

Digging Deeper During the Week!

Times of refreshing ... that is what God wants you experience this week! Will you accept His invitation? *Your willingness to listen to His guidance and counsel will afford you refreshment and rest in His presence!*

Monday Refreshed Through Confession!
3-Mar Matthew 3.1-6

It all starts with repentance! Repentance begins at the door of confession – admitting to God all of your moral and spiritual failures.

- John the Baptizer comes onto the scene and calls people to repentance for a specific reason ... what is that reason? What significance does this have upon us? Since every kingdom requires a King, who will Jesus have to become in your life as you repent?
- There were two specific actions in this repentance (6). What were those actions? What is the significance of these steps? What parallels could you do to express your repentance before God and humanity?

Tuesday Refreshed with a Clear Conscience!
4-Mar 2 Corinthians 7.9-11

Refreshment from God comes when we shed the attitudes and activities of the life of moral and spiritual sin.

- Paul, the author of today's passage, rejoices in the sorrow that his previous writing had caused in the lives of these God-followers. Why can he feel that way? According to these verses, what responses led to Paul's attitudes expressed here?
- The sorrow of repentance has a very specific goal, which is very different from the sorrow of the world. Contrast the differences, as explained in the text. Now, are these the things you experience?

Wednesday Refreshed by Bearing Good Fruit!
5-Mar Luke 3.7-18

In order to experience the refreshment of God, life has to change. As we align our lives with the desires of God, our fruitfulness sweetens both the lives of others and our own life in the process!

- As John the Baptizer calls people to repentance, he knows that only a 'whole turn' to God will bring His graceful refreshment. What is the most common excuse for not producing spiritual fruit? (8) How can your 'families' faith' be such a detriment to your spiritual fruitfulness? What can you do to prevent such deception?

"I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead." **Philippians 3:13 (NLT)**

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- Good fruit – what does this passage distinguish this to be? If you were to consider your own condition, what 'good fruit' could you find? What should you start doing immediately to bear more?

Thursday Refreshed by New Life!
6-Mar Luke 15.8-10

Repentance is the process of 'wholly turning' to God from all that was in control of your life in the past and waiting excitedly for Jesus' return.

- Do you search carefully when you have 'lost' the refreshment that comes from an intimate, fruitful life with Christ? How do you do that? What actions can help you 'sweep your house'?
- Joy comes from repentance ... Do you possess the joy God does when someone comes to faith in Jesus Christ? How do you celebrate the new life of others when they repent and are converted?

Friday Refreshed When the Wanderer Returns!
7-Mar Luke 15.11-32

Foolish choices and words spoken in anger can sever the closest of relationships. In today's Bible account, we discover anyone can return!

- The door to restoration is the door of confession (21). When someone returns to God ... they must start here! What is the father's response to his lost son (22)? What is your response when someone close to you returns to Christ and seeks God's forgiveness?
- God rejoices over the repentant for one reason (24). What is that reason? Why do you think this is? Can you imitate this today?

Saturday Refreshed by God's Patience!
8-Mar 2 Peter 3.9

Ultimately, life is all about a relationship with God through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. Refreshment comes from relationship!

- Sometimes our messed up sense of Justice wants to see people who are far from God punished for their failures. Why do you think that is? How do we forget our own failures at these times? How can we ignore our own faults and condemn others in the same breath?
- God isn't like us in this respect. He is patient with those who are wandering far from Him. What motivates God to be so patient? What would have to happen to you to cause you to possess such a character of compassion for these people?