

Daily Family Devotions

The thought begins in the Bible verse;
please take the time to read it first.

FRIDAY

“BE STILL, MY SOUL”

SCRIPTURE:

Mark 4:35-41

“Be still, my soul:

The Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide
In every change He faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul:

Thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
All my mysterious, shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul:

The waves and winds still know
His voice Who ruled them while
He dwelt below”

K. van Schlegel

Prayer: Lord God, it is so difficult to remain still in the face of chaos and confusion, of hurt and despair — Thy voice seems so far away. And yet we know, that as surely as Thy word rebuked the threatening storm on Galilee, it still rebukes those storms, which today threaten our spiritual — our deepest beings. God, make us more and more dependent upon Thee, hear Thy voice first, do Thy bidding eagerly. We thank Thee, Father, for Thy love, for Thy son, and for each other. AMEN

SATURDAY

“WHEN THEY HAVE IT ALL, AND IT IS NOTHING”

SCRIPTURE:

Ecclesiastes 6:1-11

Some years ago, a young minister, eager to go into foreign missions — was asked instead to take the ministry of a wealthy parish. In his deep disappointment, he said, “I can’t see that God would need me there . . . those people already have everything. I’ve driven past their homes; I have seen their well-dressed children, the cars and yachts, mink coats and club memberships. Why would God send me there when so many souls need Him — in other parts of the world?”

Nevertheless, God led him to take this “overendowed” neighborhood and he had not been there a month until he had found that a man’s material possessions are not an indicator of his spiritual vitality. For the same driving hunger, the hopeless despair was here, too — hidden behind the exclusive walls, muted by polite talk, camouflaged by educated pride — but sin, God-hunger, aloneness had infested these, his people, as well.

He found that these who had everything, who had come to the mountain-top materially, only to find an empty supply depot, were the most desperate, for they now had nowhere to go, except to God Himself, and many of them did not know how to begin. This was his ministry — and it is a ministry God has given each of us who has found Him, too.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to look into the hearts of Thy people, to the aloneness and hunger there, and let me not be indifferent to these. AMEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

“THE LISTENING HEART”

SCRIPTURE:

II Chronicles 1:7-13;

Luke 2:39, 40, 41-52

When Solomon was about to ascend the throne of his father David, God asked what blessing he desired most. And Solomon, in this moving passage, replies, “Wisdom to rule my people.” And God was so pleased, He added unto wisdom all those things most men put first in life.

What is wisdom? It is not merely education, nor imagination. It is not intellect or accomplishment. It grows in the atmosphere of acute perception, the awareness of even insignificant things. It is the ability to discern the pattern of God’s hand in all things with equanimity while still retaining the awe for the Creator.

It is to wonder without doubting an infinite love.

Wisdom is realism tempered with mercy . . . knowledge which kneels in humility . . . counsel forever aware of its duty to God . . . and love that is not afraid to open its hand to a faltering, stumbling world. It is accepting man as the ore from which God molds His men, of accepting the man while wholly perceiving his humanness.

When a man has wisdom, he comes closest to the heart of God, for wisdom contains the fragrance of the universe, the very breath of God. It comes to the listening heart, not to the arrogant or proud.

Prayer: Lord, I would seek wisdom as Solomon sought it — not from men but from Thee. Grant me a heart that can hear You, Father, I pray. AMEN

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TUESDAY

“TAKE TIME TO PONDER”

SCRIPTURE:
Proverbs 30:11-31

The revealing passages, as much as any that Solomon wrote, show the depth of his contemplation. None of these things are items which on the surface seem important, yet see how each seemingly insignificant observation has given him further insight into truth.

How often do you take time to ponder the insignificant, the seemingly ordinary? Have you watched a small child, completely absorbed in the activities of a tiny beetle or ant? His whole attention is centered upon the why-and-wherefore of this tiny activity. To him it is as important as all other action: it is knowledge, a part of his world.

But as things press more heavily on us in the adult world, as human voices demand more, the quiet school of God's world slowly recedes from us.

Still, deep in our hearts we all yearn to find again the minutely, infinitely perfect world of the Creator, to seek peace and order in the universal rhythm of His earth. King Solomon apparently never lost touch with this quiet source of power. Undoubtedly it was at such times that God could speak, that Solomon could hear — and wisdom was born.

Take time yourself; make time for those in your family to sit at His feet in the same way.

Prayer: Lord, to serve one must at first assimilate. To understand we must listen. Give us open hearts — that we, too, may search for wisdom and find it. AMEN

WEDNESDAY

“HOW BIG ARE THE LITTLE ONES?”

SCRIPTURE:
Proverbs 6:16-19

When we think of things which God might condemn, we are always inclined to think in terms of great wickedness or someone else's sin. Yet we see in this passage that the things God abhors, looks on with loathing, are the ordinary, everyday sins which we all commit frequently.

The more we know of the heart of God, the more we realize that those things which He detests the most are those 'human traits' which we take so lightly, even shrug off as acceptable. But these are the qualities; these are the weaknesses which eventually break down communication between one man and another, between a man and his God.

Look at arrogance — what does it do to communication between two men?

What does lying do to the bridge of confidence and trust?

Murder, lust and rape — can this ever be the basis for understanding?

Schemers, people doing the bidding of crime — look what they do to society, the great cost, the awful waste.

A false witness: who can stand before such a one?

And how many today are sowing discord among brothers and calling it a needed thing, a right philosophy.

Whatever hinders God's work within the hearts of men, whatever stands between man and his glimpse of God — is wrong. Let us each examine our own lives this day.

Prayer: Father, it is so much easier to blame other people for the state of my world. Give me grace to see only my faults, Lord. AMEN

THURSDAY

“WHAT SHE CHOOSES TO MAKE IT”

SCRIPTURE:
Proverbs 31:10-31

A noted psychiatrist recently said that the majority of his women patients were there because of pressure brought on them to be something they could not be, or to produce something they were unable — or did not know how — to produce. Today the word for success is 'produce' — but it must be in terms the world can see and from which it can directly benefit.

Therefore, business, the arts, civic responsibilities raise their voices the loudest, and women caught between the home and the drums of the world, are literally torn in two.

A woman is a unique being, blessed in ways of giving which are rare in a world where taking is the rule. Her love can only live if it serves, can only thrive if it is needed, and must keep holy that one place which is hers alone to fill.

A home is not a houseful of furniture and dishes, but a climate for growing children. Her willingness to serve is not a debt to be repaid, but a spontaneous warmth enabling them to flourish. It is not a battleground for her rights, but a fortress in which they are protected from outside cruelty, and where they may wage their own inner wars. It is a haven for her husband, an expression of love, the accumulated treasures of her imagination, devotion and dreams. What greater service can she render any civilization?

Prayer: Father, may we grant to women the right to be in essence what Thou has endowed them to be. Whether in a family or the world, may they reflect Thy unique love and compassion. AMEN