

All of Me

There's an old song with the lines "All of me, why not take all of me? Can't you see that I'm no good without you?" And while that song was about someone bitterly mourning a broken heart, these are also a suggestive pair of lines when it comes to our walk with God. God wants all of us. He has given us his life, and he wants ours as well. He also wants us to acknowledge that we truly are no good without him, that we need him in all circumstances good and bad.

This week we will learn more about what it means to say to God, "Here I am". We will learn about our need for him, and what God wants to do through us for those around us as well. And we will learn about God's promise to be with us always. It's wonderful to tell God, "Take all of me. I'm no good without you."

Monday – A New Song

"God ... and not man ... laid the key-note of all harmonies; he planned all perfect combinations, and he made us so that we could hear and understand." John Brainard, 19th c. American writer

1. Please read Psalm 40:1-3. Have you ever found yourself consciously waiting on God and his timing? What happened?

Text Insight: Among other things, fearing God means acknowledging that there are fearsome consequences to living contrary to God's will.

2. How is the fear of the Lord characterized in Job 28:28, Psalm 111:10 and Isaiah 33:5-6?
3. How do Jeremiah 31:31-34, 32:38:41 and Ezekiel 11:19-20 describe the new song God will put in our mouths?

Making it Personal: Every one of God's people has a new song to sing. What does this look like in your life?

Tuesday – Countless Wonders

"This is the mystery of the riches of divine grace for sinners, for by a wonderful exchange our sins are now not ours but Christ's, and Christ's righteousness is not Christ's, but ours." Martin Luther, 16th c. German theologian

1. Please read Psalm 40:4-5. What similarities are there with Psalm 1:1-6 and Deuteronomy 6:13-16?
2. What did John say about the works of God the Son, Jesus, in John 20:30-31 and 21:24-25?

Making it Personal: What wonders has God worked in your life? Take a piece of paper and, starting with Jesus dying for your sins, try to list a page full of God's gracious wonders. Did you run out of ideas before the bottom of the page, or would you need another page to keep listing more and more?

Wednesday – On the Books

"Is it not wonderful news to believe that salvation lies outside ourselves?" Martin Luther

1. Please read Psalm 40:6-8. What does it mean for God to open your ears to hear his desires?
2. What is the comparison between sacrifice and obedience in 1 Samuel 15:22-23? Which are you most comfortable with? Why?
3. Now look at Revelation 3:5, 13:5-8, 20:12-15 and 21:22-27? What two books are noted there? Describe the people whose names are found in each book.

Making it Personal: Have you put your faith in Jesus as your Savior and Lord? If so, you are in his Book of Life for eternity. If not, you can turn to God right now in prayer and receive your new life in him.

Thursday – Ups and Downs

"Reflect on your present blessings, of which every man has many; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some." Charles Dickens, 19th c. English writer

1. Please read Psalm 40:9-13. What was going on in the writer's personal life at the same time he was leading God's people in praise? How did he expect to make it through all of that?
2. Do you talk with others about your relationship with God? What does Romans 10:14 & 17 say about the results of doing so?
3. Psalm 40:13 pleads for freedom from the writer's own sins. According to Galatians 5:1, what is the purpose of that freedom and how are we supposed to act once freed?

Making it Personal: When is it easiest for you to turn to God? When is it most difficult? God wants you to turn to him no matter what circumstances you are in.

Friday – "The LORD is great!"

"God alone satisfies." Thomas A` Kempis, 14th-15th c. German theologian

1. Please read Psalm 40:14-17. What categories of people do you see there?
2. How does the writer's attitude toward his opponents fit in with Romans 12:14-21? Would this be easy for you? Why (or why not)?
3. Compare Psalm 40:16 with Mark 8:34-38 and Romans 1:16-17. Where do you fall in these verses?

Making it Personal: Pray for God to guide you in speaking of him, of how great he is and of all he has done.

For the Weekend: Read Psalm 69:1-36 and compare it to your notes from this week. What themes are similar? What differences or new ideas do you see there?