



WORLD
OUTREACH
WEEK

Living Your Life Through the Power of His Life

JANUARY 26 & 27, 2013 • DOUG VALENZUELA

Philippians 4:10-13

I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.

I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

I can do all this through him who gives me strength. *Philippians 4:10-13*

Notes



TWIN LAKES
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Daily Meditations

This week's daily meditations are all on the theme of local and global outreach to tie into the week's World Outreach Week emphasis.

Monday

Please read Jeremiah 29:4–7. This passage describes how God wanted his people to conduct themselves in the pagan city and culture where they were living. How do you suppose this applies to us as a church? To you as an individual?

How can we seek the peace and prosperity of Santa Cruz County? How does this help our goal of attracting people to the gospel of Christ?

How often do you pray for the city? Do you love the city? Are you serving our community in some way that leads to its prosperity and peace?

Is sharing the gospel a regular part of your life? How? Or— why not?

Ask God to help you seek the peace and prosperity of your “city”— and that your efforts would draw people to the gospel.

Tuesday

Read Matthew 5:43—Matthew 6:4. Jesus teaches that anyone touched by the grace of God will be helping the needy. Read Matthew 11:1–6. Jesus proves to John the Baptist that he is the Messiah partly by pointing to what he is doing for the poor and needy and sick. Read James 2:1–17. How does James' teaching mirror what Jesus says? Note that in all these passages, ministry to the poor is seen as a way to judge between true and false Christianity.

How does reaching out to the poor show that we understand God's grace? How does it help advance the message of the gospel to our community?

Ask God to help you see how you can help the poor and needy arounds you this week

Wednesday

Read Micah 6:8 and Luke 10:25–37. According to Jesus, who is your neighbor? How does Jesus illustrate what the true motive should be for showing mercy to your neighbor? What kind of opportunities does TLC provide to help the suffering and poor? In what ways are you involved in the lives of the poor, the marginalized, the suffering? How can helping the poor become an integral part of your life?

Some questions adapted from *Gospel in Life* discussion guide by Tim Keller

What sorts of things have you learned about yourself and about serving the poor when you have done service projects in the past?

Thank God for his mercy toward you today. Spends some time just dwelling on his grace!

Thursday

The Bible does not use guilt as a motivation. But it does argue powerfully for active engagement with the poor— out of gratitude to God and passion for the lost. Read Isaiah 58:3–10. According to these verses, what has the problem with the people's behavior? What is the result of “losing the chains of injustice”?

How have you found that God's light dawns in your heart when you help the poor and oppressed?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:2–3. Paul talks about the Macedonian Christians giving, not out of obligation, but out of spontaneous generosity and overflowing joy! How can really understanding God's love lead to this attitude?

Ask God to help you give and reach out from gracious and genuine motives, not out of a sense of guilt or obligation.

Friday

Read Matt. 5:14–16. Jesus wants our faith community to be a “city on a hill.” He wants the world to see in us all that life can be, in all its beauty and mercy and compassion, under the gracious leadership of Jesus Christ. How can we be a better “city on a hill” in both word and deed?

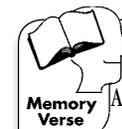
Read 1 Peter 3:15–16. How prepared are you to share your faith? Practice sharing your faith today: In your mind, describe how you would share your testimony in 3 or 4 minutes. Work in references to what our church is doing for the poor. Remember, Jesus said that our good deeds would draw people to him.

Ask God to help you be prepared to give a reason for the hope that you have.

Saturday

Go back over the devotions and your notes from the panel last weekend. What points leapt out to you this week?

Please pray for the services this weekend! Thank you!



Memory Verse

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. . . In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14,16