



March 18

Micah 6:8

"He has told you, O Mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

This verse intrigued me because I thought its question was a rhetorical one. It isn't. The verses before it were questions the Israelites asked God so they would understand exactly how they should observe religious rituals and what sacrifices and how many should they perform to be in compliance with religious law.

God responds with this verse that the people already know the answer: He doesn't need or desire what they're offering. Instead He requires them to act justly and show mercy. Just as Jesus did not divide people into "us" and "them" categories, but spoke only of "we," as Christians we must live in love rather than fear of other individuals. This attitude requires many of us to change our hearts. Therefore, without heart, any conformity to church law is hypocrisy.

This verse harkened back to the mission statement I wrote at a retreat last year. I have not been living justly because I have not always been welcoming to new, different ideas from others. So not only must I live with a strong knowledge of right and wrong, but in doing so I must protect the innocent. On that mission I am still a work in progress.

To love mercy I must show love to my fellow man. This task is not simple in our polarized country. Listening to others without judgment who have different beliefs would be to love mercy.

So what I have learned from studying this verse and applying it to my own life is instead of taking pride in what I bring to God realize that no amount of personal sacrifice can replace a just and loving heart.

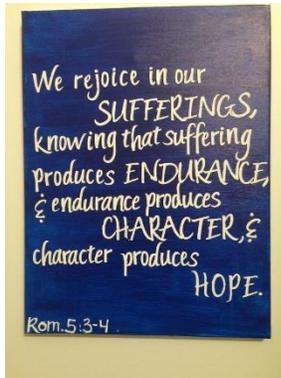
My words to live for now are the following:

OUTWARD > do justice

INWARD > show mercy

UPWARD > walk humbly

Lori Walters



March 19

Romans 5:3-5

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Life can get hard, and if it is not now, then someday it will be. This Bible verse reminds us that good things can blossom out of suffering and struggling. And it is a promise- that hope will not disappoint us because God loves us. This Lenten Season reminds us that God is with us, all of the time, and there is purpose and meaning even in the difficult times. So, if you're struggling and suffering along the journey, which we surely all do at some point in our lives, keep going. Beautiful things are waiting for you.

We miss all of you,

Erik and Heather Peterson

March 20

Joshua 1:9



“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Oftentimes we are at stages, phases, or points in our lives when we’re in a position that may be unfamiliar or a change from the norm and that can feel terrifying. It could be a high school graduate about to leave his/her home and family to attend college in a different town or state. Or a young adult about to venture off into the military with no idea of where that path may lead beyond their initial training. Maybe a young, newly married couple moving to a foreign country; leaving friends and family to begin their lives together. A military service member deploying to a foreign land seemingly burdened with the weight of position responsibilities. A middle-aged adult transitioning to a life-long desired career path. Someone retiring from a 20, 30, or 40 year career from their profession and not knowing what lies ahead. The passing of a loved one and wondering how life proceeds without.

Regardless of the situation or phase/stage or point in one’s life; we are not alone, it may feel that way at the time, but we are never alone. Believe...have faith. Don’t be terrified, don’t be discouraged; be strong and courageous for God is with us. God’s got your back!

Todd Burns

Commit everything you do to the Lord.



March 21

Psalm 37:5

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

The Lutheran Study Bible says: The psalm calls us to trust that following God's way is the best course in life and that God's plans and purposes will win the day.

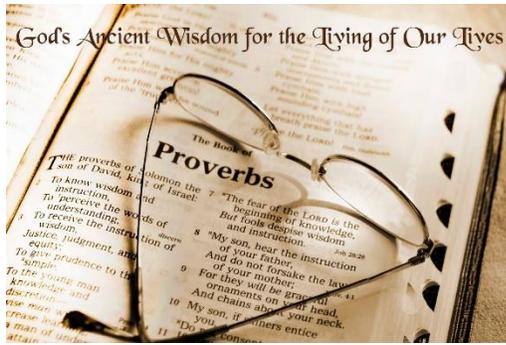
Approximately 35 years ago I became aware of the Guardian ad Litem program. A Guardian ad Litem enjoys the personal satisfaction of making sure that a child is not forgotten and has a voice in court as they advocate for the best interests of that child.

