



## Devotional Guide for May 29-June 4, 2023

These devotions are prepared for you each week by Pastor Kevin to use for your own personal devotions with the Lord, and are designed to prepare you for the message next weekend.

### **Monday, May 29<sup>TH</sup> "He remembers that we are dust"**

**Scripture: Psalm 103:13-18** NIV

For Memorial Day, I felt it would be important to understand that not only are we called to remember God's purpose for our lives, we are also to realize that He remembers us. Verse 14 is an allusion to Genesis 2:7, where God created humanity from the dust of the ground. Thus, God is intimately aware of our frailty as humans. The psalmist tells us that "from everlasting to everlasting, the Lord's love is with those who fear Him" (v.17).

*Question: How frail do you see yourself compared to Almighty God?*

### **Tuesday, May 30<sup>TH</sup> "Hope as an anchor for the soul"**

**Scripture: Hebrews 6:13-20** NIV

The apostle Paul shares the certainty of God's promise to Abraham, due to the Lord using Himself to swear His oath and trust. By this, the promise of God is absolutely reliable. By trusting in the promises of God, we find hope—which is "an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" (v.19) in the midst of struggles. Thus, hope is based on God's unchanging purpose—to accomplish our salvation through Christ.

*Question: Have you relied on your hope as an anchor in life's storms?*

### **Wednesday, May 31<sup>ST</sup> "Do not forget my teaching"**

**Scripture: Proverbs 3:1-6** NIV

This proverb lifts up the power of remembering the wisdom taught to us from the Lord... especially having "love and faithfulness never leave you" (v.3). To trust in the Lord means to depend upon and to believe. Together with fearing the Lord, this call is fundamental to living a life of Godly wisdom. As we learn to "trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (v.5), it is like having an anchor for the soul. The difference between trust and doubt is seen in the anchor in this manner: do you keep the anchor on the ship, out of the water (trusting in your own understanding), or do you anchor your hope in the Lord by trusting in Him alone?

*Question: What do you do to remember God's Word in your life?*

### **Thursday, June 1<sup>ST</sup> "We finally gave up all hope of being saved"**

**Scripture: Acts 27:13-20** NIV

This storm faced at sea by Paul and his travel companion was called a Northeaster—a typhoon-like wind that could occur in the central and western Mediterranean Sea during the winter months. It blew their ship south, away from Crete and from their destination of Phoenix. Their attempts at saving themselves and their ship included bringing the lifeboat on board and undergirding their ship with cables or ropes, to prevent it from breaking apart. The sea anchor which they drop in verse 19 was meant to slow the ship down from drifting. At their darkest point—when "neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging" (v.20), they became hopeless.

*Question: What is the worst storm you have endured in life?*

### **Friday, June 2<sup>ND</sup> "They dropped four anchors"**

**Scripture: Acts 27:21-29** NIV

Paul speaks to his shipmates at this dark moment, at the end of two weeks riding through the storm. He is not chiding them like a bratty child who would say "I told you so!" Rather, he is trying to get a hearing with them, based on his previous sound advice. Here, in Luke's account of this shipwreck, he emphasizes that God plans to providentially protect Paul and his companions. God promised Paul that he would testify in Rome, and no obstacle—not even a deadly storm—can thwart God's purpose. Paul's prediction back in Acts 27:10 ("Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also") was based on reason and experience, but his assurance now comes from divine revelation. Paul proved to be a calming presence on board the ship, as he was taken to Rome. His faith and confidence remained like a rock, when trouble engulfed the ship. Thus, we can also learn to trust in God to fulfill His promises. He provides hope when there seems to be no way out. When they drop four anchors, for me, the symbolism I see is that they were working together to survive. When you drop your sole anchor by trusting God is important, but consider the impact of a group of believers dropping all of their anchors together, to ride out any storm—the strength of numbers is seen!

*Question: How has Christ been like an anchor in your life?*

### **Trinity Sunday, June 4, 2023**

**Sacrament of Communion / Graduate Recognition**

**8:30 and 10:45 am** (Livestream @10:45 am)

Scripture: **Proverbs 3:1-6** NIV, **Acts 27:13-29** NIV

Pastor's message: **"Anchors Away!"**

*Worship theme: "ANCHOR—Finding Assurance in God's Promises"*

