

Daily Readings

Monday

Read Matthew 25:14-29. Have there been times in your life when you felt like the man entrusted with the five bags of gold, joyfully using the gifts God has given you to bless others? How did you feel about God in that time of your life? How did that motivate you? Are there times in your life you have felt like the man who buried his one bag of gold? How did you picture God in that time of your life? In each of those times in your life, how would have answered the question: Why serve?

Tuesday

Read Ephesians 4:1-6. Sometimes people get confused about the word “calling.” The calling Paul is talking about here is the calling God gives us to live our lives trusting that we are now his own children. Our calling is to live into our new identities as we were called from being slaves to sin to being children of God. In this passage Paul reminds us again that through Christ, we are one family with each other, united in one purpose. How does knowing this draw us to want to serve each other?

Wednesday

Read Ephesians 4:4-13. Like a victorious conqueror, Jesus rose from death, bringing gifts to his people to celebrate and share in his victory. The gifts God gave us are to be used to bless the world, not just for our sake, but because God wants all the world to share in his victory as well. Have you ever thought of the gifts God has given you as part of God’s plan to bless the world? How has he used your gifts in the past? How might he want to use them today?

Thursday

Read Ephesians 4:11-13. These terms: apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher can seem inaccessible to us, but these words reflect different kinds of ministry hearts that the Lord has placed in each of us. Which of these titles seems to draw you the most? Do you see what God values in that gifting? Can you picture other people that you know embodying these giftings? In prayer ask God today to show you the center of the heart of service he has given you.

Friday

Read Ephesians 4:14-16 and Romans 12:4-8. Paul compares the way God has given the church people with different giftings to the way God has created the body with different, but interdependent parts. God’s desire is that as we serve each other in faith, we all will be able to grow stronger together. How might you be able to strengthen others in the church today? In what ways have others strengthened you?

Saturday

Read I Corinthians 12:12-30. Even though we are one family, one body in Christ, the gifts we are given serve different functions, but every one is important, no matter how small we think it is. Paul reminds us that if one part of the body is hurt, the others hurt with it. If one rejoices the others rejoice. Think of someone in our church family who you know is hurting. As part of the body of Christ, pray for them today, and if you can, reach out to let them know you care.

