UPC Family Daily Devotional

November – Week 4

Memory Verse of the Week

“How I long for the months gone by, for the days when God watched over me.”

Job 29:2

Nov 21 Sunday Job 29:1-17

Job remembers being held in high esteem by young and old alike, and how he rescued the poor and cared for the fatherless, widows and foreigners in his land. All of us have, at times, looked back with longing on “the good old days”, especially when our present-day lives are filled with frustration and regret. But we must remember that the story of our lives is not over; the best is yet to come. God has prepared for us a glorious future that will more than make up for all the suffering we have endured.

As you reflect on past highlights of your life, what do you miss the most? What are you praying and hoping God will do for you in the future?

Nov 22 Monday Job 29:18-25

Job’s days of respect as a leading influence in his community are gone. To be alone without anyone to comfort us is painful, but to receive nothing but criticism days and night must be one of the worst experience to have to go through. In His final hours before the cross, the Lord Jesus Christ also felt intense abandonment from those who were closest to Him, so He knows and fully empathize with our pain. By His spirit, He promises never to leave nor forsake us.

What can Job’s experience teach us about the power of our words? What are some ways you can bring comfort and encouragement to those suffering alone?

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Nov 23 Tuesday Job 30:1-15

Life has become so difficult for Job that even the lowest of the low in society are giving him a hard time. When our current circumstances are filled with pain and sorrow, it can be tempting to only dwell in the past. But even when people turn against us, we must remember that we have an ultimate advocate – Jesus, who is eternally on our side. Therefore, let us take refuge in Him, running to Him when we are unfairly treated or brought down by life’s difficulties.

How does knowing Jesus as you Advocate provide strength in tough times? What present troubles can you bring before the Lord in prayer?

Nov 24 Wednesday Job 30:16-31

Job’s brutal honesty, with which he almost appears to accuse God, may cause us to blush. But our God already knows the contents of our hearts before a word is spoken. Even when Job expresses frustration at God’s silence, we know from the full story that God is actively at work. Such knowledge should encourage us as well: God may appear quiet and passive but He is almost orchestrating out lives, right down to the smallest details. Therefore, may we always cry out to him, confident that He hears us, even when He seems silent.

What prevents you from fully venting before God in prayer? Why is it important for us to pray even when God appears silent?

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Nov 25 Thursday Job 31:1-23

As one entrusted with great wealth, Job understood his duty to provide for the less fortunate around him. Even though he was in a position of authority, he treated his servants with dignity. His attitude leaves us a good example to follow: we should all treat one another with honor because we share the same Creator, who only creates masterpieces. When we open our hands to those in need and treat everyone with respect, we realize our full potential as mirror-images of our Maker.

Whom are you tempted to look down upon or express contempt toward? How is God calling you to be more generous to those around you?

Nov 26 Friday Job 31:24-40

Job’s desperation becomes apparent, and he pleads for someone to take up his cause! At the heart of the matter is his desire for God to say something. But God’s silence reveals that no one, not even righteous Job, can force God’s hand. God will speak or remain silent when He plans to. Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God speaks His Word of love and reminds us of His faithful commitment to us. God may sometimes be silent, but He is never inactive nor absent.

How do you react to God’s silence in your struggle? How can your life show your trust in God even in his silence?

Nov 27 Saturday Habakkuk 1:1-17

Prophet Habakkuk approaches God by asking Him why He seems indifferent to his cries. He also ponders why God has not acted against the rampant violence and injustice in the land. God reveals His intention to act but now Habakkuk questions the methods by which God is going to accomplish His plan. This is not the first or last time God chooses controversial methods to achieve His goals. The Bible is a witness to the many mysterious methods of God – our salvation by Jesus Christ being the greatest mystery of all. In the face of His mysterious and perhaps humanly questionable methods, let us commit to following and trusting Him even more.

What aspect of the gospel do you find most baffling? What mysterious method or means has God been using to accomplish something in your life?

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