



THURSDAY 08.26.10

Psalm 63:1-8

Can you remember the last time you felt a sense of desperation? Do you recall what transpired in your life that led you to that place of longing and need? We often do all we can to avoid having to depend on something external to ourselves. Yet, the Bible continually affirms the idea that it is a good and sacred thing to live your life in a dependent relationship with God. When our bodies are weary and our souls run dry, Psalm 63 directs us to find our sustenance and satisfaction in God.

- How would you describe your ability to depend on others? What experiences in your life have shaped the way you feel about depending on others?
- What do you think it looks like to depend on God? How might our dependence on God help us to grow more in love with God?



FRIDAY 08.27.10

Matthew 6:5-15

It is hard to imagine sustaining any significant relationship in our lives without consistent and honest communication. We often find ourselves caught up in trying to understand the right “mechanics” of a healthy prayer life, and we miss the very simple idea that prayer is nothing more than sharing our heart with God and allowing God’s heart to speak to us as well. In Matthew 6, Jesus not only provides us a guide to lead us in our prayers but also illustrates the intimate relationship we might have with our creator.

- As you read again verses 9-13 which contain what we commonly refer to today as the Lord’s Prayer, what is Jesus saying about the relationship God wants to have with us?
- When you think about your personal relationship with God, how well would you describe your communication? How might you commit to improving your prayer life today?



GROW • PRAY • STUDY

A RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLES SEEKING TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS & SERVE THE WORLD ...

Series: *Coffee with Pastors Mike and David*
Sermon: *How Did We Get Here?*
Scripture: **Matthew 22:34-40, Matthew 28:16-20**

*Making disciples of Jesus Christ who will love God,
love others and serve the world.*

Our strategy:

- Get people moving;
- Embed the Bible in everything;
- Create ownership;
- Pastor the community and the world.

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Introduction

Many of us set aside time on an annual or semi-annual basis to determine goals for our lives. Within that process, we try to honestly evaluate where we are, remind ourselves of where we want to go and we try to identify the steps we need to take to close the gap between where we are and where we want to go. Following Jesus is a constant process of closing the gap. During the next three weeks our GPS guide will be focused on reminding ourselves where we want to go. As we take this journey together, we pray that God will give us each the wisdom to identify the next steps we need to take.

What is the goal for the Christian life? We understand the goal to be centered in loving God, loving others and serving the world. This week we will look at the first category of discipleship, loving God. As you work through your readings for this week, may this prayer guide you.

Lord, I want to grow more and more in love with you every day. I want to honor you with our every thought, our every word and our every deed. Help me, God, to see the places where I may be falling short, to discover the grace you have for the mistakes that I have made in my life and to receive again the courage you give to live a life of love and faithfulness to you. AMEN.



MONDAY 08.23.10

Genesis 3:8-9

These two short verses from Genesis 3 which follow the serpent's deception of Adam and Eve illustrate for us the original intent of creation as well as what went wrong with humanity in the garden. In the cool of the day, Adam and Eve hear the familiar sound of God's footsteps. The creator of the world has come to be with them, but the guilt of their disobedience sends our first parents into hiding.

- What do you think it means to "hide" from God? In your life, what thoughts or feelings have led you to want to hide from God?
- What does this scene tell us about what our relationship with God was originally intended to look like? If you heard God's footsteps today, would you anticipate sharing a nice long walk or would you be tempted to hide?



TUESDAY 08.24.10

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Deuteronomy 6 is one of the most important texts of the Old Testament. Jews during the time of Jesus would have prayed every day what was referred to as the "Shema," a prayer based on the fourth and fifth verses of this text. A small scroll on which these verses were written would have hung near the door frames of their houses in fulfillment of verse 9. The very simple instructions contained in this passage were meant to be a constant reminder of the responsibilities that lie at the very heart of our faith.

- How do you understand what it means to love God will "all" your heart, soul and strength?
- The command to love God is quickly followed by the further instruction to teach others. Who are you responsible for teaching? Today, pray for those who are looking to you for guidance and support in their faith journey.



WEDNESDAY 08.25.10

Matthew 22:34-40

You might describe this question posed to Jesus by the expert in the law as both ridiculous and dangerous. It was a ridiculous question when you consider the vast number of laws that were to be kept by the Jews in Jesus' day. How exactly was Jesus supposed to synthesis six hundred laws into one core idea? When you consider the difficulty of that process, you see the dangerous trap that the expert in the law had set for Jesus. What really is at the heart of our right living?

- When Jesus is asked to identify the singular greatest commandment, he actually replies with two laws. What are they?
- How do you understand the answer that Jesus gives to the expert in the law? What does Jesus identify as our core value? How would you describe the influence that this core value has on your everyday life?
