

MESSAGE NOTES

How's That Working For You?

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Verse of the Week:

"Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, since she was unable to have children. The LORD was moved by his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. But the boys pushed against each other inside of her, and she said, 'If this is what it's like, why did it happen to me?' So she went to ask the LORD. And the LORD said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb; two different peoples will emerge from your body. One people will be stronger than the other; the older will serve the younger.' (Gen. 25:21-23,CEB)

Daily Prayer - Collect for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost:

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Daily Readings:

The readings for this week were mistakenly put in last week's devotional guide. We decided to repeat them this week for reinforcement.

Monday, July 6: Psalm 142; Micah 1:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Tuesday, July 7: Psalm 142; Jeremiah 49:7-11; Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Wednesday, July 8: Psalm 142; Obadiah 15-21; Matthew 13:10-17

Thursday, July 9: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Isaiah 44:1-5; Hebrews 2:1-9

Friday, July 10: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Ezekiel 39:21-29; Hebrews 6:13-20

Saturday, July 11: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Exodus 14:9-25; Matthew 7:15-20

Lectionary Texts for Sunday, July 5 (Proper 11)

Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24;

Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Questions for Reflection/Journaling/Discussion:

1. How did you respond to this week's message? What insights or questions did it raise for you?
2. Do you tend to view people in black and white terms (i.e., a person is either all good or all bad)?
3. What family patterns do you want to continue? What family patterns would you like to change? How can God use you to sustain the positive patterns and alter the negative ones?
4. In what ways do you struggle with requiring instant self-gratification?
5. In what ways do you struggle with manipulating others for your own ends?
6. In what areas of your life is God calling you to move out of living in the flesh and begin living in the Spirit?
7. Read the lectionary texts for next Sunday. What questions do they raise for you?

Intercessory Prayer Guide:

Monday - Pray for District 38 leaders who are making important decisions about the coming school year.

Tuesday - Pray for those battling ailments of mind and body.

Wednesday - Pray for the world and its needs.

Thursday - Pray for the Church and her life.

Friday - Pray for emergency and rescue organizations.

Saturday - Pray for the Lord to move in a powerful way during our worship, both for those there in person and those participating online.