

appnotes

DAY 1 READ PSALM 27:1-14

1

Waiting is hard. With mobile phones we have access to information and communication at a moment's notice. We are used to getting what we want, when we want it. At least in the small stuff we can control. But when it comes to the big things in life we are often left waiting. We can be waiting for God to answer a prayer about our health, the faith of a friend, or a long sought after hope. Waiting often feels like being stuck. In today's reading, David was waiting for God to bring him through an intense time. David went through highs (verses 1-6) and lows (verses 7-9) as he waited on God. Waiting is less about being stuck and more about finding God is enough (verse 4). If you are waiting, make verse 13-14 your prayer today.

DAY 2 READ ROMANS 12:9-21

2

If there is one lesson we all learn growing up it is this: you're going to get hurt. Sometimes the pain is accidental, like a scraped knee. Other times, someone intends to harm us. It can be through malicious gossip, physical attack, or some other form of assault. It is in those moments that our strong sense of justice kicks in and we want to kick butt. But today's passage is clear, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." When we want to get even we need to give love. Like David, we might have opportunities to get back at someone but we have to let God be the judge instead. Real healing happens when we start blessing those who have hurt us. It can be as private as a prayer on their behalf or as public as a gift or declaration of forgiveness.

DAY 3 READ MATTHEW 5:43-48

3

There are times when it is hard not to laugh when an adorable little kid does something they shouldn't. We try to hide our smiles behind stern looks. It's easy to love babies, close friends, and kind coworkers. But then there are the other people. You know whom I am talking about! They are the people who are difficult to be around, who tear others down, and who are anything but kind. Our first reaction is to love the lovable and avoid the annoying. But Jesus has a different way He wants us to live. He calls us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us. Choosing to love changes us, and others too. Aren't you glad Jesus chose to love the unlovable? Yeah, I am too.

DAY READ PSALM 57:1-11

4

Do you ever feel like you can't get a break? For a long time David was running for his life. Even though God had promised that he would one day be king, it didn't happen right away. David wrote today's Psalm during one of the many times he was hiding for his life in a cave. There on the cold floor of a cave, with enemies hunting him, and nowhere else to go—he turned to God. What sustained David during this season of life? Even as an accomplished warrior, David leaned heavily on God to overcome his enemies. He also trusted God to give him the internal strength and nourishment he needed to keep going. When you feel like life never lets up, stop and look up. Remind yourself that God will take care of your enemies and He will take care of you.

DAY READ MATTHEW 18:21-35

5

Have you ever wondered, “How many times do I have to forgive this person?” Peter had the same question and Jesus told him that there is no “three strikes and you're out” rule with forgiveness. We are to forgive as often as needed. Then Jesus tells a story about debts being forgiven to help Peter understand how it works. It turns out, forgiveness is like a bank account: you can only spend what you have. It is true that forgiveness will cost you. But those who have experienced the immeasurable grace of God have a vault, stacked floor to ceiling with a vast wealth. We are to forgive as we have been forgiven (Colossians 3:13). Which is to say, freely, completely, without reservation, and with joy.

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

facebook.com/parkerhill.org