

Evening Devotionals

June 21 — Friday — Dabbs Matthews

June 22 — Saturday — Ben Clay

June 23 — Sunday — Brody Widener

June 24 — Monday — Sam Malone

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June 26 — Wednesday — Chandler Galloway

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Daily Devotions



Alone with the Lord



Friday, June 21, 2024

Philippians 4:6

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Being on an important trip like Mission Tour can be stressful since there's so much to remember. You have to think about what to pack, all the activities that you'll be doing, and most importantly, remembering to be praying about how to reach people. Throughout all that you have to worry about, it's easy to be more focused on the “stuff” aspect of the trip and less on the actual reason for it: sharing the gospel with people who haven't ever been exposed to it. But then, when you do think about it, it's a hefty responsibility and it feels really hard to do! Someone's chance at eternal life could rest on our choir, and while that's amazing and awe-inspiring, it's a lot to think about.

Thankfully, we don't actually have to do it all ourselves. We are merely the mouth that the Holy Spirit talks through, and God will help us out the whole time. A good way to prepare for this is to be praying for confidence and strength to approach people so that you can be the mouth speaking God's Word. Going up to people and talking to them isn't easy at all, much less so when you're discussing a topic that a lot of people are averse to, such as the gospel. But Philippians 4:6 tells us that there's no reason to be scared or anxious for these conversations, God will guide you through them and give you the words you need to reach whomever you're speaking with. He is always with you, and always ready to take on your worries and help face them for His glory and the growing of His Kingdom.

— Lucy McClain



Saturday, June 22, 2024

As Christians, we are called on mission to spread the gospel and the message of Jesus to people untouched by the love of the Lord. Even though traveling to share the good news is an exciting new adventure, it is still very easy to have anxieties about the journey. It can be hard to travel away from our family and homes, and meeting new people can be scary. It's hard sometimes to get out of our shells and talk to others about God, but we need to remember that, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4). Jesus is always with us no matter what fears we have. If you're afraid of traveling or even afraid of socializing, remember that our Savior is with us. We can boldly share the good news of the saving grace of God through the death and resurrection of Jesus because we do not walk alone.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

– Deuteronomy 31:6

— Adeline Banks

Be Strong
AND
Courageous



Sunday, June 23, 2024

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him.”

– Jeremiah 17:7

High School can be a very challenging place for someone to be confident in their faith in God and show it even when they are afraid to do so. I have been through many hard times where my faith and loyalty towards God are truly tested. A way that I have been able to push through these challenges is by reading the Bible and gaining the confidence to not only feel my faith but show my faith. The peer pressure and moments where you could just crack happen almost once a day; however, it's important to show others that you really do believe and that belief makes your life more satisfactory. Passages like the one above give me a sort of comfort that you should be true to your own skin and belief. It enables you to enjoy being yourself and can potentially give others a want for that type of lifestyle as well. Throughout life these challenges won't ever end, but it is important to understand and not fear being a Christian and show to others how God has changed your life.

— Ben Clay



*Use me, God. Show me
how to take who I am,
who I want to be, and
what I can do, and use it
for a purpose greater
than myself.*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Monday, June 24, 2024

Keeping up the Joy

You may be wondering, “What is joy?” Many people confuse joy with happiness or an intense feeling of excitement. The Bible, however, emphasizes not happiness but joy. Joy is richer than happiness or excitement. Happiness can easily shift with a person’s mood and circumstances. Joy, on the other hand, does not depend on our feelings toward our situation; therefore, it is not easily shaken. Joy is about how we choose to respond and the attitude we have.

So where should we find our joy? We can find complete joy only in God. In many instances, the Scriptures direct us to find joy in our hope in God. For example, Psalm 16:11 mentions finding joy in God’s presence; Philippians 4 instructs us to rejoice in the Lord; and in John 15, Jesus tells us that He gives His complete joy to us. Joy is the deep, soul-level happiness that is a result of beholding by faith the beauty and wonders of Christ.

