

Devotions – April 11-17, 2021

By Sherri Makowski

Calvary Lutheran Church, Rapid River, MI

Sunday April 11, 2021

Text: Philippians 4:8-9

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

In these verses I think of my mother always telling me, after I've said something negative, "Now say three nice things." I tend to be somewhat of a pessimist, always judging others. If I would just think before I speak and try to look at things in a more positive way, maybe she wouldn't have to say this to me.

I have been so blessed throughout my life that as I get older, I do need to slow down and reflect on all the good that has happened in my life.

What are three nice things you can say about someone that you have judged today?

Pray that we can all be better role models of God's grace to others and take the time to breathe, relax and be thankful. Amen



Monday, April 12, 2021

Text: Matthew 6:33-34

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Sometimes, it's hard not to worry because, if you're a person that suffers from anxiety, then you're great at worrying. If I keep reading verse 33 first, then I can put my trust in the Lord by constantly seeking his kingdom and righteousness. Have faith and live each day to the fullest. God will work with me through my worries and turn them into learning curves along this road called life.

Pray for all people who suffer with anxiety. May they turn to God and God's mighty strength and understanding today and always. Amen



Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Text: Proverbs 15:13

A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit.

In this verse, I feel that we should always try to be happy. But I also feel that if I'm always happy and my face is cheerful, I may be fake and not show my heartache or sadness, just to please or pacify another person.

When your spirit is crushed, it's hard to have cheerfulness on your face. I believe that God knows that we can't be happy all the time and God works through others to help lift our spirits to return to a happy heart.

God, thank you for giving us friends to be by our side when we have a heartache. Amen



Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Text: 1 John 3:16

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

How do we know what love is?

Love is different for everyone. When I read this verse, I think of the commercial for Shriners Hospital for children. The children, of all different ages and sickness, are asked, "What is love?" The answers are not all the same but a lot of them have to do with people giving to Shriners Hospital to help these children with their individual medical needs. I always feel good after

seeing these happy children that are getting the much needed care through the generosity of others. To me, it's a true testament of good in the world which blossoms into love.

God, help us all to know your love in all that we do. Amen



Thursday, April 15, 2021

Text: Ephesians 2:8

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast.

Grace - meaning the gift. I love this word and I always said that if I had a daughter, I would have named her Grace. Well, for those of you that know me, I never did have a child of my own to name. I was blessed with much grace though, through my marriage. I was blessed not only with a stepdaughter, Nicole, but also a granddaughter, Genevieve. What a true gift of God's love and grace. Though we may not always see eye to eye, we do have much love for each other. I thank God for allowing me these precious gifts and giving me faith to guide them forward.

*Pray today for stepparents and stepchildren and may they feel God's grace and love always.
Amen*



Friday, April 16, 2021

Text: Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

This last year has been very hard for so many reasons. But I can honestly say that I haven't feared getting Covid-19. I think that is because we lost my stepfather, Rob, so unexpectedly from a heart attack, at the beginning of the pandemic, that it put life in true perspective for me. It showed me how short life is and that it can be changed in the blink of an eye.

I'm not afraid of death and I truly believe God comforts me in hard times and shows me not to fear.

Pray for those who have lost loved ones suddenly and teach them to have faith that is bigger than fear. Amen



Saturday, April 17, 2021

Text: Proverbs 27:2

Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.

Praise is definitely hard for me to accept, what about you? Sometimes, when someone praises me for something I have done, I feel embarrassed, as if I am not worthy of their praise. Why do we feel unworthy?

Even though the verse says to let another praise you and not let yourself brag, it is still hard for some to accept the praise. I have been told, that if you constantly negate peoples praise, you are actually belittling them.

Lord God, please give us strength to humbly accept praise from others with a kind heart and true understanding. Amen

