

Transformation Journal

October 18

Daily Devotions for the week of October 18, 2009

Monday: Review Sunday's notes. The Christ event is the fulfillment of the previous Acts of the biblical drama. The Passion of Christ is the central narrative of the story of Jesus. Today's reading begins the last week of his life – and the climax of the biblical story.

Scripture: Read Mark 11:1-11

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

- Journal Questions**
1. What is the significance of the way Jesus enters Jerusalem (i.e. riding on a colt)?
 2. Who do you say Jesus is?

Prayer Focus
Pray that God would open your heart and mind to the meaning of the events of the last week of Jesus' life. Pray for people who have not received the good news personally, that God might reveal it to them through you.

Tuesday: *In today's reading we see that the Cross is the distinctive Christian symbol of God's victory in apparent defeat. Take away the cross and there is no gospel to proclaim.*

Scripture: Read 1 Corinthians 1:17-2:10

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. What do you think Paul means when he says that the foolish and lowly things will shame the wise and the strong (vs. 26-31)?
2. How does your own life reflect this principle?

Prayer Focus

Pray for the wisdom of God to guide your life. Pray for those who are wise to the ways of the world but fools in God's eyes.

Wednesday: *The triumphant theme of the cross was that God was in Christ reconciling the world to God's self—overcoming sin which finds expression in our separation from God, from one another, and from our true selves, and restoring us to the unity and dignity which God intends for creation.*

Scripture: Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. How is Jesus' death different from the martyrdom of Socrates, Abraham Lincoln, Mohandas Ghandhi or Martin Luther King Jr.?
2. Why was the cross necessary to accomplish God's purpose for humanity?
3. What does the cross mean to you? How does it affect your daily life?

Prayer Focus

Pray for the reconciliation of people with God.

Thursday: *In this passage Peter's sermon presents the basic outline of the Christian story. Take your time reading it.*

Scripture: Read Acts 10:34-43

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. Who do you have the most problem accepting?
2. Given the Christian story, how can you see them differently?

Prayer Focus

Pray that our church might be more inclusive of people.

Friday: In the story of Christ's passion there are many episodes involving everyday persons, such as Simon of Cyrene who was compelled to carry the cross of Jesus. Rather than permitting us to stand at a distance, these minor anecdotes make the Christian story one with which we can identify.

Scripture: Read Mark 15:1-39

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. What curtain do you feel still separates you from God?
2. How does Jesus' death relate to that?
3. What difference does the crucifixion make in your life?

Prayer Focus

Pray for those who are living at some distance from God. Pray that Christ might draw them close through his self-giving love.

Saturday – Read over your notes for the week and see how you are doing with your personal applications.