
Lent Devotional

Caldwell Temple AME Zion Church and
Friends

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DEDICATION

We dedicate this devotional to all of the families who have lost loved-ones due to the COVID-19 pandemic. May God encourage and strength you through this devotional.

WEEK 3

MARCH 5 - MARCH 12

SUNDAY WILL ALWAYS BE OMITTED

DAY 1

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

— Joshua 1:8-9 NIV

God Is With Me

Sis. Shurawl Sibblies

Today we make the simple, yet profound declaration, “God is with me”. That’s it! This constant reminder is all the meditation you need for today. Say it out loud, “God is with me!” Let this be our proclamation over and over today. “God is with me!”

“Father, there are times when we feel discouraged and overwhelmed by this world. But you remind us that we are not alone. You are with us wherever we go. We meditate not on the problems of the this world. We meditate on you and your word. Your words are the facts to believe, the promises to receive, the commands to obey, the principles to apply and the warnings to heed. You calm the storms around us and teach us how to draw from your peace. In Jesus’ Name, Amen!”

DAY 2

“Thou art the God who work wonders, who hast manifested thy might among the people.”

— Psalms 77:14 RSV

Divine Intervention

Sis. Myrtle Shaw

There is life, suffering and then, thanks be to Jesus who suffered for us on the cross. There are many times when God intervened in all of our lives. I thank Him for His divine intervention during my hospital and rehab stay. It was challenging mentally and physically. My roommate would sometimes suffer with mental crisis, yelling profanity, threatening staff, over turning furniture and throwing things around in the room. There were many sleepless nights and days. She would say to me, I can walk and you can't, but in her good moments we talked about God. After being restrained by security a few times, she was moved to another room. Even then I was grateful. I knew this was a pruning season for me, and I had to thrive and remember that where I am, God is. I thanked God for intervening. It heightened my gratitude and appreciation in knowing that God was my keeper. I remained content where I was and what was happening around me. Exodus 14:14 says, The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still.

When transferred to rehab, my roommate suffered from dementia. She complained that many things of hers were missing. Many

of the patients was ungrateful, grumbling and whining about everything. They were mean and rude to staff. There were verbal and physical altercations. Since our room was near the Nurses Station, patients congregated in the hall outside our door day and night. I had to keep my focus on God, no matter what the distractions were. I kept praying, believing, hoping and waiting patiently for the manifestation of my healing, because waiting for God is never a waste of time. Thank God for my families, the ones I get and the ones I make. I am grateful for their prayers, love, spiritual, emotional, physical and material support. They were there for me.

There also was divine intervention during the siege of the White House. The Lawmakers and Staff were led to safety. God kept all illnesses under control, no heart attacks, strokes or seizures etc. God instilled in that security officer to lead the rioters up the stairs, to prevent them from entering an opened door in the Main Chambers. Thank God for His divine intervention and deliverance. He is our shepherd defending us from whatever threatens us harm. For it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in people, they will do anything for power.

I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from thine enemies. Psalm 18:3

“Father, we thank you for your divine intervention. You always protect us from dangers seen and unseen. We know that because of your loving nature you will always intervene on our behalf. We live without fear knowing that you are with us. In Jesus’ Name, Amen!”

DAY 3

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.” — Psalms 23:1 KJV

The Lord is Our Shepherd

Sis. Stacy Govan

During these trying times we must always remember that the Lord is our Shepherd. Through everything that comes our way, God will always be there to take care of us and guide us to the right path. Trust and follow His holy word and you will want for nothing. He is a healer, protector and a provider. Fear not what is to come! You are in God's hands. Remember, our Father is just, merciful and righteous. We may feel alone or lonely but he is always by our side. He is our Shepherd.

“Father, Thank you for being the ever steady presence in our life! You are with us at all times. We declare that you are our Shepherd and we won't want for anything. In Jesus' Name, Amen!”

DAY 4

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

— 1 Thessalonians 5:18 KJV

I’m Grateful

Sis. Sandra Govan

Now more than ever we need to be grateful to God for all things. During this season of coronavirus we have lost so much. We have lost loved-ones, jobs, health and many more things we can name. However, one thing we have not and will not lose is God. God has been with us through all of our losses. I’m grateful for life, family, friends, health and last but not least I am grateful for God. Find something to be grateful for in the midst of your troubles and give thanks. That is the Will of God!