If you show happiness and joy while serving the kids during VBS and singing for the audiences, it can have a super positive impact on them. It will show them what true joy and happiness with the Lord looks like and how it can change their lives. Unfortunately, if you don’t show this energy, it will not have the same positive effect on the people we are serving. Serving the Lord with this joyful attitude is the whole reason we are here.

It is important to show joy in our lives, even when we are not feeling happy. This does not mean we should fake or hide our emotions. Instead, it means that we can choose to pursue Jesus and the joy we can find in Him in all our circumstances. Happiness is based on what’s happening, but joy is based on what we believe. Joy is the kind of happiness that does not depend on what happens, it should always be there.

So, I encourage you all to not only continue to show happiness during the trip but to also keep up a joyful attitude so it can spread into the lives of the people we are serving, and hopefully they will find true joy in God our Father too!

— Lance Rodriguez



Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Labor for the Lord

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

– Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)

We have the honor to work for the Lord during our time in San Antonio. It is through this hard work that we get to share the gospel. I have been on three choir tours so far, and a common theme between them would be the work we get to do in order to show people of various backgrounds God's love. In Washington D.C. we served at homeless shelters. In Miami we put on VBS, and in Hawaii we labored for the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind. The things we have done and continue to do on Mission Tour are not for us, but we work to show the people we reach the love of Christ and to glorify God. So, if you ever get disheartened or tired, don't. The Lord sees your heart and the intention behind your actions.

— Lily Bankston

WHATEVER
YOU DO
WORK AT IT
WITH ALL YOUR HEART
AS WORKING FOR THE
LORD



Wednesday, June 26, 2024

The Power of Songs

For all choir trips we go to various places to spread the gospel through our voice. In Judges 5:2-5, we learn of a song that Deborah and Barak began to sing. In verse 3 it says, “Listen, kings! Pay attention, princes! I will sing to the Lord; I will sing praise to the Lord God of Israel.” This is what all our trips are for, to sing praises to the Lord. For many people singing is their way of worship. When singing, they feel as though the Lord is speaking through them the most and allowing them to share His Word. Singing is a way we can express how we feel through notes, melodies, harmonies, and rhythm. Now the song you are singing is what holds the most power. You can write all about your life and others without sharing a detailed story, but still making an impact. That is why when we are singing, we are told to smile and be happy because even if the song is not about a happy story, we know what happens in the end, and that we will always be okay because of God.

To end devotions, I like to pray over my favorite verse, Philippians 1:6.

“God didn’t bring you this far to leave you.”

I encourage you to find a verse that speaks through you and is important to you and pray over it at the end of all your devotions.

— Lucy Clay



Thursday, June 27, 2024

Do Not Fear

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

– Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

Through experiences of uncertainty, our faith grows, and we feel God so present and near to us.

About two months ago, I had a cardiac ablation procedure at Monroe Carell Children’s Hospital because I had been having these irritating episodes that led to having an extremely high heart rate and feeling dizzy, short of breath, sweaty, a bit nauseous, and hot. Later, we figured out I had something known as atrioventricular reentrant tachycardia. I was nervous about how this procedure would go but had a kind nurse there with me along with an incredible team of doctors. They were understanding of any questions I had and talked me through what each step of the process would involve. I also had plenty of family and friends comforting me in person and by text. But, most importantly, I felt a sense of relief because I knew that my Jesus loves me and cares for me deeply. He is entirely sovereign over our circumstances.

This series of events has been important to my faith because I was reminded that He can be trusted, always working for our good and His glory. Since my procedure, I have healed well; but the point in saying all of this is that we don’t need to fear because we can find comfort in knowing that God is trustworthy. His plan unfolds in its own time. Each of our journeys is a masterpiece in progress. It’s important to let go of the need for immediate answers and instead focus on trusting Him and His perfect timing. Have faith that your purpose will become clear when the time is right.

— Ah-Gust Overbeck



Friday, June 28, 2024

A Quick Study of Esther

“Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.”
– Esther 4:16

Have you ever had to do something so difficult, you thought you couldn't do it? Or a really hard thing that you really didn't want to do, but you knew you had to?

Esther also experienced something like that. She was chosen by the king to be his queen. What the king didn't know, however, was that she and her uncle, Mordecai, were both Jews.

