

Daily Reflection on Scripture
Week of July 22
By the People – For the People
Week 4 – Bob Lawrence’s Story



Sunday July 22

Hebrews 13:1-3 Keep loving each other like family. Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place.

Morning Prayer: God, today I want to do something extraordinary with my life. I want to see You in places I have not looked before. I want to see You in the faces of the neglected, the hurting, the poor, the marginalized, the voiceless. Today's scripture tells me that if I do this, I will meet angels without even knowing it. Wow! That would be extraordinary for sure. Help me to do extraordinary things every day by simply seeing each person I meet as an angel, Your messenger inviting me to love everyone, including myself, with no limits. Extraordinaire! May it be so.

Noon Text: Look at the faces of those around you. What do you see? What do you feel? See them as God's angels inviting you to love as God loves you without conditions.

Evening Text: God, today I have been surrounded by messengers of Your love. Thank you for meeting me in the faces of others, reminding me that Your love has no borders.

Monday July 23

Psalms 10:17-18 Lord, you listen to the desires of those who suffer. You steady their hearts; you listen closely to them, to establish justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that people of the land will never again be terrified.

Morning Prayer: God, as I awake today, I know You are with me - listening, seeing, sensing, supporting, encouraging, and beholding all that I am and all that I do as the unwavering Presence of Love in my life. Since I know this is true for me, I know it is true for others. In fact, it is true for everyone. For the oppressed, You are there. For the fearful, You are there. For those facing injustices, You are there. As You steady my heart this day, God, I trust and affirm that You steady all hearts to ensure that we may each know unconditional, all-abiding Love as the guiding power in our lives. May it be so.

Noon Text: Pause to listen. How can you assist God in steadying hearts and alleviating challenges and suffering (theirs and your own) by leaning more into Love together?

Evening Text: Thank you, God, for all the ways You've steadied my heart and the hearts of others today. I peacefully rest, knowing that Your Love is being magnified always.

Tuesday July 24

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:8-10 Above all, show sincere love to each other, because love brings about the forgiveness of many sins. 9 Open your homes to each other without complaining. And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts.

Morning Prayer: God, today as I wake, secure in your love, help me to examine all that I have. Too often I hold tight to what I have, fearful that it is not enough to share, whether it is my possessions or my time or my talents. Instead let me flip that around and acknowledge the abundance of what I have. Am I a selfish manager or a generous manager of my possessions and my time. My prayer is to become generous with all that I have. May it be so.

Noon Text: How are You serving others today? What You have and who you are is from God. Are you using your gifts to serve God and others today?

Evening Text: The day is done and the time has come for rest. I am filled with gratitude for the many ways I witnessed and was a witness to Your love today.

Wednesday July 25

Micah 6:8 But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don't take yourself too seriously—take God seriously.

Morning Prayer: God, sometimes I take myself far too seriously. I am so consumed with the demands and busyness of my own life that I drift through my days oblivious to the vast needs of the world around me. I want to change. I want to see everyone with loving eyes, filled with compassion; quickly identifying how I can ease someone's suffering, lighten a burden, and offer comfort and hope. May this day be a fresh start, my heart overflowing with love for all people. May this lead me to work ceaselessly for fairness and justice for all people. This is my prayer. May it be so.

Noon text: Is there something that is overwhelming you today? Take a deep breath. Relax into this moment, knowing that you are part of the flow of all life. Be at peace.

Evening Text: God, I have experienced joys and challenges today. I will hold the joys, and release the challenges, that I may sleep with a peaceful heart. I rest in you.

Thursday July 26

Isaiah 1:17 Say no to wrong. Learn to do good. Work for justice. Help the down-and-out. Stand up for the homeless. Go to bat for the defenseless.

Morning Prayer: God, sometimes I let fear and ego make decisions that I'm not proud of. My busyness and pursuit of more numb me from the needs of those less fortunate than I am. Please open my eyes to those in need and give me the wisdom to take concrete steps to help those in need. May it be so.

Noon Text: Open my eyes to the reasons that I make decisions that are out of character and let Your grace lead me to make decisions in line with Your will.

Evening Text: Give me the wisdom and strength to take concrete steps tomorrow toward finding a way to help someone in need.

Friday July 27

Psalms 106:1-3 Thank God! And why? Because God is good, because God's love lasts. But who on earth can do it— declaim God's mighty acts, broadcast all his praises? You're one happy man when you do what's right, one happy woman when you form the habit of justice.

Morning Prayer: What a glorious day! For today is a day the You have made! I will rejoice this morning and all day, for all that You have done and will do. Thank you God for Your unconditional love that surrounds me and all of creation. May I carry Your love forward to all that I encounter today

and be Your light unto this world. May everyone experience Your love and grace, no matter their situation. May it be so.

Noon Text: Hallelujah! God is good! I am Your light shining in this world; spreading Your unconditional love to all, just as You do for me. Hallelujah!

Evening Text: God, thank you for the love and wisdom that carried me through today. As this day comes to an end, I am grateful that there is no end to Your love.

Saturday July 28

Zechariah 7:9b-10 Make just and faithful decisions; show kindness and compassion to each other! Don't oppress the widow, the orphan, the stranger, and the poor; don't plan evil against each other!

Morning Prayer: God, today I will make scores of decisions. Help me to make the most important decision of all; the decision to first and foremost show kindness and compassion to strangers and those who are hurting. I confess that praying for that is far easier than doing it. I do need Your help. May it begin by helping me to choose kindness and compassion for myself so that such love is what flows out of me all day long. May it be so.

Noon Text: Kindness and compassion are the greatest ways to receive and give God's love. Be conscious of your thoughts and your words. Reframe judgement into grace.

Evening Text: God, I think of all the decisions I have made. It makes me tired just thinking about them. As I prepare for rest I make one more and that is to love myself.