

Monday, February 26th

" Lord do not deal with us according to our sins"

We have sinned - We do sin - We are sinning

Help us O God because we can't help ourselves. How many times do we ask for forgiveness and turn around and do the same thing again? For me, I have the best intentions especially after I come out of mass on Sunday. I do pretty good for awhile and then out of nowhere I sin again! I am so glad that we serve a merciful God who sent His own Son to deliver us and pardon our sins! So we can trust Jesus to deliver us not once or twice, but over and over again for His Name sake. When we trust that Jesus died for our sins we believe He took ALL of our sins past, present, and future on himself. It is in Jesus that we are redeemed, made whole again; therefore we praise His name forever because He is faithful even when we are not.

Oh God help me, I am weak and sinful; show me your mercy. Help me to rely on your Holy Spirit daily so that I don't sin. I want to do what is right and I thank you and praise you for your mercy. Amen

Peace be with you,
Katie Thompson

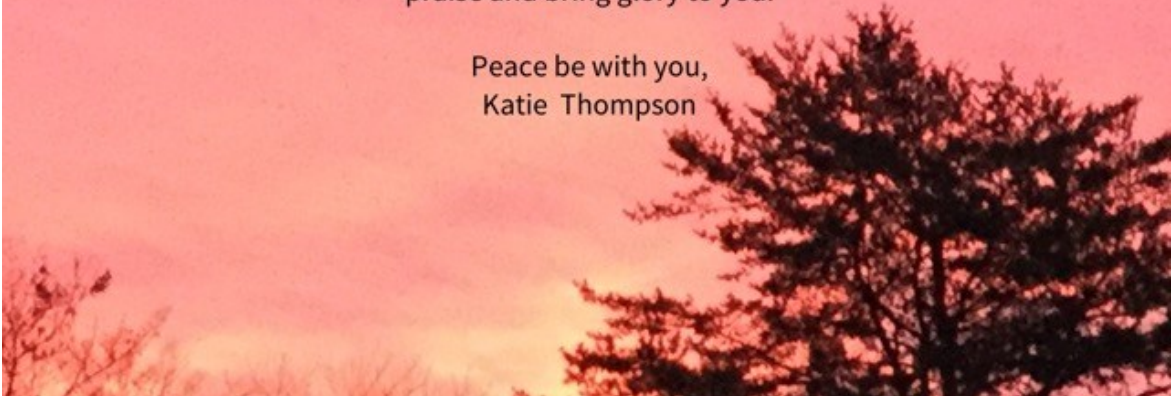
Tuesday, February 27th

"He that offers praise as a sacrifice glorifies me; and to him that goes the right way I will show the salvation of God"

We live in an imperfect world; (like I'm telling you something you didn't already know) but we don't have to succumb to it. The Word says that if we offer praise as a sacrifice we glorify God. How do we offer praise as a sacrifice? There are so many times when the world gets to me, especially when I am tired or frustrated with things I can't control. I may not be able to change the circumstances or control what is happening around me, but one thing I can do is change my attitude. Instead of complaining I can praise God in the midst of my struggle. I believe it is a sacrifice because I sure don't feel like praising God in these circumstances but when I actually do this, I find that my whole situation feels different. It's like I'm taking the power away from the world and handing it over to God where it belongs. I challenge you to try this sometime and see if it makes a difference in your world.

Father God, you are worthy of our praise in All circumstances. Help us to discipline ourselves to praise you even when we don't feel like it so that we offer a sacrifice of praise and bring glory to you.

Peace be with you,
Katie Thompson



Wednesday, February 28th

"But my trust is in you, O LORD;
I say "You are my God."

Trust is a huge issue these days. Who can you trust? Social Media? Your Friends? Your Spouse?
How about God?

I wouldn't say I trust Social Media; I read that people are actually being paid to post lies about different issues out there. I'm pretty sure I can trust my friends, especially the ones closest to me. I know I can trust my spouse because I know he loves me and that God brought us together. How about God? Well my answer is a resounding YES! He always loves, always wants what is best for us, and is always there for us. He has come through for me over and over again and so it is easy for me to trust him. What about in the hard times? Do I trust him then? Absolutely! But I have to tell you that only through adversity and hardships do we get to that point of absolute trust in him. (Ask me sometime and I will tell you my story.) When you realize that he doesn't always answer the way you expected, but that he is doing what is best for you, then you can relax and trust him in all things. He never promised life would be easy, but he did promise he would always be with us. You can put your trust in that!

Father God, help us to trust you even when times are hard. You have a plan for each one of us and are guiding us to our destiny that you prepared for us before the beginning of time.
Help us to say, "My trust is in you, O LORD; You are my God. In your hands is my destiny."

Peace be with you,
Katie Thompson



Thursday, March 1st

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose hope is the LORD.
He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream.
It fears not the heat when it comes, its leaves stay green; In the year of drought it
shows no distress, but still bears fruit."

Wow, can you see yourself as that tree? Planted beside a fresh stream of water and all you have to do is stretch out your roots and you have full access to that stream of refreshing life giving water? When the heat gets to you, you have access to that stream, all you have to do is stretch out your roots and receive it. No worries, no distress, you know where your refreshing is and you know how to get to it. Trusting that the stream is always there and you always have access to it, you can grow and bear fruit even when there is a drought.

Father God, you are that wonderful refreshing stream of life giving water. Help us to know where our refreshing comes from and come to you when we are uncertain or fearful and don't know what to do. Help us to know that you are always there for us, and all we have to do is stretch out our hands and receive what you have for us.

Peace be with you,
Katie Thompson

Friday, March 2nd

"Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit"

Are we the people that Jesus is talking about? Are we the ones he is giving his kingdom to? I believe so. We who believe that Jesus died for us and proclaim him as our Lord and Savior have been given the kingdom. Not only that, he said he was going to give it to a people that will produce its fruit. Hmm... if the kingdom of God is given to us what are we doing to produce its fruit? I think proclaiming it is the first thing we are called to do. That means we share our faith in Jesus and what he has done for us. I also think that because we know Jesus we want to be like him and so we do the things that he did, bearing the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. Wow, do others see that fruit in me? If not, maybe I need to spend more time alone with Jesus. So, if God gave us his kingdom, and we are to produce fruit, then we should first proclaim Jesus, which requires that we know him personally, then as his followers we strive to become more like him, which in turn will produce the fruit of the Spirit, and in producing that fruit we attract others and bring them into the kingdom of God. That living fruit (people) goes on to produce more fruit which makes the kingdom alive and growing!

It is our responsibility. It has been given to us. What will we do with it?

Father God, I want to praise you and thank you for giving us your kingdom through Jesus our Lord. Help us to realize that we have a responsibility as your people to get to know Jesus, to tell others about Jesus, and become more like Jesus through our words and actions, so that we are doing what you have called us to be, "a people that produces fruit in the kingdom of God."

Peace be with you,
Katie Thompson