Mordecai was commanded to bow down to a royal official named Haman. Mordecai refused. He wouldn't bow down to any man—only to God. Mordecai's actions enraged Haman, so he tricked the king into giving him the power to kill all Jews legally. Mordecai told Esther of this, and she knew she needed to act.

Her people would die if she did nothing; however, it was against the law for her to go to the king without being summoned by him—the punishment was death. That's when she said, “Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, if I perish, I perish” (Esther 4:16).

When she went before the king, she found favor with him. He invited her to make her request, and she asked for an audience with the king and Haman. At a feast, Esther told the king what Haman had done. “For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated” (Esther 7:4). The king immediately had Haman hung for his crimes against Queen Esther. She then begged the king to revoke the law that said Jews could be killed. The king agreed and put her people under his protection and favor.

All this to say, at first Esther was terrified to go to the king. She could have been killed for it, but she had to save her people. Without her, all of them would have died.

She wasn't alone though—God was with her. He gave her strength, courage, and the right words to say to the king. She couldn't let fear stop her from doing what she knew was right and what she knew God wanted her to do. Like her, we shouldn't let fear stop us from sharing God's Word on our trip. God has given each and every one of us a purpose on this trip, a role that He knows will help us grow and learn more about Him through. Pray and ask God what you're meant to do on this trip and ask for strength to do it. We got this, and Jesus loves you!

— Kathryn Maynord



Saturday, June 29, 2024

The Lord Is My Shepherd

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

— Psalms 23:1-6 (ESV)

Throughout the past few years of my baseball journey, this passage has been extremely important to me. As a pitcher, one of the most important parts of pitching is being able to have confidence in not only the easy but also the hard parts during the game. Something that I have struggled with has been my confidence when I get into tough situations during the game. I start to panic in my head and rush myself and this usually leads to me making mistakes. But when I take my time and calm down, I begin to do better again. One of the most calming and reassuring things for me has been this passage. It helps me know that God will always be there for me and is omnipresent and I don’t need to be afraid. Fear is something that God can help us with, and more specifically, the fear of messing up. So next time that you feel afraid or nervous about something, I encourage you to think about this passage and how God is our Shepherd and how deeply He longs and cares for you. Hopefully that can help you get through your own difficult situations throughout your life.

— Scotty Schrecker



Sunday, June 30, 2024

How to Have Peace with Yourself

“And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Phillipians 4:7

Being at peace with yourself gives you more control over yourself and how you react to situations in life. To find this peace, you must forgive yourself of mistakes or bad behavior. God forgives us and we must do the same. Accept yourself for who you are and don't try to become someone else.

Having inner peace means you have a feeling of inner calm, contentment, and acceptance of yourself. It involves being comfortable with who you are, your choices, and your circumstances. You have a positive relationship with yourself and treat yourself with respect, kindness, compassion, and understanding. Many of us are consumed with self-doubt, self-criticism, or self-judgment. We are often harder on ourselves than anyone else and become our own worst enemy.

With God, all things are possible. We just need to learn to depend on Him when things go wrong and it seems like life is hopeless. Our hope is always in Him. We must remind ourselves that:

- 1) God's peace is supernatural and unexplainable. It is truly amazing how God can and will respond during tough times.
- 2) God's peace will guide your heart. The heart is something to be protected at all times.
- 3) God's peace will guard your minds. Love Jesus first, others second, and yourself third. JOY

Can you have inner peace with yourself without having peace with God? I don't believe you can. Our peace comes from Him.

Remember these 5 things:

- 1) Do not hold grudges. You cannot move forward until you forgive and forget the past.
- 2) Do not compare yourself with others. “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”
- 3) Meditate and spend time alone with God. “Be still and know that I am God.”
- 4) Accept people for who they are. Acceptance is very important in life.
- 5) Learn from mistakes. Mistakes are the result of trying. It's important that you try.

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, we ask you to give us peace in our mind, body, soul, and life. We want you to heal and take away everything that is causing stress, grief, sorrow, and regret in our lives. Please guide each of us as we try to do our best for You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

— Nathan Perry

