do with it?

**Summary:** The kingdom that Jesus preached about and lived out in his life was all about a glorious, uproarious, and absurd generosity. Think of the best thing you can do for the worst person, and go ahead and do it. Think of what you'd really like someone to do for you, and do it for them. Think of the people whom you are tempted to be nasty and mean towards. Can you think of them? Now, go towards them instead with lavish generosity. These words and instructions from Jesus have a fresh, almost springlike quality to them. They are all about new life bursting our energetically, like flowers growing through concrete! Wouldn't be incredible if that could happen in and through your life? Jesus says, come follow me. Invite me in. Meditate on my love and grace for you and the color and vigor of your life will become startling to everyone.

## C - Close in Prayer

- In light of this passage, what can I rejoice in today? Take a minute to rejoice.
- In light of this passage, what do I need to repent of? Confess that to the Lord.
- In light of this passage, what requests do I want to make today. Ask your Father in Heaven who gives good gifts to those who ask him.