



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
LENT 2 — YEAR A**

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father
and of the Son +
and of the Holy Spirit.

G: Amen

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 121

**A: Keep me, keep me
as the apple of your eye.
Hide me, hide me
in the shadow of your wings.**

L: I lift up my eyes to the hills.

G: Where does my help come from?

L: My help comes from the LORD,

G: the maker of heaven and earth.

L: He will not let your foot slip,

G: he who watches over you will not slumber;

L: indeed, he who watches over Israel

G: will neither slumber nor sleep.

L: The LORD watches over you,

**G: the LORD is your shade at your right
hand.**

L: The LORD will keep you from all harm,

G: he will watch over your life;

L: the LORD will watch over your coming and going

G: both now and forevermore.

**A: Keep me, keep me
as the apple of your eye.
Hide me, hide me
in the shadow of your wings.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READING & MEDITATION *see next page*

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**A: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

VERSE OF THE DAY

**A: Jesus humbled himself and became
obedient to death, even death on a cross.
(Philippians 2:8b)**

BENEDICTION

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

A: Amen

READING AND MEDITATION:

Second Sunday in Lent: The gift of God comes by faith to all nations. Not a holy life, not acts of obedience, but simple trust in the promise of God brings the gift of living water for thirsty souls. Abraham believed God's promise and so became not only the father of a nation, but the forefather of the Promised Seed who would bless all peoples. He had faith in God who justifies the wicked, and so God credited it to him as righteousness. By this same faith, Christ gives righteousness to all who believe and enfolds sinful Samaritans and modern Gentiles like us into the family of God.

As you study this week, seek to find the connecting theme in all the lessons by using Luther's Four Big Barber Questions to ponder and discuss each individual reading:

1. *What is God saying to me in this lesson?*
2. *For what does this lesson lead me to give thanks?*
3. *What sins does this lesson lead me to confess?*
4. *For what does this lesson lead me to pray?*

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 4:5-26

He defied popular convention by traveling through Samaria. He defied religious convention by asking a Samaritan woman for a drink. Why would Jesus even bother with this woman? She was a Samaritan and a habitual adulterer. Yet he had to be here (John 4:4), not because of convention or expectations but because of his mission to save all people. He had come to save the world, and that meant he had come for this woman, too. Not because she had lived a holy life—far from it! Only because of his grace. He used the mirror of the Law to incite within her a thirst for mercy that could only be sated by the living water of grace. A Samaritan...a sinner...and yet Jesus opens the flood gates of the water of life and reveals his true identity as the Promised Seed, the Anointed One, her Savior. He calls her to faith, and she believes and finds living water for her thirsty soul.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 12:1-8

God's plan of salvation called for one special nation which would carry the Promise of the Seed meant for all people. From the beginning, this nation would be built on faith in the promises of God. God told

Abram to leave all he knew and go to a place yet unknown and wait for blessings as yet undefined. God revealed that the Seed of woman promised in the garden would now descend from the family of an old man and his barren wife living as strangers in a land not yet their own. No logic or emotion could have led Abram to leave his home—only trust in his Savior God. Abram believed and set God's plan in motion to build a nation on the promises of God to fulfill the promises of God. All people would be blessed by the nation descended from Abram, because this man of faith would bear the bloodline of the Promised Seed, the Messiah who would come as Savior of all nations.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17

Paul taught the Romans about faith by using Abraham as an example. Faith is simply receiving the grace of God by trusting in his promises. This God credits to us as righteousness. Abraham's righteousness did not come by doing but by believing. What did Abraham do? Nothing! God did it all: He made the promises; he gave the inheritance; he gave the child, the blessing for all nations. Abraham merely received the promises of God by believing that the One who made the promises was faithful. And then what happened? God acted again and credited this faith to Abraham as righteousness. This is the righteousness that every person needs to stand in God's presence. This is the righteousness that the sinful woman at the well, and even faithful Abraham, lacked. This is the righteousness God gives. We are people like Abraham, who believe that God justifies the wicked. And so God forgives our wickedness and calls us righteous—no, even more—he gives us righteousness in the place of our wickedness. This is the living water that slakes the thirst of every believing soul.

My takeaways:

What major theme(s) connect(s) all the lessons?