

Daily Reflection on Scripture Week of November 6



The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world did not recognize the light. The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. But those who did welcome him, he authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God. The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1:9-14

If you would like to receive the Sacred Pause on your phone, text "crossroads" to 41411.

Sunday November 6, 2016

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

Reflection: Want to know what God looks like? Look at the person and life of Jesus. Full of compassion for everyone. Always offering forgiveness to both friend and foe alike. Continually serving those around him. Generous from the inside out. That is God with skin on. Why do we look for God beyond the clouds or beyond the present moment when we are told that Jesus shows up with skin on in every moment of our ordinary everyday lives? Look for ways to both see and be the presence of Jesus today with skin on. Doing so changes how we see and understand God, self and others.

Sacred Pause: Paula D'Arcy says, "God comes disguised as our life". Instead of looking up, look around you and see God's love at work in your life and others today.

Monday November 7, 2016

Colossians 1:15-16a The Son is the image of the invisible God, the one who is first over all creation, because all things were created by him: both in the heavens and on the earth, the things that are visible and the things that are invisible.

Reflection: It is so easy to think of God as being absent from our everyday lives. Yet at the same time we say we believe that nothing can separate us from God's love. Today's scripture tells us that the invisible God is made visible in Jesus. Obviously the physical Jesus that lived over 2,000 years ago is not visible to us, but the ways of Jesus' compassion and forgiveness are visible every time we offer and receive compassion and forgiveness for self and others. If you are feeling like God is absent today, practice compassion and forgiveness; maybe in doing so you just might see and feel God's love made visible to you. What do you have to lose in trying? What do you have to gain in trying?

Sacred Pause: Feeling like God is absent? Pause and think of three things for which you are grateful in this moment. Gratitude reveals God's presence. Notice how you feel now.

Tuesday November 8, 2016 *Philippians 2:6-7 Though he was in the form of God, he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit. But he emptied himself by taking the form of a slave and by becoming like human beings.*

Reflection: An amazing thing to recognize about Jesus is how he used his power. Even though he was in the form of God he didn't exploit God's power. Or should we say that being in the form of God he revealed God's truest power. Instead of pontificating from a throne wielding power, Jesus served the needs of others in the neighborhood. In doing so he revolutionized the way people have seen and experienced God's power ever since. Instead of exploiting religious power we too are called to take the humble place of servants and in doing so reveal God's ultimate power of love with skin on. Look for ways to rise to power by stooping to serve someone today.

Sacred Pause: Love is more powerful than hate. In all that happens today remember, love is more powerful than hate. Repeat it again - Love is more powerful than hate.

Wednesday November 9, 2016

II Corinthians 8:9 You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Although he was rich, he became poor for our sakes, so that you could become rich through his poverty.

Reflection: God was fully alive in Jesus choosing poverty over riches. His example led many others to do the same. Think of Francis of Assisi or Mahatma Gandhi or Mother (Saint) Teresa. Each one of those persons had more than enough talent and personality to become materially rich, yet they chose another path and in doing so they found a different kind of wealth – a richness of body, soul and mind. There is nothing wrong with having wealth unless we believe it can make us rich in body, mind and soul. The only wealth that outlives us is what we give away to others. Regardless of your financial situation what do you have to give to someone else today? Think: acts of compassion and kindness.

Sacred Pause: The greatest gift we have is love of self, others and God. This love grows richer as we give it away. True wealth is measured by love not materials.

Thursday November 10, 2016

John 14:8-10a. Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father; that will be enough for us." Jesus replied, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been with you all this time? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?"

Reflection: The more we practice following the ways of Jesus the more we learn what God is truly like. Philip thought if he could just see God face to face, then he would be content. Jesus said that he had already revealed God's truest nature to him through the way he lived his life, what more could he want? The way we know that God is love and present with us is by the way we practice God's love for self and others. Love God, self and others today and you will be seeing and experiencing what God is really like. What more do you need than that? That is God come alive with skin on.

Sacred Pause: Practice love for self and others today and you will see and experience God alive in and around you. God is here in this moment. Look and you will see God!

Friday November 11, 2016

Genesis 1:27 God created humanity in God's own image, in the divine image God created them male and female God created them.

Reflection: "Every human being you ever see was made in the image of God... So we're never to look at another person without having a sense of awe and reverence that says, 'This is one in whom God may dwell.'" – John Ortberg From the beginning of the biblical story we are told that we are created in the divine image of God. Jesus reveals this same truth in the way he lived his life and the way he looked at everyone he met, even those who betrayed him. We quickly say this is too hard to do. Indeed, it is very hard to do at times. The way it becomes easier is by practicing what we say we believe about God and God's creation.

Sacred Pause: How are you experiencing people in your life today? Are you seeing the best or the worst in them? Remember all of us are created in the divine image of God.

Saturday November 12, 2016

Acts 17:27b-29 In fact, God isn't far away from any of us. In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, 'We are his offspring.' Therefore, as God's offspring, we have no need to imagine that the divine being is like a gold, silver, or stone image made by human skill and thought.

Reflection: If God isn't far away from us, then why is God so hard to see? Maybe it is because we are trying too hard to see God. Remember the words of Paula D'Arcy, "God comes disguised as our lives." If we believe that, then we need to practice imagining God everywhere, but very importantly, imagining God's love with skin on in our friends, family and foe. Jesus said, "In the least of people you will see me." To see Jesus in others takes practice. And all of us practice it imperfectly, yet even so the scriptures tell us over and over again that God is still there waiting to be fully revealed as unconditional love. Jesus said, "Look for it and you will see it." (Matthew 7:7)

Sacred Pause: Look around and imagine God's presence surrounding you. Imagine God's presence in your family, friends and foe. Jesus said, "Look and you will see God."