




Theme: Jesus Loves People THIS Much! “The Second Sacrament”


We have a great new way for you to get these Meditation Moments each day directly to your phone. Just text “**med moments**” to **970-426-0700** to receive the **daily Meditation Moment** each morning and start your day grounded in faith and peace.

Weekly Memory Verse:

19 Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” – Matthew 4:19


Meditation Moments for Monday, June 15 – Read **Matthew 4:18-22**. Why would four adult fishermen drop everything at Jesus’ call? Jewish boys in Jesus’ day were taught to memorize the first five Old Testament books by age 10. Those who were exceptional at reading the scriptures memorized the rest of the Old Testament by age 15. The best of them followed a rabbi and became rabbinic scholars. Fishermen made a good living but were still “rejects” from that system. It was like an out of the blue college acceptance when Rabbi Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow him.


 By stepping outside “the system” of his day, Jesus found people with minds more open to his radical ideas about what it meant to be the Messiah. In what ways has Jesus called you to go beyond “the system(s)” in which you grew up and were trained? Imagine Jesus showing up, looking you in the eye, and saying, “I see all you can be. I believe in you. Come and follow me.” How would that feel?

 Jesus’ disciples changed their lives to follow him. Following Jesus requires a change in our life, often meaning we need to open ourselves up to others and to God, recognizing that following Jesus takes a team. What were your first steps in answering Jesus’ call to you? In what way(s) is Jesus calling you now to connect with others who follow Jesus? What spiritual practices help you keep your heart and life open to hear and answer Jesus’ call?

Prayer: *Jesus, may I hear you call to follow today and listen for how you love me in that call. I say simply, "yes," and ask you to change my heart and life. Amen.*


Tuesday, June 16 – Read **John 1:40-42 and 6:1-13**. Matthew 4 simply said Jesus called four people to follow him—Andrew, his brother Simon Peter, James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John. John's gospel put the calls in sequence. Andrew, John said, met Jesus, and then led his brother Peter to Jesus. John also said Andrew found the boy with a small lunch that Jesus multiplied to feed a large crowd. It's clear from the beginning of Jesus' ministry that he wanted a team and not just individuals to follow.


 The Bible suggests that Andrew was Simon Peter's "quiet" brother. Peter boldly affirmed and denied Jesus. He also spoke at Pentecost, the birth of the church after the resurrection of Jesus in Acts 2, and left his name on two New Testament letters, 1 and 2 Peter. Yet Andrew brought Peter to Jesus. Are you more like Peter or Andrew? In what quiet, simple ways can you serve God, bless others—and maybe bring someone to Jesus?

 According to John 6:8-9, Andrew brought forward the youth's lunch of five barley loaves and two fish, even though he couldn't see how it would do any good to make Jesus aware of it. Have you ever offered God a gift of time, talent or money even though it seemed too small to do any good? Have you ever held back a gift for that reason?

Prayer: *Jesus, give me the courage to invite others into your community, knowing that you call those who follow you to use our simple gifts to bless others. May I remember that no gift is too small and there are people that come across my path today that need you and need me. Amen.*


Wednesday, June 17 – Read **Mark 3:16-18, Mark 10:35-40, and Acts 12:1-2**. Do you picture Jesus as someone who'd give nicknames? That's something someone would do to people close to them. Jesus called James and John "the sons of thunder." Along with Peter, whom Jesus would later call "the Rock," they became the three closest to Jesus. James and John once asked for high places in Jesus' kingdom. Jesus said, "You don't know what you're asking," but "You will drink the cup I drink." James did as he was the first apostle martyred, as was Peter.


 James and John's effort to "lock up" the highest spots in Jesus' kingdom is one of the all-time messed up self-promotion attempts. What does it tell you about Jesus that he kept these flawed people in his inner circle as he faced the cross in Mark 14:33? What does it tell you about how Jesus looks at you, even when you've blown it?

 Herod hoped James' death would stop the apostles' witness. Acts 12:3 said the religious leaders in Jerusalem were pleased. But, like Jesus' crucifixion, this plan backfired. The Christian movement kept growing. God worked even through a tragedy like James' execution. How has God worked for good even through losses or disappointments in your life?