1 Corinthians 15:57 “But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for being with us and holding us up during our trials and tribulations. We thank you for being you. Thank you for letting us know that we are never alone. We are grateful for your presence in our lives. In Jesus Name. Amen.

DAY 5

“Weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning.”

— Psalms 30:5 KJV

Mourning Into Dancing

Sis. Rachele Colbourne

There is so much sadness and death going on in the world due to the pandemic, social injustices and sickness just to name a few. It can be very overwhelming. We know family and friends who have lost loved-ones and jobs. We wonder when will it end. However, when the nights are long and the sorrow is unrelenting the scripture declares it will end. Sorrow and sickness will not have the last word because Jesus has the last word in your life. Whether you are in a dark place now, know that it is temporary. Know that joy comes in the morning. We can still have joy in the midst of chaos. True joy is only found through a relationship with our Heavenly Father by praying, believing, reading the Bible, laughing and encouraging others. Stay true to yourself and remember God will change your mourning into dancing.

“Father, it’s been rough! But Lord we thank you for your promises. We know that Joy is coming. Help us to see your light even in dark times. This we ask in Jesus’ Name, Amen!”

DAY 6

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

— 2 Corinthians 5:20 KJV

Ambassadors

Sis. Jasmine Washington

An ambassador is the highest-ranking person who represents his or her own government while living in another country. They represent their host countries' interests, support prosperity, and work for peace. As Christians, we are called to be ambassadors for Christ. The great commission is not just to talk about Jesus, but to show Jesus through our lifestyles. Right now, we are in a time of fasting and praying. We don't do this for accolades or praise from our brothers and sisters; we do this for clarity and strength for the (co)mission to bring the kingdom of God in the world. How is this achieved? We must work in the mindset that we are not our own:

"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." - 1 Corinthians 6:20 KJV

We must operate in a way that our work is our worship to the Lord, for the work given to us belongs to Him.

As an ambassador, we have a powerful voice in the mindset of Christ. Whether we are going through a season in "the pit" or in a season of breakthrough, our Lord will never leave or forsake us.

"For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

- Ephesians 6:20 KJV

If you are having a tough time with temptation during this fast, say out loud, with boldness, that it has no authority or control over you. This is true because we are:

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"

2 Corinthians 10:5 KJV

Now, with this knowledge in mind, think of this time of fasting as the training grounds to be a fully realized ambassador. Remain faithful in this time with the Lord and stay humble.

"A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health."

- Proverbs 13:17 KJV

"Father, we are thankful for the honor of being called your Ambassadors. We don't want to misrepresent you. Please lead us and strengthen us to do your Will as faithful Ambassadors of Christ. In Jesus' Name, Amen!"

DAY 7

“For every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

— Luke 18:14b KJV

What Has Humility Got to Do With It?

Sis. Essie Carrington

For every action there is a corresponding reaction. If you step barefoot on burning coals you burn your feet. If you jump into a pool of water fully clothed, you will be soaked. If you humble yourself you will be exalted.

In the book of Jonah, the people of Nineveh greatly displeased God with their profound wickedness. God vowed to destroy them; yet when they humbled themselves and turned from their sinful ways God spared them.

We read in 2 Chronicles 32:20 how Hezekiah the king of Judah was being pursued in battle by the never beaten King of Assyria Sennacherib. The prophet Isaiah and King Hezekiah humbled themselves and cried unto heaven. God gave Hezekiah the victory. Proverbs 11:2 reveals that pride brings shame but the lowly or humble get wisdom.

Josiah the king of Israel humbled himself when God pronounced a curse and desolation upon its inhabitants. As a result, God erased the curse. James 4:6 reveals that God gives grace to the humble.

In this day and age of political corruption, social injustice, great sickness and death due to the COVID-19 pandemic, God has a solution in 2Chronicles [7:14](#). " If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn

from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sons and will heal their land. "

What has Humility got to do with it? Humility can move the heart of God to reverse His intentions. It can give us wisdom and grace. Humility can move God to fight our battles heal our land and forgive our sins.

I urge you as you in this season of Lent with fasting and prayer be aware that Satan will attack you in your most vulnerable places. After Jesus fasted from food and drink for forty days and nights He was steadily attacked by Satan. Let us emulate Jesus by putting on the whole armor of God that we may firmly use our faith and firmly stand against the wiles of the devil.

"Father, we thank you for the opportunity of humility. There are so many things we forfeit all because we are prideful. Remind us that humility in the very mind of Christ. In Jesus' Name, Amen!"