

MON 6-26

"To you, LORD, belong greatness and power, honor, splendor, and majesty, because everything in heaven and on earth belongs to you. Yours, Lord, is the kingship, and you are honored as head of all." [1 Chronicles 29:11, CEB] In our culture of self-importance, David's words are an important reminder that it isn't about us! It all belongs to God.

PRAY: Lord God, at times I feel drawn to bask in the honor, praise, or attention that comes my way. Remind me often that yours (not mine) are the kingdom, power, and glory. Amen.

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TUES 6-27

"But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, 'Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else.'" [Mark 9:34-35, NLT] This could be one of the most difficult of Christ's teachings--putting aside our natural desire to self-promote. Ask God for help with humility!

PRAY: God, in your kingdom, the last are first--and you know how I hate to be last! Turn my values right side up, that I may truly be a citizen of your kingdom. Amen.

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WED 6-28

"May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God." [Ephesians 3:19, NLT] Our satisfaction in this life is meant to be the love of Christ! Receiving it and sharing it is what we have been created and empowered to do.

PRAY: Lord Jesus, you promise me your power--not to get what I want from others but rather to persuade others to turn to you with the power of self-giving love. Help me to remember this today and every day. Amen.

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THURS 6-29

"So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image." [2 Corinthians 3:18-19, NLT] As believers in Christ, there is nothing standing between us and God. Our lives become brighter and more beautiful as we grow to be more like Jesus.

PRAY: Merciful God, I want to reflect your glory. Transform me daily so your beauty can be clearly seen in me. Thank you for being as close as the air I breathe. Amen.

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FRI 6-30

"Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand." [Philippians 2:3-4, MSG] We are called to help others get ahead! In what ways are you sharing your energy, time, or financial resources to make this a consistent part of your life?

PRAY: Loving Christ, I want my life to count for good, to make this world a better place. Plant your principles deep into my heart so I live them humbly and gratefully each day. Amen.

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SAT 7-1

"Don't be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. My Father's house has room to spare. If that weren't the case, would I have told you that I'm going to prepare a place for you?" [John 14:1-2, CEB] Jesus gives us the wonderful assurance that he is trustworthy and has a plan for our future! Take a moment to consider what is troubling you and ask for God to help you keep it in perspective.

PRAY: Loving God, thank you for promising to hold me safely in your love. Sometimes it is hard to remember that my earthly worries won't last forever. Please change my perspective. Amen.

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Intro

The Lord's Prayer is a valuable tool we have been given by Jesus to learn more about God's kingdom. When we pray this prayer and truly understand and mean what we are praying, it will turn everything upside down in the best way!

Reflect

- Have you ever been in a job situation where you were responsible only for helping someone else do their job? Or perhaps you have been a caregiver of some kind? How did that role make you feel?
- Jesus explained what it means to follow him. "Those who love their lives will lose them, and those who hate their lives in this world will keep them forever. Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. My Father will honor whoever serves me. Now I am deeply troubled. What should I say? 'Father, save me from this time'? No, for this is the reason I have come to this time. Father, glorify your name!" [John 12:25-28, CEB]
 - What do you think it means to "love your life" in this context?
 - What do you think it means to "hate your life" in this context?
 - When we typically think of a servant, we don't associate that role with one of honor. How does Jesus' explanation challenge you to think differently about service?
 - Just like the Roman empire in Jesus' day, our world usually identifies *glory* with power, wealth, or achievement, but Jesus pointed to his coming crucifixion as bringing glory. Most of us are not facing a threat of being put to death, so how are we meant to apply this example of Jesus to our lives?
- How has following Jesus made you different? What areas of your life are you still protecting or clinging to? Why do you suppose it is difficult to release control?
- How easy or difficult is it for you to seek God's approval over society's approval?
- Describe what a life fully devoted to Christ looks like. What is one step you can take this week to move the needle in your own life?

Pray

God, you have shown me exactly how to please you by painting a beautiful picture in the life of Jesus. Reveal to me the steps I need to take to keep moving down the path of becoming your devoted servant. Use me and everything I have to accomplish your work on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

What did I learn?

How might it apply in my life?

What is a next step I can take?