Prayer: *Jesus, you see ALL of me, even those parts that feel like disappointment or failure. I know you can redeem those flaws. You see past my shortcomings. Help me to see past what I see as flaws in others so I can live like those first disciples. Amen.*


Thursday, June 18 – Read **Acts 4:1-14**. 40 days after he denied even knowing Jesus, Peter, “inspired by the Holy Spirit,” preached boldly on the day of Pentecost and led 3,000 people to faith in Jesus in Acts 2. He didn’t stop there. When the same leaders who crucified Jesus jailed him, he confidently declared his faith in his risen Lord. In the end, Christian tradition says, he died a martyr in Rome.


 This episode started when Peter and John healed a lame man in Jesus’ name in Acts 3:6-10. Imagine the frustration and fear the religious leaders, who hoped Jesus’ death would put an end to that kind of thing, must have felt. Have you ever found yourself resisting God in your life, hoping an inner conviction or calling would go away?

 Peter quoted Psalm 118:22 when he said of Jesus, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.” That wasn’t a novel view; Jesus himself had quoted the verse that way in Mark 12:10. What is one way you have built Jesus into the very foundation of your life? What deepens your desire to make Jesus the cornerstone of your whole way of life?

Prayer: *Jesus, help me to know you in a deep way so I would be directed by your voice. May I see you in others, so I know I am part of a community that has you as our foundation. Amen.*


Friday, June 19 – Read **Romans 12:10** and **Mark 10:46-52**. “Love each other,” “show honor to each other.” Where did early Christians get that idea? It’s no great mystery. They, like us, followed Jesus, who constantly showed kindness, love, and honor to others. In Mark 10 we read that Jesus passed through Jericho, about 12 miles from Jerusalem, just before the last week of his life. A blind man named Bartimaeus cried out a prayer: “Son of David, have mercy on me!” The words, “Son of David,” expressed faith that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus loved and honored the man by restoring his sight.


 The disciples are preoccupied with wanting to set up the kingdom Jesus preaches about, not understanding that stopping for a blind beggar is the sort of thing Jesus’ kingdom is all about. Have you ever gotten so busy pursuing “important things” that you have become more like the disciples than like Jesus when given a chance to respond kindly to someone else?

 In a world without Braille or any established support services, a blind man had to beg. We might expect Jesus, of all people, would greet a person with a need with words like, “I know just what to do for you.” But he wisely and kindly knew that if we don’t realize our need, we may block his healing power. So, he asked even this blind man, “What do you want me to do for you?” Have you learned how to treat hurting people with the same kind of respect?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, keep teaching me how to love and show honor to others in ways that follow your model. Let my caring acts grow from kindness and respect, not from a condescending sense of superiority. Amen.

Saturday, June 20 – Read **1 John 4:7-12 and 19-21**. As John wrote about how we human beings treat one another, he likely thought about himself and Jesus' other disciples. Mark 10:35-45 tells us they jockeyed for position and got angry with one another, just like most groups of humans do at times! Yet as they continued to walk with Jesus, he re-shaped their thoughts and actions. John knew from his own experience that loving others with Christ's love doesn't spring from a naturally warm human disposition. This kind of active love comes from God, "because love is from God." It is a choice we make when we are willing to do life with others.

 John's phrase "No one has ever seen God" in verse 12 feels at first like a misplaced thought. But he went on to say, "If we love each other, God remains in us." Gordon Jensen wrote a song that says, "You're the only Jesus some will ever see," and that was what John was driving at. As your capacity grows to take in God's love, to see yourself as loveable in God's sight, how is this changing the way you see and relate to others?

 Do you ever tend to think of God's love for you and your neighbors as conditional, as something that comes and goes depending on how you act? How does John's vivid phrase "God IS love" in verse 8 point your understanding in a different direction?

Prayer: Dear God, you know that it's not quite as natural for me to love as it is for you. Please keep loving me as I stretch and grow in my ability to reflect your love to others. Amen.