



Pause. Listen. Act. be You.

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MONDAY 4.25.22

All Alone in the Moonlight

Scripture: Numbers 11:24-30

Our memories of the past can be false and constructed in order to fit a convenient narrative. In this passage, the murmuring which comes from a small groups mis-remembering of the past has real consequences. Moses comes to the end of his rope and needs help to shoulder the burden. God gives both Moses and the small group more than they need – to the point where they are uncomfortable.

- What are people craving for in your community? How are you responding? How is God providing?
- How do our memories trick us? How we “test” them before we complain about the present?

Prayer: God, helps us to remember you remain sovereign and free. There is no certain way to secure the end of the story we desire, so help us to be thankful for the day and the blessings we have now. Amen.

TUESDAY 4.26.22

God at Work

Scripture: Psalm 104:24-35

This is the first Biblical appearance of the word “Hallelujah”. It’s hard to believe it doesn’t appear until half way through the Bible, given how familiar we are with it in our daily life. The Psalm recognizes creation isn’t godless, it isn’t even neutral, but worship God better than the humans do! It also reminds us the Holy Spirit is out of our control.

- Where can we look when our trust is low?
- What kind of words do we use to praise God? Make a list of the different words or phrases.

Prayer: Perplexing God, you infuse us with your Spirit, urging us to vision and dream. May your presence find voice in our lives, so our babbling may be transformed into a chorus of compassion and justice. Amen.

WEDNESDAY 4.27.22

Willpower

Scripture: John 7:37-39

In the Old Testament, both Woman Wisdom and Torah (which are themselves connected) are often depicted as feeding God’s people (with wisdom and knowledge). John casts Jesus as both in this Gospel. Jesus is contrasting himself here with the water which creates thirst, much like how Coca-Cola actually makes you thirsty instead of fulfilling your thirst.

- Why does our faith and trust in God seem to run out? How do we “re-tap” the well?
- How do you understand Jesus as Wisdom? What about the “Word of God”? How can those understanding help quench our thirst?

Prayer: Holy and loving God, Your son proclaimed living water to all who are thirsty. We are thirsty, Lord. Quench our thirst with your living water and heal our souls. Amen.

THURSDAY 4.28.22

Knowledge or Faith?

Scripture: Acts 2:12-21

Peter presents Jesus' life and resurrections as the renewal of the covenant God made with Jacob. In doing so, Peter reshapes Joel's original prophecy to show how Jesus fits into the well-known prophecy. Peter never showed a lot of Biblical knowledge, so did he intentionally reinterpret the passage or simply remember it in the way he needed to support his sermon?

- At some point between the time of Peter's denial of Jesus and when he stood up and preached his first public sermon in this text, Peter got a bit of holy boldness. What could cause that kind of change?
- How do we "misremember" scripture show it says what we want it to say? What do you think is your favorite example of how you might do this?

Prayer: On that day, Peter, and all those with him, received power. Peter was never the same. Help us to encounter God in a way which changes us so we are never the same. Amen.

FRIDAY 4.29.22

Truthful Thomas

Scripture: John 20:25-31

In the other gospels, Thomas appears only as a name on the list of disciples (Matthew 10:3, Mark 3:18, Luke 6:15). In John, however, Thomas appears not just in a list of disciples but is featured in three stories. Out looking to follow Jesus unto death, out where those who would harm him could find him, Thomas missed Jesus. Thomas' belief that he could and would follow Jesus unto death is re-cast. His question of how to follow Jesus to where he is going is answered. Following Jesus leads not just to death, but beyond.

- Thomas doesn't doubt Jesus, he doubts his friends. How does our mistrust of our fellow believers cause us to miss out on Jesus?
- What were they afraid of? Fear didn't keep two of them from sprinting to the tomb when they heard the body was gone. After the tomb, they returned home. Why were they now locked in a room? Now faced with reality of resurrection, why were they paralyzed?

Prayer: God of resurrection, Your son, Jesus, awed his followers by appearing among them. With awe we also celebrate his resurrection and rejoice in eternal life. Amen.

SATURDAY 4.30.22

Hide! It's Jesus

Scripture: John 20:19-24

The Door is locked out of fear. Who are they afraid of? The Religious Authorities? Or is it Jesus? In truth, Easter absorbs both the joy and triumph as well as the fear and disbelief, and is irreducible to just one experience of it. It would be easier if Easter were only the trumpet blasts and Alleluias. Or, it might even be easier if Easter were only fear and disbelief. But Easter is all of this, it holds all of it, even the contradictory emotions, and makes them one.

- In Easter, Jesus is called "Teacher," "Lord," and "My God." What do each of these titles mean? Is he teacher, Lord, and God? What does it mean to my life if he is all of these things?
- Doubt is the pathway to faith. When we doubt, we probe, question, and search. How do you experience doubt?

Prayer: Living Lord, I rejoice in your saving acts in the past. But even more, I eagerly look forward to the day when you fully establish your kingdom. Keep me faithfully on track until that day. Amen.