

FRIDAY, November 27, 2009:

Genesis 6:6 *“And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.”*

I would never presume to know the depths of the emotions that are tied up in this very sad verse. I do know that for someone to grieve requires that they first loved. We do not grieve for that which we do not love. We may feel sorry and be sad for them, but to grieve for someone is an entirely different thing.

But here is the amazing thing; God did not let the horrible failure of mankind stop him from loving. Even without a guarantee, He found a way to continue His relationship with the human race (via Noah and his family).

What about you? What are you allowing to stop you from loving? Are you looking for a guarantee? Love does not allow for guarantees; it must be given unconditionally.

Maybe you’re looking for “pain-free” love. Again, that will never happen either.

Bottom line, loving someone is dangerous, difficult and sometimes depressing; but it is also very, very rewarding. You were born to love. Why not today look for ways to love instead of grieving over lost love.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

SATURDAY, November 28, 2009:

Exodus 33:14 *“My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”*

My heart is sad this morning as I prepare this devotional. I am reflecting on a late night call I received last night. On the other end of the line was a troubled and distraught individual. Even with the wonder of modern technology that allows people to speak to each other across long distances, I still felt inadequate to really provide comfort and direction to the person on the other end of the line.

However, my sincere prayer was a reminder to God of His promise to His people in Exodus 33:14 – *“My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”*

Maybe today you are like the person behind my late night call last night. On the inside, you are troubled, distraught and tired. Please hear me today, if you are His child (through faith in Jesus Christ as your savior), then God really and truly is with you. You are not alone and you are not abandoned. Trust Him, wait upon Him; cast your cares upon Him for He cares for you.

Like you, I can’t see the particulars of God’s plan for you. For the most part, it is a day-by-day and sometimes a moment-by-moment experience when walking with God. But this I do know, as long as He’s with you, you can have the assurance that everything will be OK. Rest in that promise my dear friend...rest, for God is with you.

“If a man realizes God’s hold on him, he feels all others relaxed.” _Alexander Maclaren, Expositions of Holy Scripture

SCRIPTURE: I Peter 5:7



Pastor Kemp’s Weekly Devotional

For the week of November 22, 2009

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

Personal Notes:



MONDAY, November 23, 2009:

Exodus 2:16, 17 *"Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters...Moses stood up and helped them."*

Have you ever had something that you've read many times suddenly jump out at you in a new way? This is what happened recently when I read the account of Moses' escape from Egypt. In the process of escaping, Moses came upon the daughters of the priest of Midian. I love the way the storyteller words it: *"Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters."*

Now I mean no disrespect against daughters, but can you imagine – seven daughters! Wow! That must have been an interesting household. (And that was back before they had running water and indoor plumbing.)

The story gets even more humorous to me. To cut to the chase, as they say... "Daddy" priest of Midian, is going about his daily schedule when unexpectedly, he hears his girls coming home from work early. Surprised, he asks why. They say, "Oh some Egyptian man came along and helped us." Bells went off in dad's head – wedding bells. By the end of the story, he had roped Moses in and had married him off to one of his daughters.

There's a great lesson here. The daughters were concerned about today – just getting their job done and getting back home. However, their dad had a view of the big picture. He had seven daughters that he had to provide for. When an eligible young bachelor came along, the dad wasn't that concerned about whether or not the daily chores were done; he saw an opportunity that could make for a better future.

As you start a new week, the temptation will be the same. It will be so easy to focus on the moment and forget about the big picture. Don't do it! Think big picture; long term.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 1:17

TUESDAY, November 24, 2009:

Exodus 2:21 *"Moses was content to live with the man..."*

Think about it - Moses, who grew up in the palace of the most powerful king, was reduced to living in a tent on the backside of the wilderness. But the good news is that Moses was content.

One of the secrets to a happy life is learning to be content where you are right now. Contentment doesn't mean that you don't want to improve your lot in life; but it does mean that you understand that you are on a journey and whether good or bad, life is not going to remain the way it is right now.

Contentment means that you choose to be defined by greater things than your immediate circumstances.

Contentment means that you are resting in the faithfulness of God to set you up for success. This allows you to find the good in your circumstances, enjoy the moment, and dare to make a difference.

My advice for today? Determine to not complain, nor criticize, but instead be thankful and find a way to enjoy the moment.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 6:6-7

WEDNESDAY, November 25, 2009:

Proverbs 8:32-36 (*Strong promises from God's word*)

What I want you to notice is the word "daily" in verse 34.

One of the most important principles of living a wise life is the principle of focusing on the important things in life. Being busy is not enough for we can be busy doing "busywork" instead of "the work" that really needs to be done.

Verse 34 reminds us that one of the most important things we can do is to daily seek the wisdom of God. The advice given is to resist the temptation to rush out the door before truly stilling ourselves enough to seek and listen to the counsel of God.

The person that practices this discipline of "stilling themselves" daily will be blessed – that is a promise from God.

So my dear friend, slow down, take a deep breath, and turn your thoughts toward God; you will not regret it.

SCRIPTURE: John 6:14-15

THURSDAY, November 26, 2009:

Matthew 12:22 *"Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute..."*

Wow! And we think we have it bad! Trust me; it can always be worse.

While the best consolation is not feeling good because others are in worse condition than we are, it is good to remind ourselves to not play the pity game. We can be so caught up in our own little world that we forget how blessed we really are.

Oh, and by the way...the rest of the verse says that Jesus healed the man. Hopefully you are not demon-possessed, blind and mute today, but nevertheless, your problems and trials are real; but Jesus is real also and He is still in the delivering and healing business.

Be of good courage...you can make it. Don't give into the temptation to play the "pity-party" game, instead lift up your head, dare to believe and confess your faith in your awesome and all-powerful Savior and friend: Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14:27