

Living out our Discipleship this Week at Home

Based on the lectionary reading for this week

June 6, 2021 – *We Do Not Lose Heart*

Lectionary Readings for this Week

2 Cor 4:13-5:1 the focus for this resource Psalm 138 1 Sam 8:4-11, 16-20 Mark 3:20-35

Read

2 Cor 4:13-5:1 in your Bible. You might also like to read the Message paraphrase over the page

Something to think about or talk about

In her blog, Rev Janet Hunt writes:

“It is easy to lose heart... The world and our experience of living within it, gives us all sorts of causes and reasons for discouragement. We experience it in our lives, in our communities, large and small, and in our congregations --- this temptation to "lose heart." For when that which we see; that which we have come to rely on; that which has guided and governed our living; yes, that which the world says matters most, begins to erode? It is easy to despair. ..

Paul uses the analogy of the human body here. Whenever and wherever there is decay, corruption, or 'wasting away,' it is easy to "lose heart." And while Paul speaks of the reason for our hope in an ultimate sense, there are certainly ways in which we experience steps along the way where that 'eternal weight of glory' makes itself known even now. Only that can be awfully hard to see when the wasting away so often takes center stage.”

Paul encourages us not to lose heart: Don't give up!

For your personal devotion or with others:

2 Corinthians 4:16 says “So we aren't depressed. But even if our bodies are breaking down on the outside, the person that we are on the inside is being renewed every day”.

There are things that we lament, and this does not take away from the strength that God gives us each day. Even when life is hard, God's Spirit is working to renew us (and the world).

What in your life is most likely to cause you to 'lose heart?' You might like to write a lament, (a sadness, regret, or disappointment) in your journal. It could be in the form of single words, a prayer, or a rant.

Where and how do you sense God renewing your 'inner nature' day by day? Claim a moment (even if it's distant) where you encountered God's Spirit at work to renew. Where and how does God renew you? Write it down and give thanks to God.

Take a moment to pray for strength and renewal for others who may need encouragement at this time.

Action:

Is there a simple thing you can do to encourage someone else? (Send a thank you card, speak a word of encouragement, smile. What else could you do?)

Prayer

We lift our hearts in lament to you, O God. We hold before you those things that cause us to lose heart.

We ask for strength and renewal so that we may be renewed from the inside out.

May we be encouragers to others, so that they too may not lose hope. Amen

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

The Message Paraphrase

We're not keeping this quiet, not on your life. Just like the psalmist who wrote, "I believed it, so I said it," we say what we believe. And what we believe is that the One who raised up the Master Jesus will just as certainly raise us up with you, alive. Every detail works to your advantage and to God's glory: more and more grace, more and more people, more and more praise!

So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

For instance, we know that when these bodies of ours are taken down like tents and folded away, they will be replaced by resurrection bodies in heaven—God-made, not handmade—and we'll never have to relocate our "tents" again.

ⁱ Janet Hunt's blog can be found here: <https://dancingwiththeword.com/2015/05/>