



Hanging on Every Word Lenten Resource

Monday

- Read John 19:23-27
- How would you have reacted if you were witnessing this harsh treatment being administered to your child?
- Why do you think it was important for Jesus to ensure that someone would take care of his mother after his death?
- Why is the church often referred to as "family"? How does it make you feel to be a part of the "family"?
- Spend some time in prayer thanking God for the family of believers. Ask God to help you better embrace your connection to this family.

Tuesday

- Read Mark 10:35-45
- How does Jesus describe greatness?
- In what ways is the pursuit of greatness the antithesis of what Jesus teaches about greatness?
- How does this passage connect to Jesus' death narrative? In what ways do you see Jesus putting his teaching about service into practice?
- Spend a moment in prayer. Ask the Lord, to make you a servant.

Wednesday

Today begins your third week of fasting. How are you doing. Spend a moment reflecting on what you have seen, heard, learned or experienced in the past two weeks as you enter the third. This week, in response to Jesus' third word, we are practicing the discipline of "service". Use today as an opportunity to serve someone. Write a note. Buy someone a meal. Take someone flowers. Be proactive in seeking out ways you can be a blessing to someone today. As you serve, consider the lyrics of the simple song (and the genesis of the request you made in prayer yesterday):

Servant Song

Make me a servant Lord, make me like you
For you are a servant, make me one, too.
Make me a servant, do what you must do
To make me a servant, make me like you.

To love my brother, to serve like you do.
I humble my spirit, I bow before you.

And through my service, I'll be just like you.
So make me a servant, make me like you.

Open my hands Lord and teach me to share
Open my heart Lord and teach me to care,
For service to others is service to you.
Make me a servant, make me like you.

Thursday

- Read Galatians 5:1-15
- What does it mean to be "Free in Christ"?
- How does freedom in Christ prepare you to serve others?
- In what ways does selfishness stifle your service?
- Pray to God thanking him for your freedom in Christ and pray that He enlightens you on ways to use your freedom to serve others.

Friday

St. Francis of Assisi (b. 1181- d. 1226) is credited with praying the following prayer:

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen"

- How does this prayer capture the essence of being a servant?
- Francis is also credited with saying, "Preach the gospel always. When necessary, use words." How might our actions preach a better gospel than our words?
- Spend some time in prayer and conclude your prayer by reciting the prayer above.