

## Devotional

## God's Plan Is On Track

May 17, 2020

*This week we will use our devotional space to unpack what our witness will look like to our Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and the ends of the earth.*

### Monday

Read Acts 1:1-11

Your Jerusalem is wherever you are based and whoever you are with these days. In this time of quarantine, that should be especially easy to figure out. Your Jerusalem is the people in your household and perhaps other close family or friends that you still see. If you are in a hospital, care home, or retirement community, your Jerusalem probably includes some staff and neighbors.

How can you witness to your Jerusalem? With your personal characteristics, you can be genuine, honest, even-keeled, accepting of other's thoughts, and working on yourself to live and lead in harmony in your Jerusalem.

How could you be more open and honest with your Jerusalem about who you are and where you are trying to go? How could you invite them along for the journey?

### Tuesday

Read 2 Peter 1:3-11

To effectively witness to Jesus to your Jerusalem, you also need to share what motivates you to do the things you do. What is it about Jesus, what he teaches and models, and how you are being led by the Holy Spirit that leads you to speak, act, and invest your time, talents, and resources in the way that you do? Your Jerusalem sees what you do but that doesn't mean they automatically know why you do the things you do.

Look for opportunities (and make opportunities!) this week to share with your Jerusalem your motivations for doing the things that you do.

Being a better witness to your Jerusalem is centrally about the Christ-like transformation of who you are and who you are becoming and sharing that with others. Let your life speak for Jesus.

## Wednesday

Read Galatians 5:22-23

Your Judea and Samaria are the next level out from your Jerusalem. In times when we are out and about, our Judea and Samaria are our wider neighborhood, our co-workers, clients, school community, and extended friend and family networks. These are people we don't know as well or don't have as much regular, close contact with on a regular basis. In our current time, our primary way of connecting with our Judea and Samaria is probably via social media, video/phone conferences, and brief personal (distant) encounters.

How we model and present ourselves in these limited opportunities becomes crucial because our Judea and Samaria only has a little data to go on about who you are and what you are witnessing to with your life.

What is your witness on social media, in casual conversations, and with people you see regularly but don't know all that well? The solution almost certainly isn't to start beating them over the head with a Bible, but what would those people say you are about?

## Thursday

Read Romans 10:1-15

The ends of the earth are hard to get to and difficult to reach. Others are there. We can support their work through our prayers, time, talent, and resources.

Who/what can you be praying for on the other side of the world today?

Who are the enemies you should be praying for today?

What are the big situations you and I can do little about but can lift up in prayer?

Given the situation you find yourself in today, how can you use your time, talent, and resources to further Jesus' witness at Cooks Creek, our region, and the world? Pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit – you will be led!

## Friday

In preparation for worship this weekend, please read and reflect upon Acts 1:12-26.