PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 13:5–6, 1–4

O Lord, I have trusted in Your mercy;* my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
I will sing / to the Lord,* because He has dealt bountifully / ly with me. (Psalm 13:5–6)

How long, O Lord? Will You forget me for ever?*
How long will You hide Your face from me?
How long shall I take counsel / in my soul,* how long will my enemy be exalted / over me?
Consider and hear me, O Lord my God:* enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep the / sleep of death;
lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed a / gainst him”:*
lest those who trouble me rejoice when / I am moved.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

PRAY THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

SAY THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.
Around the Word Devotions + the week of June 14–20, 2020

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Spirit's Words in Holy Scripture

Our meditations this week present to us these two great truths: First, that the Holy Scripture is God’s definitive and final Word to us Christians, that we would believe in Jesus and receive life in His name. Second, that because this Word of God is the greatest of riches that we could ever hope for in this life, earthly riches and other gifts from God should be kept in their proper place— as our daily bread and instruments for the care of our neighbor and the Lord’s congregation — and not let earthly goods deceive us into false security or allow them to become our gods.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31 Scripture > Miracles

In Charles Dicken’s A Christmas Carol, the ghost of Jacob Marley is sent back from the dead to warn the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge of his sinful ways. In Luke 16, The Rich Man wants to give his brothers a similar warning. But Father Abraham tells it plain: “If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.” If the scriptures cannot convince you of the truths they contain, then no apparition, no miracle, not even the fact of Jesus’ resurrection will give you joy. If you would have Jesus (and a conviction you of the truths they contain, then no apparition, no miracle, not even the fact of Jesus’ resurrection will give you joy. If you would have Jesus (and a very Merry Christmas besides), hear the Holy Scriptures and trust what God promises you there! Lord Jesus, I want to hear You. Open my ears and heart to hear Your all-sufficient Word. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:16-21 Love Your Brother

Love begins with God, for He Himself is Love. He extends that love to us through His Son, whom He gave as a propitiation for our sins. We love God because He first loved us. That is not all. John says that if you love God, you will love your brother. That is a tall order. Some of our brothers are pretty unlovable, at least to our sinful eyes. In this we always return to the love of God, namely, how we who were utterly despicable and unlovable in our sins nonetheless received the mercy of God. He loved us “unloveables.” Now look at your neighbor. He starts to look a bit better. God loves him too. He is your brother, an object of your mercy, and a cause for joy. Lord Jesus, show me Your love and help me to love my brother as You have loved me. Amen.

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 9:23, 24 Our Cause for Boasting

The Lord here mentions some common causes for boasting among us sinful men— Wisdom, might, and riches. Throw in pleasure and you just about have all our false gods covered as well. These things are not bad in themselves, not even pleasure. They all have their place, but they are insufficient for a truly blessed life. What then should we boast of, what should we pursue if not these worldly goods? Namely, that we know and understand God and His righteousness. That we hear and meditate on His Word to us. That we revel in that we are His beloved. This is the cause for our boasting, for in this there is true blessedness, far beyond all goods, a peace which the world cannot give. Lord, show me Your righteousness through Your Word. Amen.

THU


The foolish rich man’s actions were not necessarily sinful in themselves. It is not sinful to have plentiful fields or to build bigger barns for your goods. Nor is it sinful to eat, drink, or be merry. Indeed, one should be suspect of the sourpuss who does not find joy in the stuff of God’s creation. The man’s foolishness lay in that he took no thought at all for his soul. He was not rich toward God. We need to realize this world is not all there is. At death there is a judgement and if we live our lives heedless of this pressing reality, we are just as foolish as this rich man. So have a care. Your last hour comes soon. Repent. In Christ, there is forgiveness and joy and riches immeasurably better than mere creature comforts. Lord Jesus, prepare my heart to receive You. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Our Fake Life

Timothy is to exhort the rich in his congregation to true contentment and faith, so that, as Paul teaches, “they may take hold of that which is truly life.” True life. In other words, our propensity is to assign life to things that do not matter. This is not true only for the rich. Everyone believes that if only he had this or that he would be okay, that he would have the stuff that makes for real living. But as Jesus instructed us yesterday with the Rich Fool, true riches and thus our true life, is tied up in being loved by God, trusting His promises, and living as He has ordered our lives. If we live any other way, it’s a fabrication. A fake life. So embrace goodness. Hear God’s Word. Live a real life which is found in God. Lord Jesus, give me life, that I may truly live. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 34  None.

“The Lord redeems the life of His servants; None of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.” (vs. 22). Those who need refuge are those besought by enemies from without and from within. Refugees by definition are those in need of refuge. Refugees by definition need a strong fortress. Lord Jesus, show me Your love and help me to love my brother as You have loved me. Amen.

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