



DAY 1 ROMANS 10:14-15

1

A man named Pheidippedes was the original marathoner. He ran from Marathon to Athens, a total of about 26 miles, to deliver a single message: Rejoice, we conquer. His people had won the battle at the city of Marathon. Pheidippedes – let’s call him Phil – had only one job. You and I have one job, too, and that is to share the good news of the gospel: although we are sinners, Christ died to save us, and all who believe will receive eternal life. The people of Athens would not have known of their victory if Phil hadn’t followed through. Our friends and family won’t know the joy of salvation unless they hear the good news, and Paul reminds us that Jesus has entrusted us with that job. This holiday season look for opportunities to tell them: Rejoice! Jesus is the Savior of the world!

DAY 2 ISAIAH 6:8

2

Rock, paper, scissors, shoot! It was how we decided things as a kid: who was up to bat first, who was “it” for tag, or which game we’d play at recess. Either everyone wanted their own way, or it was a task no one wanted. If you were “it” first, you were “it” forever! What about when God has a job for us to do? Are we eager to go first, or are we hoping we won’t be “it”? The prophet Isaiah is presented with a vision. He sees the glory of God and recognizes his own sin, and then he’s forgiven. In the next moment God calls for someone to go out to tell the people about God. Isaiah immediately, excitedly volunteers. “Send me! Send me!” The people of this world need to hear the good news of salvation, and God is sending us. Not rock, paper, scissors. Ready, set, go!

DAY 3 MATTHEW 5:15-16

3

Have you started decorating for Christmas yet? Wreath on the door, garland on the mantle and stair rail, tree in front of the front window. Growing up, we had to rearrange the furniture before we got the tree, because the tree had to go in front of the window. Once you have the tree up and decorated, you don’t pull on the curtains and pull down blackout shades, do you? No, we want the whole neighborhood to share the warmth and joy of our lighted Christmas tree. Jesus is reminding us in this passage that we are the light of the world. God has placed us here to be a living, breathing lighted Christmas tree. Speak up this season and share the warmth and joy of the good news with the people around you!

DAY JOHN 9:18-41

4

In many respects my life is rather dull. But in other ways my life is full: doctors' appointments, symptoms, and pain. A dear friend asked me recently if I really believed it was God's plan or if things just happen. "Can you really say you're closer to God because of it?" she said. In our reading today, a blind man is healed. When the religious leaders asked him what had happened and who had healed him, the man didn't have all the answers. But he knew who he had been and who he was now. "I was blind and now I see." It was a simple message, a God-given message. Not unlike my own. My body hasn't been healed, but I could tell my friend in all honesty, "Yes. Yes, I really can." That's the message God has given me to share. What is yours?

DAY COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

5

Many people have a fear of public speaking. Toastmasters is a group that teaches you how to give a speech clearly and effectively. Many of us feel intimidated at the thought of sharing the gospel, but in Colossians, Paul gives us a game plan on clearly and effectively sharing the gospel. First pray. Pray for open doors and clarity. Then live in a way that glorifies God, so that when people look at our life, they aren't dismayed. Then, yes, we need to take risks. People might reject the message, but remember, they are rejecting Jesus, not us. And finally, speak the truth with grace. Not to bludgeon people but to offer healing and restoration. One thing Toastmasters teaches is that in order to be an effective public speaker, you need to practice. Practice. There are many people who need to hear the truth of the gospel, and it's our job to tell them.

Sign up to receive our AppNotes email, Monday-Friday.

parkerhill.org/bible