

11-26-23 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“No matter how faithful we may think we are, when we fail to meet the opportunities God presents us every day—to offer acts of kindness and compassion to ‘the least of these,’ our faith is not real; we are only fooling ourselves. Acts of compassion may be simple kindnesses or significant sacrifices; but they are the only way to know God.”

- Bradley Bunn



Ephesians 1:15-23 † Matthew 25:31-46

Questions for Reflection —

- What has been your experience of encountering God in unexpected places and through seemingly unlikely persons? In what kinds of people do you have the most difficulty in recognizing the presence of Jesus? What will help you more clearly see the presence of Jesus in each and every person you encounter? What do you require in order to be more attuned to the needs of those around you? How can you make yourself freely and fully available to respond to those needs with kindness and compassion?

- What does it look like to let Christ reign in your heart? How does Christ govern your thoughts, words, and actions? Where are the gaps in our society and our world between the realities of how we live and what it means for God’s kingdom to be present on earth? What changes in individual and/or collective lifestyle or priorities might help bridge that gap? What will help you better notice the daily opportunities God places before you to act as a servant in God’s kingdom on earth?

- For what persons, places, and/or situations do you most regularly pray? How often do you pray for people with whom you do not have a personal connection? How can you widen your circle of prayer to make it more expansive and inclusive? Is it important to you to include in your prayers the body of Christ beyond the local congregation and beyond the denomination? Why or why not? What does it mean to pray for others across religious differences not only within but beyond Christianity?

Daily Household Prayer

Eternal God, you set Jesus Christ to rule over all things, and made us servants in your kingdom. By your Spirit empower us to love the unloved, and to minister to all in need. Then at the last bring us to your eternal realm where we may worship and adore you and be welcomed into your everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen