



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional Guide

Friday, April 3, 2020

A - Approaching God – Start with Prayer

Read: Psalm 126 - *When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.*

Psalm 126 records the rejoicing of the people when they reflect on the great things God had done for them: "The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced". It continues with a plea to God to restore their fortunes, turning tears of sorrow to shouts of joy. It's a confident plea: as God has done these great things for us, so will He again. Take time in your prayer, now and perhaps again later today, to ask God to increase your confidence in Him and in His desire to do great things for you.

- Where there are areas of doubt, ask God's help to dispel those.
- Notice the key words like *joy, tears, rejoice, fortunes, great things*
- let those words echo some of your own hopes, joys and tears
- speak quietly to the Lord about these things

Think back to a time when, like those people in the Psalm, you too went out weeping but came back full of joy. Think back to a time when you went out empty-handed, ill-equipped, maybe even feeling not up to it but you returned, like those people, enriched by a full harvest. In the last moments of this reflection, ask God to show you those times.

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

2 Corinthians 4:6-12

6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. **7** But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. **8** We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; **9** persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. **10** We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. **11** For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. **12** So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

Look in God's Word

- What are 1 or 2 things this passage teaches me about God?
- What are 1 or 2 things this passage says about God's people?

Look in Our Own Lives

- We are being bombarded with information (sometimes conflicting information) about the coronavirus, its impact, and the future – what is most perplexing to you?
- How can you keep informed without overwhelming yourself/family?
- What does this passage show us about how Jesus can help us get through these troubling times?

Look Outward Towards Others

- How are you experiencing the light/life/treasure you've been given in Christ. In what way can you share that with someone else today?

C - Close in Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Every day we are bombarded by news of the coronavirus, the economy, unemployment. We literally feel pressed on every side with troubles. It is sometimes difficult to keep going – it feels overwhelming just to make it through the day. Then Jesus, we remember the suffering you went through for us - literally being beaten, spit on, and crucified on a cross so that our (my) sins can be forgiven. And with that in my heart and my mind I get up again and I keep going.

Lord, thank you for dying on the cross for me. I love you.
Amen