

Transformation Journal

Daily Devotion for the week of May 16, 2010

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This Sunday's text maybe familiar to most of us. It's the Great Commandment from Jesus to his followers. I believe God's people in every age and era have tasks on hand. We have our parts to fulfill just like those who came before us and answered the calls from above. Let's not get tired and become weary but remember that our toil in the Lord is not in vain. Let's continue the good work that passed down from the days of Christ disciples and be the sparks...

Monday

Scripture: Read Luke 24: 44:53

Observations:

Name Personal Applications:

Journal Questions:

1. How would you live differently if Jesus was not currently reigning in heaven but was only another noble martyr? Why?
2. In the light of your circumstances, where is the mission field Jesus has sent you? Who are some of the people you can witness to by your life? By your words?
3. How do you respond to mission for you:
 - a. A. Let's get going
 - b. I couldn't possibly do that
 - c. He didn't mean me?
 - d. I am scared, but I'll trust him. Why?
4. Who are the disciples in your life who encourage your service to Christ?

Prayer Focus: Lord, draw us closer to you. Many things pull us away from hearing your voice. Help us to focus on our priorities that our plans fall in line with your purpose for each one of us. Amen

Tuesday

The world we live in keep sending out messages – in them one can experience real thing! Many people may think that church is at the bottom of the line to provide any joy and satisfaction. It is no wonder to receive negative response when invitations were sent to the unchurch, even though fellow Christians extended radical hospitality! The writer of 1 Corinthians had his share of frustrations and challenges while he offered the goodnews to others. Yet, in the concluding verse (v.58), writer Paul had this to say: “Stand firm, Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord. Know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:58

Observations:

Name Personal Applications:

Journal Questions:

1. In your opinion, why it is easier to invite friends/family members to dinner, movies and other events instead to church?. What are the best times to extend invitations to the unchurch to Good Sam?
2. Differences in views among believers and /or between believers and non-believers can be the reasons for non believers not stepping into church. What are some of the doctrinal differences you know of? Other issues ?
3. How can one tell that his/her labor in the Lord is not in vain? How to measure?

Prayer Focus: Lift up the names of those whom you believe Jesus is the answer to their needs/longings. Keep praying and inviting them to church.

Wednesday

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

Observations:

Name Personal Applications:

Journal Questions:

1. How did the reality of Jesus' resurrection "dawn" upon you? Were you more of a quick believer or a slow doubter? Why?
2. Where is your spiritual life focused these days: On Good Friday? Easter Sunday? Or in between?
3. How much authority does Jesus have to give to his disciples to fulfill the Great Commission? In what ways can you fulfill the Great Commission in the context of your family? Work? Community?
4. To whom is Jesus sending you with this message? How will you accomplish this mission?

Prayer Focus: Good Sam's mission mandate, ourselves, and other mission bodies in different parts of the world.

Thursday

The verse below tells us that it is not entirely depend upon human efforts in order to achieve the works of the Lord. It is God Himself.

Scripture: Read 1 Corinthians 3:6 "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. V.7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who makes things grow."

Observations:

Name Personal Applications:

Journal Questions:

1. When local churches have no "results" to show their evangelism efforts, how the text helps to address?
2. Spreading the gospel is the call of every believer yet harvesting the yield is in the hand of our Lord. What are the ways you think believers were quick to "harvest" and bring them to the folds? How to prevent from happening?
3. Since conviction of conviction of one soul came from God and the working of Holy Spirit, why sometimes we are disappointed when seeing little results?

Prayer Focus: We are not alone in carrying out Good Samaritan UMC mandate. God's Holy Spirit is ever ready to empower us for the task we take upon . We are never alone. Pray against the spirit of despair, helplessness and doubt. Amen

Friday

Scripture: Read Romans 12:9-21

Name Personal Applications:

Journal Questions:

1. As a child, who was the troublemaker in your family? Who was the peacemaker?
2. Of the commands listed in these verses, which two are easiest for you to keep? Which two are the most difficult?
3. V. 11 “Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.” How does this verse apply to Good Samers in reaching out others and serving the Lord?
4. Do you think Good Sam is doing enough in her outreach ? Why? Why not? How about within?

Prayer focus: Good Sam UMC continues reaching out to our community – children, youth and adults. Relaunch has ignited our hearts and may we keep the flame burning.

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