April 05 / Sunday Surprise the World: Sent

Read Luke 19:28-42



06 / Mon - Habit #5 and the challenge | Read Psalm 68:11 (applies to both men and women)

This is the last of the five habits of highly missional people: seeing yourself as sent *by God*. As you cultivate listening to the Spirit and learning Christ, you start seeing evidence that God is at work in and around you. Then, as a sent one, you are able to help others recognize that God is present in their lives too. The challenge for the week is to notice and record any opportunities you have to encourage others and point out God's reign. Where do you see God at work?

07 / Tue - Rocks | Read <u>Luke 19:32-40</u>

On Sunday, Christians celebrated Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem while the people shouted exhuberant praises. The religious leaders thought it was disgraceful. They demanded that Jesus rebuke the people. His response: *If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out*. Beautiful sunsets, starry skies, soaring mountains all proclaim God's majesty. Does God really 'need' people to praise Him? Strangely, when you verbalize God's goodness out loud, it changes you on the inside.

08 / Wed - The anchor holds | Read Hebrews 11:6

In a time of worldwide turmoil, there is an anchor to keep you steady. It is a deeply-held conviction that God exists, that things are not out of *His* control, and that God is actively involved with all of His creation, bringing about His divine plan. Will you always understand it? No...but if you believe that God is good and that He is sovereign, you will find peace that persists. Where do you see God at work right now, in you and others?

09 / Thu - Remember | Read Romans 5:6-8

This is the time. Don't keep silent as we move through Holy Week. Not only speak with your words, as the Spirit leads, but broadcast it with your actions and attitudes. This is what Jesus wanted his dearly loved disciples to remember from their final meal together...God is good. God is present and their worst nightmare would become their greatest joy. His love was demonstrated through Jesus' willing sacrifice on behalf of all humanity. Will you share this good news whenever you can?

10 / Fri – Jesus' followers are not immune | Read Isaiah 43:1-3

The Jews were looking for a mighty king who would free them by military strategy and power but did not see their more critical need - freedom of the soul. Bodies are temporary. The real you will live forever. And you get to choose where. Jesus' cruel death by crucifixion seemed to be the end for his followers and mocked their faith in Him. Have you experienced something so terrible it mocks *your* belief that God is good, that He loves you? How does one recover from that?

11 / Sat – Waiting | Read <u>Psalm 30:5 and 46:10</u>

It is hard to imagine what the day after the crucifixion was like for Jesus' followers. The darkness and grief must have covered them like heavy blankets. Minds were flooded with confusion and the 'why' questions that come when hope is crushed, filled with fear that they would be next with no one to save them. If you are in that place right now, God sees you. The One, who knows you best, loves you most. So wait. Nothing lasts forever...and Sunday joy is coming!

