

Sunday, August 30, 2026 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 26:1-8

1 – I have lived with integrity. I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

2 – Test me, O Lord, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

3 – Your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

Romans 12:9-21

2 – Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds.

What are some of the specific, practical things that this could mean – to be transformed rather than conformed, and to have our minds renewed?

9 – Let love be genuine.

1 Samuel 18: 1-4, 23: 17 – Jonathan re David's becoming the next king.

11 – Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15: 58 – Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Cf. Ken Medema and "Still Crazy."

12 – Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Biblical concept of hope – Romans 5: 3-4 – Suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope.

1 Thessalonians 5: 17 – Pray without ceasing.

Matthew 7: 7 – Ask (keep on asking), and it will be given you.

Luke 11: 5-13 – Jesus' parable of the persistent neighbor.

13 – Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

As Paul was writing many of his letters, he was gathering contributions for the Christians in Jerusalem.

Importance of hospitality in a very inhospitable world.

15 – Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

16 – Do not be haughty but associate with the lowly.

Luke 14: 7-11 – Jesus' parable re not taking the better seat – those who exalt themselves – those who humble themselves.

17 – Do not repay anyone evil for evil. – *cf. 1 Thessalonians 5: 15*

18 – If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

21 – Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Is there any way in which you are being overcome by evil?

How could you overcome evil with good?

Matthew 16:21-28

21 - From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Must go.

Undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes.

Be killed.

And on the third day be raised.

22 - Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you."

I am sure that Peter meant well; it is just that what Jesus was saying did not fit with his concept of the Messiah/Christ.

23 - But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

How quickly Peter went from being told, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah!" to "Get behind me, Satan!"

When have been some times when you have "really blown it"?

24 - Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

We are not allowed to come to Jesus and follow Him on our terms. Rather we must come to Jesus and follow Him on His terms.

If we want to be or become a follower of Jesus, we must –

Lay something down – "Let them deny themselves"

Jesus is not talking about giving up chocolate for Lent or denying ourselves something we enjoy. Rather He is talking about denying ourselves. Which is hard, because self does not like to be denied.

Lift something up – "Let them take up their cross"

Your cross is not an annoying neighbor, a barking dog, or a control-freak HOA. Rather your cross is your place of death.

When Jesus spoke of the cross, everyone in His audience knew what He was referring to.

Live something out – "Let them follow Me"

To be a follower of Jesus means that we must be willing to be led and we must trust the one who is leading.

25-26 - "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

Cf. Jim Eliot – "He is no fool who will give what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose"