

Seasons

January 5, 2014

John 1:1-18

Happy New Year!

What makes a year “good”?

Seasons

Psalm 1:1-3; 92:12-15; Jeremiah 17:7-8

- Water – Roots – Green Leaves – Fruit
- Trust – Connection to God

Life Comes in Seasons

- What Seasons have you experienced?
- What Season are you in?

Defining “Success”

Fruitful

- Water and Roots; Leaves and Fruit
- Surviving the Drought

A Richer Image of Success

- A Source of Life
- Survive, even Thrive, in all Times
- Fruit – a multilayered image

Harder Times

The Power of Retrospect – The harder times are essential

- When did you grow the most?
- When did you discover the most about God?
- What brought lasting change?

Generally not in the ...

Easier times; Times typically thought of as “successful”

Pray for Each Other

A Prayer For All Sorts and Conditions

O God, the creator and preserver of all, we humbly beseech you for all sorts and conditions of people; that you would be pleased to make your ways known to them, your saving health to all nations. More especially we pray for your holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by your good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; that it may please you to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

A Prayer for Our Country

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion us into one united people. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.