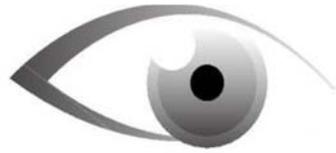


"Your Word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path."—
Psalm 119:105

THE ELLINWOOD
INTERCESSOR
MARCH 16 - 22, 2020

Sis. Tex I. Avante
Coordinator,
Intercessor Ministry



IN FOCUS

"LIVING WATER"

"Whoever drinks from the water that I give will never be thirsty again...." John 4:14

The water from our kitchen faucet was the color of clay. I'm no plumber, but that didn't seem right to me. Bathroom faucet. Washing machine. Dishwasher. Clay-colored water came from each one. My husband checked the water filter in the basement. It was completely clogged with sand and clay. Somewhere underground, a pipe had broken or the well had failed, neither of which was an appealing prospect in the dead of winter with the ground too frozen to dig and temps hovering in the double digits below zero.

We found every clean container we could and accepted our neighbor's invitation to fill them at their house, a quarter mile away. Twice a week, sometimes more often, we hauled water from the neighbor's house for drinking and cooking.

We lived that way from mid-January to the middle of July before the conditions were right for the problem to be resolved. The drama heightened my appreciation for one of the most powerful and life-altering scenes in Scripture—Jesus with the woman at the well. (John 4:1-30).

We didn't have clean water, but, as the woman at the well pointed out, Jesus didn't have a bucket (John 4:11). What He did have was Himself—the Living Water. The endless, never ceasing, never cloudy or contaminated Living Water. The woman's life had been contaminated, clouded with poor judgment, and wrong choices. What Jesus offered her, He offers us. Living Water. Drink deep, often, and appreciatively!

Faith Step: For a day or two, keep two clear glasses within sight. Fill one with clean water and the other with muddy. Let it be a reminder of what Jesus has offered you. Turn to His Word for a big, long drink before this day is through.

--Morning with Jesus, 2016

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

★16 March, Monday

Read: Revelations 3:21

This is a promise to everyone who *conquers*, that is, who presses on in faith to the end (1 John 5:4), in spite of every threatening pain and luring pleasure. So, if you are a believer in Jesus, you will sit on the throne of the Son of God who sits on the throne of God the Father. Ephesians 1:23 would mean: Jesus fills the universe with His own glorious rule *through us*. We are the fullness of His rule. We rule on His behalf. In that sense, we sit with Him on His throne. Without omnipotent help now, we cannot feel the wonder of what we are to become. But if we are granted to feel it as it is, all our emotional reactions to this world will change for the better.

★17 March, Tuesday

Read: John 16:26-27

Don't make God's Son more of a Mediator than He is. Jesus says: "I do not say that I will ask the Father on Your behalf." In other words, I'm not going to insert Myself between you and the Father, as though you can't go to Him directly. Why? "Because the Father Himself loves you." Jesus is warning us not to think of God Almighty as unwilling to receive us directly into His presence. It means what Jesus meant when He said, "I am not going to take your requests to God for you. You may take them directly. He loves you. He wants you to come. He is not angry at you." Jesus is saying, "I have made a way to God. Now I am not going to get in the way." Come.

★18 March, Wednesday

Read: Mark 8:17

After Jesus had fed both the 5,000 and the 4,000 with only a few loaves and fish, the disciples got in a boat without enough bread for themselves. When they began to discuss their plight, Jesus said, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand?" (Mark 8:17). What didn't they understand? They did not understand the meaning of the leftovers, namely, that Jesus will take care of them when they take care of others. The leftovers were for the servers. That Jesus would take care of them. You can't out give Jesus. When you spend your life for others, your needs will be met.

★19 March, Thursday

Read: Matthew 6:31-32

Jesus wants His followers to be free from worry. In Matthew 6:25-34, He gives at least seven arguments designed to take away our anxiety. One of them lists food and drink and clothing, and then says, "Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all". Jesus must mean that God's *knowing* is accompanied by His *desiring* to meet our need. He is emphasizing we have a Father. And this Father is better than an earthly father. Let us trust the promise of Jesus to meet our needs. That's what Jesus is calling for when He says, "Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all."

★20 March, Friday

Read: I John 1:9

A vague, bad feeling that you are a crummy person is not the same as conviction for sin. Feeling rotten is not the same as repentance. I'm broken and I'm angry at my sin. I want to kill *it*, not *me*. I'm not suicidal. I'm a sin hater and a sin murderer. ("Put to death what is earthly in you," Colossians 3:5; "Put to death the deeds of the body," Romans 8:13.) "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness". Peace rises. Prayer feels possible and right and powerful again.

★21 March, Saturday

Read: Lamentations 5:21

There is no hope for God's people unless God causes them to return from their sliding and leaping into sin and unbelief. The book of Lamentations is the bleakest book in the Bible. God Himself had decimated the apple of His eye. "The Lord gave full vent to His wrath; He poured out His hot anger, and He kindled a fire in Zion that consumed its foundations." (4:11) So how does the book end? It ends with the only hope there is: Cause us to return, O Lord, that we may return! That is my only hope, and your only hope. He *will* cause us to return. Therefore, "to Him who is able to *keep you from falling* . . . be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever" (Jude 1:24-25).

★22 March, Sunday

Read: Isaiah 57:18

Does it mean grace cannot be resisted? It means that when God chooses, He can and will overcome that resistance. God chastises His rebellious people by striking them and hiding His face: "Because of the iniquity of His unjust gain I was angry, I struck Him; I hid my face and was angry." But they did not respond with repentance. Rather, they kept backsliding. They resisted: "But He went on backsliding in the way of His own heart." So grace *can* be resisted. What then does God do? Is He powerless to bring those who resist to repentance and wholeness? No. "I have seen His ways, *but I will heal him*; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and his mourners." So, in the face of recalcitrant, grace-resisting backsliding, God says, "I will heal him." He will "restore" — the word is "make whole or complete." The grace of God triumphs over our resistance by creating praise where it did not exist. The point is that when God chooses, He overcomes our resistance and restores a submissive spirit. He heals. He leads. He restores. He comforts. Therefore, we never boast that we have returned from backsliding. We fall on our faces before the Lord and with trembling joy thank Him for His irresistible grace.

Please fill out this form, cut along the dotted lines, and drop it in the offering plate, or submit it to the Church Office. Thank you!

Prayer Pastoral Counseling Visitation

Name _____ Tel. No. _____

Reason/ Occasion _____