At the time I thought it would be something I would like to become involved in. Life happened and it was not the "right" time. As the time to consider retiring came closer, I once again started thinking of the GAL program. I took steps to begin: application, references, background check and an interview. I quickly realized that while I was still working I couldn't attend the necessary training. I was able to retire sooner than expected. After some family time I was able to start training. I was assigned my first two cases. I started visiting "my kids".

Looking back, I now see it couldn't happen in my time, it had to be God's time. God made it possible for me to retire early, God made it possible to take family time when I needed to and God connected me to "His kids".

I feel very strongly God has a purpose for me in over 31 children's lives. Do I do everything perfect? No. Do I try to seek what God wants? Every time. Rewards--yes. Struggles--yes. Disappointments--some. I pray every day and with God's guidance we will change "His kids" lives for the better.

Marcia Katt



March 22

Proverbs 4:12

When you walk, your steps will not be hindered; when you run, you will not stumble.

High heels have never been my friend. They are amazingly cute but extremely difficult for me to walk in. I always feel awkward walking in them and stumble to get my balance. In my head I'm a graceful runway model showing off dazzling new heels but in reality, I march and thump around loudly attempting to stay vertical and poised. If I'm walking...well marching, next to my mom she will say, "Maddie, stop marching. Remember it's heel, toe, heel, toe. I hear her voice any time I decide to wear a pair of heels and that little bit of encouraging wisdom helps me navigate my path without broken ankles!

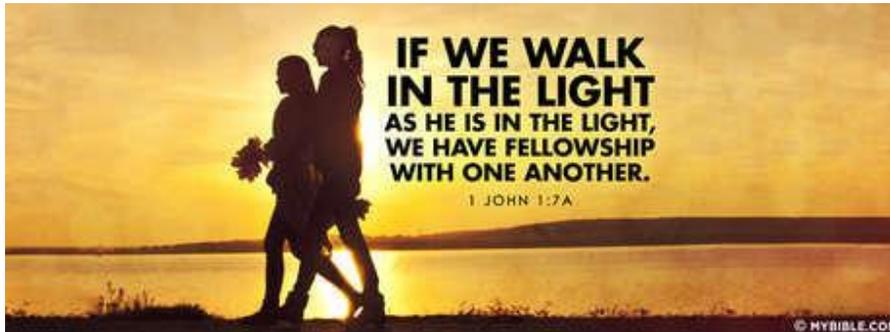
God gives us the wisdom to navigate and walk through life. Sometimes it can feel like we are stumbling in heels. Sometimes we feel like we take one step forward just to take two steps backwards, but God is always there to pick us up. When I've stumbled in life I find that once I focus on those small steps towards God's wisdom and grace, I find confidence and joy. Those small steps help me push through. Mostly I find God's wisdom in my parents encouraging love and advice. You just have to keep moving.... heel, toe, heel, toe. God is with us no matter if you run, hop, jump or fall in life, He is there right beside us.

Dear Lord, Guide us when we walk and run in life. Give us the wisdom and courage to boldly share your love and kindness to the world. Amen.

Madaline Crecelius

March 23

1 John 1:7



7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. NIV

7 But if we live in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. Lamsa (ancient eastern manuscripts)

After 9 days of rain last month what a joy to “walk” or “live” in the sunshine. So, one of our lessons for Lent could be to walk or live in the “Son” whether there be rain or sun. How easy it is to walk or live in our Christian Path when all is good, easy, “going our way”. Again, we know how hard it is to ignore the nasty comments, the hurtful statements, that car cutting us off in traffic, that bad health report, or a leaking roof.

The word is easy to ignore when we have read it all our lives, heard it from the pulpit, from our own devotions, and scripture. Our dear Lord gives us support and caring concern in all our endeavors. A problem I might encounter, could be I am not being aware of His gentle grip. He has many ways to support me “fellowship with one another”, prayer, devotions, Pastors, teachers, and best of all “the blood of Jesus, his son, purifies us from all sin”. How I love my fellowship with my friends and family. How I treasure knowing I am in his “light” and “walk”.

Dear Lord, May we in this season, pay attention to all the word and “walk” and “live” the sun we receive from your Son. Amen.

Tonie Neal