

Day 1 -

Read

Colossians 3:1-4

“Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. **2** Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. **3** For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.”

Think

If you have given your life to following Jesus, if you believe Jesus is God’s son and he dies and was raised to life and that his sacrifice is the way to a restored relationship with God then you are a citizen of heaven. This means that above all else our identity is in that. Thus we focus on the realities of what it means to be with Jesus. Our main purpose in life is to be near our savior. To cultivate a heart after him. To truly know him.

Reflect

What have you mind been focusing on? What have you been planning for? Do you find yourself thinking of Jesus more than anything else? Do you find yourself asking God to order the steps of your day so that you can point others to Jesus? Or do you focus on the things in this world? The systems of money, power, popularity do they take priority in your mind and actions?

Pray

Jesus, you have made a way for me to be a citizen of heaven. My purpose is to live in close connection with you. Help me to reorder my thoughts and actions so that I am living like a child of God and not like a person of the world. Driven by power, money and popularity. amen.

Day 2

Braden Curalli - WCC

Read

Colossians 2:1-5

I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. **2** My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and

united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 5 For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

Think

In the midst of this long, ever enduring quarantine created by the confusing phenomenon we call COVID-19, most, if not all of us, have been struggling with a lot of different mental health issues.

It seems that loneliness, anxiety and depression are more prevalent now than ever.

Reflect

This verse carried a bit more of an extra weight today as I was struggling this morning with being incredibly anxious. One of my biggest challenges during the rise of COVID has been my struggle with mental health and dealing with loneliness. I felt immense peace when reading the words "united by love." This Verse reminds me that I am not alone in my struggle and neither are you.

To the one who is struggling with anxiety, I see you, hear you, and I am there too.

Remember Paul's words, "United by love."

To the one who is struggling with depression, I see you, hear you, and I am there too.

Remember Paul's words, "United by love."

To the one who is struggling with loneliness, I see you, hear you, and I am there too.

Remember Paul's words, "United by love."

I encourage you to reach out to a pastor, counselor and friend if you feel any of these feelings. Remember, united by love and we stand with you.

Pray

Meet me in my loneliness

Meet me in my anxiety

Meet me in my depression

Lord I pray that you would fill me with joy

Remind me to seek help

Help me to see that ways you are moving

Amen

Day 3

Dan Self - WCC

Read

Psalm 34:1-3

"I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.
I will glory in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
Glorify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together."

Think

Look at this phrase: "let the afflicted hear and rejoice".

In our culture, we're conditioned to see suffering/grief/hardship/disappointment as a useless, meaningless thing that happens to us.

When we see our hardship as meaningless, we are conditioned to become victims anytime we face anything hard. When we become victims, we rely only on other people to fix our problems.

Reflect

With Jesus, we have the ability to allow him to use our hardship as something that actually forms us.

With Jesus, we have the ability to choose joy.

With Jesus, hardship doesn't derail our lives but actually gives us an opportunity to grow into a more Christ-centered person.

Pray

Lord, I ask that you shape my thinking to center completely around you. I ask you to show me what it means to approach hard situations and seasons based on your grace and not my own. Show me how to find you in the midst of my trials, and show me how to become someone who exits a hard situation as a more rounded, faithful follower of you.

Day 4

Read

Colossians 3:12-13

12“Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. **13** Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”

Think

When we sin when we mess up Jesus always responds with mercy, kindness, gentleness and patience as he leads us. How do you respond to others when they have wronged you? Is it reflection the way Jesus responds to you?

Reflect

In our world so many people are responding with harshness, attacking each other, and working hard to point out how wrong everyone is. Jesus has called us to a better life. He wants to change us and work through us to bring mercy and gentleness to our world.

Pray

Jesus , thank you so much for being kind, gentle and merciful to me in my brokenness. You lead me in love and change my heart. Help me to love others the way you love me. Amen

Day 5

Marty Miranda

Read

Psa. 103:1 Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
2 Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
3 who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
4 who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
5 who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s

Think

Psalm 103 is all filled with reasons to praise the Lord. It's a call to remember all the ways God has benefited our lives, and thank him for it with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength: God forgives us of our sin, heals our diseases, showers our lives with love and compassion, satisfies our greatest desires, and renews our strength when we feel weak.

Reflect

Grab your bible or open your Bible App and read through all of Psalm 103. Take note of how you have experienced the same benefits the Psalmist praises God for in your own life.

Pray

Now that you've spent some time reflecting on who God is, and the ways he has enriched your life: Spend some time in prayer, personally thanking God for who he is, and what he has done for you.