

## Daily Devotionals

### March 3, 2021

#### Theme: Seek ye first the Kingdom of God...

##### Day 1: Exodus 20:1-17

The 10 commandments are offered to us as an ordering for life. They begin with the first commandment, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the Land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me (v.2-3)." God reminds the people of who God is then reminds them to keep God first. In Martin Luther's explanation of this commandment in the Small Catechism, he wrote: "*What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.*" Do you have daily practices that remind you and help you to trust in God above all things?

##### Day 2: Exodus 20:1-17

The first three commandments involve our relationship with God. The rest of the commandments then pertain to our relationship with others. This ordering appears quite intentional. How does your relationship with God effect your relationship with others?

##### Day 3: John 2:13-22

The people of Jesus' time when to meet God in the temple. In the Gospel of John, Jesus is God in human flesh. The people were no longer to meet God in the temple. They were to meet God in the person of Jesus. Where do you go to meet God?

##### Day 4: John 2:13-22

The disciples appear to have been there watching what Jesus was doing and overhearing what he was saying in the temple that day. They heard him talking about the people destroying the temple and him raising it up in 3 days. Yet they didn't understand. Not yet. It wasn't until after Jesus was raised from the dead that they understood. Are there aspects of your faith that you understand differently now than you did before?

##### Day 5: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The "foolishness" of the cross is counter to the ordering of the world. The wisdom of this world seeks power. The cross is a symbol of weakness and suffering. Among other things, the people of the church in Corinth were quarreling over which sort of ordering to live by: status and power or servanthood and selflessness. How do you see these opposing messages still alive in the world today? Are there areas in your life where you experience struggles related to the messages of the world vs the messages of discipleship?

##### Day 6: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Paul reminds the people of Corinth that God is the one with ultimate wisdom. It is wisdom from the Lord that we are to follow. "For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength (v.25)." In this, Paul reminds the people of the wisdom it make the most sense to follow. With help from the Holy Spirit, how do you seek to follow the wisdom of the Lord each day?

### **Psalm 19**

This psalm closes with words that have become the prayer of many: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer (v.14)." What a meaningful way to seek to journey through life, for each of us to seek for the words of our mouths and the mediation of our hearts to be pleasing to the Lord. The One who offers us grounding, the one who redeems us when our thoughts and actions are far from pleasing. Perhaps these words can serve as a perpetual restart button when we find our thoughts and our actions going astray. In each new moment, in each new day, "may the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to the Lord, my rock and my redeemer" Amen.