

FIRST things FIRST... *Daily Devotions*

Devotional Guide for February 24-March 2, 2025

Offered by next week's Preacher to prepare for the sermon.

Monday: Feb. 24th "Friends – Face to Face"

Scripture: Exodus 33:11a

What a wonderful verse! In this day of texting and messaging, our two kids understand that voice to voice and face to face communication is very important to their parents! Moses was a prototype of Jesus and had a unique friendship with God. We imagine how we might be God's friends, but Jesus said to His disciples in John 15:15, "I no longer call you servants...Instead, I have called you friends..." As Jesus' disciples and apostles today, we, too, can realize that same friendship with our Lord.

Q: We feed our earthly friendships with regular communication and face to face gathering whenever possible. Connect with a friend this week; do it voice to voice and/or face to face! How do we feed our relationship with God? Scripture, prayer, fellowship with other believers and weekly worship...see you in Church!

Tuesday: Feb. 25th "Face to Face and Radiant"

Scripture: Exodus 33:12-23 & 34:29-35 & II Corinthians 3:13-16

Moses' desire was to see God's glory. Although he met God face to face, God responded to his request by allowing Moses to see only God's back passing by in glory. Moses' interaction with God, when receiving the Ten Commandments, would be so up close and personal that after, his face shone radiantly! As it diminished, he would veil his face when among the people.

Paul speaks about how minds are "dull" with a veil remaining when the "old covenant" [Old Testament] is read. He says, "...only in Christ is it [that veil] taken away. Even to this day when Moses [Genesis thru Deuteronomy] is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away."

Q: Do you have a desire to "see" God at work in a situation through which you are going or to draw closer to God, knowing His deeper presence? Do you want to understand better when reading the Old Testament? Turn to Christ and as the hymn says... "Are we weak and heavy laden...take it to the Lord in prayer..."

Wednesday, Feb. 26th

"Seeing Glory Firsthand"

Scripture: John 1:14

John says from the moment of Jesus' birth, "We have seen His glory the glory of the Only Begotten Son." Glory may be bright and radiant or "seen" as "grace and truth," but it is always fully from and of God. Wherever Jesus went, the glory of God revealed, rebuked, renewed, and restored!

Q: Recall a moment in Scripture when the grace and truth of Jesus' actions were obvious. Pastor Augie and I hear the news and other worldly messages and say, "just tell us the truth!" Pray with us for ability to hear, recognize, and follow God's Truth wherever it leads! The song says, "God will make a way..."

Thursday: Feb. 27th

"Like Father, Like Son"

Scripture: Hebrews 1:3

What a powerful verse! In one sentence, we are told how Jesus radiates His Father God's glory...He "exactly" [perfectly] represents God's being by "sustaining" [keeping] everything by His powerful word. Indeed, we know that Jesus **IS** the Word, the "logos" of God, what is spoken, [i.e. from God's very thinking and motive] God's utterance and command! God says, "Listen to Him" [Lk. 9:35 / Mk. 9:7 / Matt. 17:5] and Jesus, "Listen and understand." [Matt 51:10]

Q: What a noisy world! How might we "see" what "radiates" through "listening" to Jesus' powerful word? Pray for stillness and listening via Jesus' Holy Spirit.

Friday: Feb 28th

"Transforming Glory"

Scripture: II Corinthians 3:18

Paul writes in one verse, describing our transformation into the Lord's likeness, "reflecting the Lord's glory." Methodists say, "going on to perfection," the Holy Spirit's work. Charles Wesley unfolds that process in the hymn "Love Divine, All Love Excelling" [UMH 384] "...changed from glory into glory..."

Q: Glory, radiance...of Jesus John 1:5 says, "The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood [or overcome] it." Prayerfully read or sing the hymn; ask God to reveal, rebuke, renew, and restore what's needed in you.

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Exodus 34:29-35 & Luke 9:28-36

Topic of Pastor Aimée's message: Jesus' Transfiguration