

MID-WEEK REFLECTION 8

“At Our Savior’s Way Lutheran Church, we value knowing God’s Word.”

GETTING STARTED:

Where did you experience God’s presence in your life this week?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Luke 2:41-52 *Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”*

“Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Question: As a child did you go through Confirmation? What was studying the Bible and the teaching of the catechism like for you? Has your attitude toward studying the Bible changed over the years? Why or why not?

Question: Imagine a parent being separated from their 12-year-old child from three days, not knowing where he was? Mary and Joseph had a right to be upset with Jesus. Why was being in His Father’s house important to Jesus?

Question: Look at the last verse in the text above. How did Jesus’ passion for the Word of God bless his life? What does it mean that we as a congregation value knowing God’s Word?

Matthew 4:1-11 *“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down.” For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you” he said, “If you bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.” The devil left him, and angels came and attended him.*

Question: How would you describe the temptations Jesus faced? Why were they a real danger for him?

Question: Can you identify with Jesus? Have you ever felt tempted by evil?

Question: How did Jesus spiritually fight off temptation? What can you learn from this story to help you spiritually?

REFLECTION AND CHALLENGE:

Luke 10:38-42 *As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"*

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Question: What is the point of this story? Is this a story about two sisters, one who was hard working and the other lazy, or one who was faithful and the other not?

Question: What made Mary's choice a better choice?

Question: What would Jesus say to you about the choices you make about how you live? Is there anything in your life that needs to change?

Look at the following list of aids you could use to nourish your spiritual life. Make a commitment to grow in God's Word.

1. Regularly attend congregational worship and receive Holy Communion.
2. Take at least five minutes to read a daily devotion.
3. Ask a blessing upon your daily meals.
4. Take time to pray the Lord's Prayer each day and ask God's will to be done in your life.
5. Download a Bible app on your phone or laptop and begin a daily reading program.
6. Take a walk and reflect on God's creation and give thanks for the gift of life.
7. Pray for a friend or family member or a person, who needs God's blessing.
8. Find a prayer partner and agree to daily pray for each other.
9. Listen to WGTS or to Christian music in your car while you commute.