

Daily Devotions for the Week of May 12

Monday (5/12)

Egyptians don't allow themselves to eat with Hebrews; the Egyptians think it beneath their dignity. (Genesis 43.32b) This is the earliest portion of scripture that shows "us and them." Abraham ate with strangers, but not so for Joseph in Egypt. What customs or practices separate people today?

Tuesday (5/13)

Whoever isn't against us is for us. (Mark 9.40) Jesus was more open to welcoming all who would come, not just those in the inner circle. How large is our circle?

Wednesday (5/14)

The Samaritan woman asked, "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (Jews and Samaritans didn't associate with each other.) (John 4.9) Are there some that we do not associate with today? Do you see Jesus starting to break down modern barriers and walls?

Thursday (5/15)

We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. (1 Corinthians 12.13) As a diverse body of Christ, the church is unified in being one according to Paul. We are not a loose connection of isolated congregations or parts. We are one in Christ.

Friday (5/16)

Certainly, the body isn't one part but many. If the foot says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not a hand," does that mean it's not part of the body? (1 Corinthians 12.14-15) I may not be all things to all people, but I am something! And you are something else! And that is what I like about you!

Saturday (5/17)

There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3.28) It's not "us and them" it is "us and more of us!" Jesus prayed that we all might be one. (John 17.21) May it be so.