



Devotional Guide for January 7-13, 2019

These devotions are prepared for you each week by Pastor Kevin to use for your own personal devotions each day with the Lord. Each lesson is designed to prepare you for the message next Sunday. This page is also online via our website: www.fumc-clarion.org.

Monday, January 7TH "Delight in the law of the Lord"

Scripture: Psalm 1:1-6

King David begins the book of Psalms with this chapter that outlines that if your "delight is in the law of the Lord" (v.2) then you will be "like a tree planted by streams of water" (v.3). Roots of faith can run deep into the foundation of God's Word as we seek to walk and live in the righteousness of God.

Question: Do you delight in the law of the Lord, or do you find yourself being critical of God's laws and commandments?

Tuesday, January 8TH "The mouth of the Lord has spoken"

Scripture: Isaiah 1:16-20

The prophet Isaiah gives this challenge from God to "stop doing wrong. Learn to do right" (v.16b-17a). This is part of the first message that Isaiah gives to the rebellious nation of Israel. Isaiah shared the disappointment expressed by the Lord over the sins of Israel, their rebellion, their forsaking His law. Yet they are left to their own despair and sin; God offers a way out by showing how they can turn their lives around and offer them as a living sacrifice to God, making their sinful lives "white as snow" (v.18).

Question: How has God "reasoned" with you to acknowledge Him as your Lord and Savior?

Wednesday, January 9TH "True and false disciples"

Scripture: Matthew 7:21-23

The Lordship of Christ is an absolute reality for our lives, yet there are times that we deny that reality through the words and actions of our lives. Here, Jesus warns those who have not followed Him yet want the benefits of a relationship with Him will hear from Him, "I never knew you" (v.23).

Question: Knowing and doing the will of the Lord are separate.

Have you found this balance easy or difficult to live out?

Thursday, January 10TH "Love God, love neighbor"

Scripture: Matthew 22:34-40

In this first part of this Sunday's Scripture lesson, Jesus was again challenged by an expert in the law as to His interpretation of "the greatest commandment in the Law" (v.36). Jesus' response comes straight from the Word of the Lord—to "love the Lord your God" (v.37) with all of you who are, and to "love your neighbor as yourself" (v.39). Then Jesus makes this great declaration: "All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" (v.40). In this way, Jesus shows the full authority of the Lord—love is the command; love is the way.

Question: Easy to read yet harder to live out, how have you done at loving God with all of you are and loving your neighbors?

Friday, January 11TH "Whose Son is the Messiah?"

Scripture: Matthew 22:41-46

The Pharisees heard this answer, and as they were mulling it over, Jesus then asks them a question: "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is He?" (v.41). When they answer that the Messiah is "the son of David" (v.42), Jesus challenges them with a logical conundrum: "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls Him 'Lord'?" (v.43). Jesus continues, "If then David calls Him 'Lord,' how can He be his Son?" This squelched their challenge questions and silenced them beyond this point.

Question: Jesus is Lord and demands our love for God and for neighbor. To accomplish this, we cannot rely on our own strength for we certainly will fail. However, we rely on the strength and guidance of our Lord Jesus Christ. How have you given Christ charge of your life but also have given Him the master key to your life?

Saturday, January 12TH

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for hearing the Word of God tomorrow in worship by reflecting on these devotions, by reading the Scripture lesson for tomorrow, and by praying for the Pastor as he prepares to share the message.

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| | <p>Sunday, January 13TH Scripture: Matthew 22:34-46 Pastor's message: "Taking charge of our life (but giving Christ the master key!)"</p> |
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