

DAILY READING PLAN

Week of December 18, 2022

From Generation to Generation:

We See God In Each Other

Luke 1:39-43



Day #1 - Read Genesis 1:26-27 | *Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

What does it mean to be made in the image of God? How do you see that image in others? In yourself?

Day #2 - Read Ephesians 2:8-10 | *God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

In Genesis we read that God hand-crafted us from the dust of the ground. In today's passage Paul says that in Christ we are God's masterpiece, carefully crafted in Christ. How does this change the way you see your own value? The value in others?

Day #3 - Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-21 | *There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have. The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. If the*

foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. How strange a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

Everyone is gifted. Everyone belongs. Paul emphasizes these things to compel the Corinthians to more fully love one another. How can these truths compel you to more fully love your neighbor?

Day #4 - Read Acts 9:26-28 | When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer! Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus. So, Saul stayed with the apostles and went all around Jerusalem with them, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.

The apostles couldn't see the value in Saul. They only knew him as a persecutor of Christians. But Barnabas helped them to see more, to see Christ in Saul. Who helps you to see the value in others, to open your eyes to see more? Who can you help to see more?

Day 5 - Read Matthew 9:27-31 | After Jesus left the girl's home, two blind men followed along behind him, shouting, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" They went right into the house where he was staying, and Jesus asked them, "Do you believe I can make you see?" "Yes, Lord," they told him, "we do." Then he touched their eyes and said, "Because of your faith, it will happen." Then their eyes were opened, and they could see! Jesus sternly warned them, "Don't tell anyone about this." But instead, they went out and spread his fame all over the region.

This is just one of many stories of Jesus opening the eyes of the blind. Today, make a list of a few people or groups of people in whom you struggle to see the image of God. As you consider those things that blind you from seeing the image of God in them, ask Jesus to open your eyes.