

Devotional Guide for the Week of November 23

Also available at <http://connellnazarene.com>

Opening Prayer: Almighty God, as I remember Your goodness to me this week, help me to offer thanks to You with a sincere heart, in a way that will bless You. Amen.

Daily Reading and Reflection

Prayer: for the church, for others, for myself.

Hymn: "Because I Have Been Given Much"

Because I have been given much,
I too must give.
Because of Thy great bounty, Lord,
Each day I live,
I shall divide my gifts from Thee
With ever brother that I see
Who has the need of help from me.

Because I have been sheltered, fed,
By Thy good care,
I cannot see another's lack
And not share
My glowing fire, my loaf of bread,
My roof's safe shelter overhead,
That he too may be comforted.

Because love has been lavished so
Upon me, Lord,
A wealth I know that was not meant
For me to hoard,
I shall give love to those in need-
Shall show that love by word and deed:
Thus shall my thanks be thanks indeed.

Closing Prayer: Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds. Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen. (Psalm 72:18-19)

Monday

Read: Matthew 7:1-6

Reflect: Why do you think Jesus instructs us to not judge one another? Why do you think it is so much easier to see the speck in our brother's eye than the plank in our own eye? What would it take for us to be more observant of our short comings?

Tuesday

Read: John 15:1-17

Reflect: From this passage alone can you determine what Jesus considered fruit in the lives of his disciples? What motivation does Jesus give us to love one another? In what ways did Jesus demonstrate how to fulfill the command of love?

Wednesday

Read: John 15:18-16:4

Reflect: Do you think Jesus expects us to be persecuted for following him (even 2000 years after his ministry)? What is the role of the Helper, or Holy Spirit, according to Jesus? Does Jesus' teaching make it easier for his disciples as he is about to leave them?

Thursday

Read: 1 John 1:5-2:14

Reflect: John says that he writes so that they might not sin. How does his writing keep his readers from sin? What is the difference between "little children," "fathers," and "young men" in vv. 12-14? Why does Jesus make these instructions to the different groups twice?

Friday

Read: 1 John 4:7-21

Reflect: How do you define love after reading this passage? Why is important for love to work between people, and between people and God? What does it look like to abide in God?