

THURSDAY – Always working

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: John 5:17 *In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working."*

TODAY'S MEDITATION: Jesus was being challenged for healing a man on the Sabbath, which the religious leaders considered to be a violation of the Sabbath by working. This was Jesus' defense: "My Father is always working, and so am I."

A few verses later, Jesus said, *"I am telling you the truth: the Son can do nothing on his own; he does only what he sees his Father doing. What the Father does, the Son also does."* What did Jesus see His Father doing? He was always working.

We believe that God is at work in every detail of our lives. The problem is we miss it. The problem isn't that God's not working. The problem is that I am oblivious sometimes.

I want to be in the middle of God's will for my life. Anyone else? I want to know what He's doing and I want to partner with Him in that. I love that God is always at work. He is always at work in my life, even when I can't discern it. He is always at work in those around me.

Today ask...What is God doing in this situation? In me? In this person? And how can I partner with Him in His work today?"

FRIDAY: Jesus

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: John 1:18 *No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.*

TODAY'S MEDITATION: One day a first grade Sunday school teacher asked the class to think about something important and draw a picture of it. Each child began working on the special picture that they wanted to draw. The teacher noticed one little boy who seemed to be more focused than the rest. The others had finished, and he was still working. She walked over to his desk and said, "Jimmy, what are you drawing?" He looked up and said, "Teacher, I'm drawing a picture of God." The teacher said, "Jimmy, nobody knows what God looks like." Jimmy thought for a minute, and replied, "Well, they will when I finish this picture!"

What does God look like? He looks like Jesus. When God became man, it looked like Jesus, and it still does. Because he is human we have the hope of his likeness. Because he is God, we have the certainty of his promise.

He was announced as Emmanuel, and he continues to reveal himself as such: God is forever with us because he has forever pitched his tent in the person of Jesus, the true lesson of Christmas.

This Christmas, friends, worship Jesus as not just the child in the manger, but as the eternal and everlasting God whom death could not beat; and as the loving Father you need most.



THEME:
BECAUSE JESUS IS EVERLASTING FATHER, WE ARE LOVED

Isaiah 9:6

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, **Everlasting Father**, Prince of Peace.*

MONDAY – Uninterrupted love

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Luke 15:20** *So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.*

TODAY'S MEDITATION: For some, the word "father" brings back memories of warmth and protection. For others, it might stir feelings of pain or absence. Earthly fathers, no matter how good, are human and limited.

Isaiah 9:6 introduces us to a different kind of Father—Jesus, our Everlasting Father. His love is not fleeting or conditional; it is eternal, perfect, and constant. He is not just a reflection of what fatherhood should be—he is the source of it.

Tim Keller wrote, "The only love that won't disappoint you is one that can't change, that can't be lost, that is not based on the ups and downs of life or how well you live."

That's the love Jesus offers as our Everlasting Father. His care goes beyond time, beyond circumstances, and beyond human failure. He steps into our brokenness, offering healing and hope. His arms are always open, ready to embrace us with a love that never ends.

Whether you feel burdened by struggles or are celebrating joyfully, his love for you remains steadfast. What a beautiful and encouraging thought this is for us. Nothing can interrupt God's love and care for us because the child was given for our salvation. He sees you, knows you, and calls you, his child. Rest in his care.

TUESDAY – Eternal home

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: **John 14:5-7** ⁵ *Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"* ⁶ *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* ⁷ *If you really know me, you will know my Father as well.*

TODAY'S MEDITATION: I recall a time when my sons were still young, and we went out deer hunting together. As it started to rain, I settled them beneath a cluster of dense trees for shelter and told them to wait there while I scouted ahead over the ridge. I made sure to remind them twice that I'd return soon after looking for a shortcut back to camp. They must have grown impatient waiting. Returning, cresting the small ridge, I found them walking toward me. I asked, "why did you leave the shelter of the trees"? They replied, "we couldn't see you anymore, so we came to find you."

Jesus understood the anxiety and distress Thomas felt. He was troubled by the news of his impending departure and Peter's denial. Knowing his heart, Jesus didn't just command him to stop worrying; he promised divine help to find the Father's house.

When you lose perspective, be reminded Jesus knows the way home.

WEDNESDAY – His Child

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **1 John 3:1** *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!*

TODAY'S MEDITATION: A.W. Tozer famously stated, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."

Tozer argues that our thoughts about God can determine the trajectory of our lives.

What do you think of when you think of God?

John reminds us God calls us His children. You are God's beloved child.

Think about it: God calls you, His child. He is absolutely committed to your well-being, to doing what is best for you. And his love is not a performance-based love. It's lavished love.

Believing that you are God's child changes your life. Start telling yourself the truth about God's love and tear down that mental stronghold of performance-based love and value.

