



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional Guide

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

A - Approaching God – Start with Prayer

Psalm 40:13,16-17 - *Be pleased, O LORD, to save me; O LORD, come quickly to help me. May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation always say, "The LORD be exalted!" Yet I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, do not delay.*

To compare who we are vs. 17 (poor and needy) with who God is (my help and my deliverer) is something that steadies us. To pray for God's glory (The LORD be exalted) is a liberation and freedom in places of bondage in our lives. What can you bring to Jesus today where you feel poor and needy? Consider his offer of help and deliverance and ask him to be exalted in your life today.

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

Ephesians 5:15-21

15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. **18** Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, **19** speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, **20** always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **21** Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Look in God's Word

- Make a quick list of the commands Paul gives in this passage? Which ones stand out to you personally as important or significant?
- What is the basis for these commands in chapter 5. Look in particular at 5:1-2, 8, vs. 16-17

Look in Our Own Lives

- Now ask yourself:
 - What truth or verse seems particularly important or significant to you this today? Try to paraphrase that thought into your own words
- Why is music so important to the believer? How can it center us or help us in our worship of God?

Gospel Summary

Christians are to see every day, every hour, every minute as an opportunity for serving Christ, for understanding what his will is and taking action. Vs. 16 however can lead people to an obsessive lifestyle, calculating and evaluating every minute and giving yourself and others no peace. If that's a particular danger for you, take note of that reality and begin to rest in God's finished work for you, and allow Him to bathe you in his peace.

For many people, the danger is on the other side: of not taking each day and hour as a gift from God, to be used for his glory, but instead to spend it foolishly all on trivial things. *Where is your tendency, more obsessive, or more lackadaisical?* Talk to Jesus about it and confess where you are poor and needy. Ask to be filled with His Spirit.

One thing, Paul says, that can help all of us is music. Paul doesn't see hymns and songs in this passage as simply decorative, a pleasant aural embroidery around the Christian faith. Singing, whether aloud or in your heart is an excellent way of actually practicing the faith. If you don't want your garden to grow weeds, one of the best ways is to keep it well stocked with strong, sturdy, flowers and shrubs. If you don't want your mind to go wandering off into places of darkness, one of the best ways is to keep them well stocked with wise and thankful themes, so that words of comfort, guidance, and good judgment come bubbling up from the memory and subconscious. Being "Spirit-filled" has less to do with spontaneity and exuberance, and more to do with living a life marked by the ordinary and glorious fruit of the Spirit which comes to us through a life of submission and reverence (a humble focus & prioritizing) of Jesus.

Look Outward Towards Others

- How might God be calling you to practice vs. 19 in your life with others? Think about that and write down your thoughts.

C - Close in Prayer

Click on this song from CityAlight and listen alone or together with your family.

Only a Holy God