

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

The week of AUGUST 18/19

True Gratitude

#1 *“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Luke 12:32-40

People often have a special place they keep things that are valuable to them. Sometimes it is a safe or a locked box. We lock our houses and garages because we want to protect TVs and cars, thinking robbers might want to steal them. Of course, those things are valuable to us, but did you know that we have treasures no one can steal?

There are those treasures in our hearts that nobody can steal. We have love for our Moms and Dads and other people, and no one can take that away from us. Are you happy? Happiness is in our hearts. Happiness comes from things we remember, Christmases, birthdays, and other times. They are always with us. We also have God's love in our hearts. We have His promise that Jesus is our Savior from sin. That is the greatest reassurance of all. You see, we do have many things that thieves cannot steal from us. Keep these things safe in your heart always.

Pray: Lord, help me always to remember the treasures that I keep in my heart away from thieves. Especially help me always to remember Jesus and His love for me. Amen.

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

The week of AUGUST 18/19

True Gratitude

#2 *Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:31-32*

Do your socks have a hole in them? Do you have any old clothes you would like to trade for brand new ones? Trading something bad for something good looks like a rip-off for the one who gets the bad item. It also looks very good for the one who receives the good item. Our Bible reading offers us a good trade. God tells us to get rid of all the bad feelings and insults we tend to give and receive. We can trade them away for the forgiveness that Jesus offers. What a great deal! We trade all of the hurtful things for the happiness and forgiveness Jesus brings. We then will be closer to God and get along better with others. Why not make the trade today, and every day?

Pray: Jesus, help me to trade my sinful feelings and hurtful words and actions for the forgiveness and joy You offer. Amen.