

“The End of the Pentateuch”

Theme: Lessons from Moses, the Prince of Egypt

Sermon Scripture: Deuteronomy 34:1-5 (NRSV)

Guest Speaker: Morgan Holick

Intimacy with God

Monday, September 23rd –

There is a quote on prayer out there by St. Francis De Sales that goes like this: “Everyone of us needs half an hour of prayer each day, except when we are busy—then we need an hour.” In my time here, I have had the phrase “but in reality” said to me many times. People like certain Biblical ideas or teachings but these things don’t feel practical when it comes to everyday living. Can I tell you something? The Kingdom of God isn’t practical or realistic. It is mind-blowing and life-altering. Our daily desires can act as a reference point for where we are at in our relationship with God, especially when we feel crazy busy. Intentionally creating time for communication with God each day can redirect our desires and transform us into Kingdom-minded people. This week, take moments throughout your day (at lunch, while driving, mid-tasks) to say this simple prayer:

Lord,
Thank you.
Thank you.
Thank you.
Amen.

Tuesday, September 24th –

Do you ever watch the news or read an article online or in the paper that makes you feel drained of energy and hope? James Finley says in his book *Merton’s Palace of Nowhere* that “in prayer we transcend both place and time.” Prayer is a point in which heaven and earth collide. Decide now to pause and pray whenever you experience hopelessness throughout the week. Remember: you are not of this world. Prayer allows us to dance with the One whom we were created to know. Pass through the door of God and be held and refilled. This broken world needs to see your hope. Better yet, they need to know the One who gives you hope.

Wednesday, September 25th –

Physical care and spiritual care are intertwined. We are told in 1 Corinthians that our bodies are temples of God so we should care for them well. For the next few days, intentionally involve your body in prayer. Maybe this means that you choose to give up eating or drinking something unhealthy each day. Maybe this means getting up a few minutes earlier in the mornings to stretch. Use the moments in which you make better choices for your body to redirect your attention towards God. You could say a simple prayer or just imagine God lovingly gazing upon you, as God does.

The Passing of the Baton

Thursday, September 26th –

Our lives are not about us. Our lives are about intimacy with God. We have the opportunity to participate in God’s mission to redeem the world by helping faith live on through acts of service, sharing our testimonies, and loving our neighbors as ourselves. As you look for ways to pass on the baton of faith to others this week, take some time to reflect on this prayer by St. Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Friday, September 27th –

Think of specific ways you can pass off the baton of faith to those around you. Will you go out of your way to make a young person feel welcome and loved in church? Will you volunteer to lead a middle or high school small group? Will you intentionally make time to talk to your kids about faith? Will you share your testimony with your neighbor? Sharing your faith can look a million different ways. In the empty space below, write at least one way you will purposefully share your faith this week.

Saturday, September 28th –

Do you remember whose name you wrote down on a sticky note in service? Today is the day to reach out to them if you haven't already done so. God laid them on your heart for a reason. Ask them to coffee or, if they live far away, write them a letter. Share your story of God's relentless love. Pray for them and with them like Moses prayed for Aaron. Here is a prayer you may wish to pray together by Jean Vanier:

Lord,
We will never win the Olympics of humanity,
racing for perfection,
but we can walk together in hope,
celebrating that we are loved in our brokenness;
helping each other,
growing in trust,
living in thanksgiving,
learning to forgive,
opening up to others and welcoming them,
and striving to bring peace and hope to the world.
Amen.