

Week 34
Observing

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” – Col 3:2

“Consider the lilies of the field.” – Matt 6:28

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made,...” – Rom 1:20

What an interesting combination of verses. In the first we are told to set our minds on “things above” not on earthly things. In the second, we are told by Jesus to ponder something about earth. In the third, Paul tells us that the essential truths about God are visible to everyone through what has been made. Clearly, the earth and creation tell us something very important about God. Watching creation is watching God. Looking for the “things above” in the everyday appearances of God is watching God.

We need to be students of creation and students of life. All around us there are things to be noticed, lessons to be learned, truth hovering over the flowers. In our technology-filled world, we need to find ways to “consider the lilies” and learn the essential truths about life and God.

Observing life is a discipline. It takes training and practice to pay attention to the little things. How can we learn to pay attention? There are two things that come to mind:

- **Learning to look.** I walk outside from the office to the car, from the car to the house, from the house to the mailbox and never see a thing. My mind is focused on the tasks, checking for my keys, watching the time, etc. I know I am missing all kinds of lessons that God has waiting for me. I need to slow down and take notice of the sights, sounds, smells, colors, and movements.
- **Learning to ask good questions** – one I take notice of things I need to learn to ask good questions. Questions such as
 - What kind of God creates these kinds of things?
 - What kind of relationship exists between this created thing and God?
 - What sustains life? Who sustains life?
 - How can I imitate what I see?
 - What do I learn about God?

This Week

- Take a 10 minute walk and pay close attention to the things around you. Make some journal entries about your observations and reflect upon what you learn about God.

Week 34

Aug 22-28

Sun	<i>What specific action can you do this week related to your growth goals?</i>			22
Karen Henderson	Love Compels Us (2)			
Mon	2Sam 24	1Cor 8	Psa 146	23
Tue	1Kng 1	1Cor 9	Psa 147	24
Rachel Senn				
Wed	1Kng 2	1Cor 10	Psa 148	25
Thr	1Kng 3	1Cor 11	Psa 149	26
Madeline Shaffer				
Fri	1Kng 4,5	1Cor 12	Psa 150	27
Gregg Fozard, Marcus Odom, Jr				
Sat				28
Carrie Dunham				