

Monday, October 22 – *“I will sing of loyalty and of justice; to you, O Lord, I will sing.” (Psalm 101:1)* We take love very seriously, that is why we sing about it. We take fun very seriously, that is why we sing about it. We take family very seriously, that is why we sing about it. We take God very seriously, that is why we sing about him. We sing about what we take very seriously. Yet, so many people are reluctant to sing in worship. Don't sing in order to prove you have a beautiful voice. Conversely, don't skip singing because you think you have a terrible voice. Singing expresses emotion in a way that silent contemplation can never achieve. Singing expresses our seriousness about a subject. So, sing because God has stuck with you through thick and thin. Sing because God has saved you by grace through faith in Jesus.

Tuesday, October 23 – *“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48)* This is a lofty goal and the reason behind many a person giving up on this whole Jesus thing. We reason to ourselves: I can't be perfect, so why even try? Let's start with a question. How is your heavenly Father perfect? Is he perfect because he never makes mistakes? Have you ever seen a platypus? No, God is perfect because God is complete, nothing can be added to him and nothing can be taken away from him. That is the perfection that you and I are striving for as followers of Jesus. You are striving to be a complete you and I am striving to be a complete me. You are a perfect you, by design, now your life's mission is to live into that perfection. This perfection isn't some gold standard, universally accepted by all and free of any mistakes or blemishes perfection. This perfection is achieved by the realization of who you are and being that someone perfectly, mistakes and blemishes and all.

Wednesday, October 24 – *“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:36)* Again, the journey to be is front and center. Yesterday we contemplated how “to be” perfect. Today, we contemplate how “to be” merciful (literally mercy-full). And as before, God is our example. Take some time today and make a list of all the examples you can think of showing how mercy-full God has been in your life and in history. When you have completed that task, take on this one: Make a list of all the examples you can think of showing how mercy-full you have been in your life. Don't beat yourself up over your list (or the lack thereof). Simply know today that God has created you to be mercy-full. God has even gone so far as to give you example after example of how to be mercy-full. So, here is the deeper question to wrestle with today, what is preventing you from being mercy-full?

Thursday, October 25 – *“For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” (Hebrews 10:4)* Isn't that what everyone is looking for? Everyone, regardless of race, creed, skin color, soci-economic class or gender is looking for their sins to be taken away. Everyone who is alive now, has ever lived and will ever live seeks the same thing, the peace that comes from knowing that you haven't messed up too bad. The Jews believed that ritual, tradition and sacrifice could get the job done. Yet, the truth is that the price for sin can only be paid in one way. The one who has been sinned against must forgive the sin. You can't work your way out of sin. You can't pay your way out of sin. All you can do is be forgiven of your sin. That is why Jesus came. That is why Jesus died on the cross. That is why on the third day Jesus rose from the grave. If you have been trying to achieve peace in your life without Jesus, it is impossible. For the peace you seek comes from your sins being forgiven and that can only be accomplished through accepting the gift of Jesus.

Friday, October 26 – *“I was stupid and ignorant; I was like a brute beast toward you.” (Psalm 73:22)* Face it, you don't take God very seriously. Yes, there are times when you have taken God seriously, but those were fleeting moments and when the moment was gone, so was your seriousness. There have been times in your life when you have taken yourself way too seriously. These are those times that you look back upon and cringe or at least I hope you cringe. Those “What was I thinking?” memories. You could say it isn't your fault. Our culture is very good at teaching us to take ourselves very seriously and not that good at teaching us to take God seriously. Yet, you know that is an excuse. You know that when you were taking yourself too seriously it was not the right move. Deep down you knew that you were wrong back there when you took yourself too seriously. Yet, you didn't stop because it felt good or it was easier or someone was egging you on or you believed you had to take that stand for some reason. Today, take God seriously and stop taking yourself so seriously!

Dream =

How does the world define dream?

What do you take seriously in your life? Why?

Write down your dream