

Whispers of the Spirit



Meditations for April 25th to May 1st

This week's *Whispers of the Spirit* have been written by Deacon Carolyn Quinnell

Sunday, April 25th Acts 4:5-12 / Psalm 23 / 1 John 3:16-24 /
John 10:11-18

Acts 4:5-7 The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

I almost, but not quite, feel sorry for the high priest and his family. Here they thought they had gotten rid of the pest called Jesus of Nazareth, and now two of his followers are doing the same things he did – they healed a man who had been lame from birth! Not only that, but there was a movement among the common people who believed this Jesus person had been raised from the dead, and their numbers were growing each day. The key question is, "Where did the power come from?" We can answer the question for them in hindsight, Jesus of course. But for us today we can also ask, "Where does our power come from?" Are we plugging into the power of the Holy Spirit? Or are we trying to labor under our own steam? Think about it.

Holy Jesus, make me a conduit of your healing grace, for I can do nothing on my own. Amen.

Monday, April 26th (St. Mark) Isaiah 52:7-10 / Psalm 2 /
Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-16 / Mark 1:1-15 or Mark 16:15-20

Mark 16:20 And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

I find the more meditations I write, the more times a word or phrase I had not noticed before will jump off the page at me as I

read through the selections for the day. This time it was, “*while the Lord worked with them,*” that did the jumping. In other words, even though Jesus ascended to his throne at the right hand of the Father, he made *sure* his followers knew they had not been left alone. Jesus worked *with them*. How comforting it is to know the disciples had not been left alone. Much more comforting to us personally is that we also have not been left alone – no matter how “alone” we may feel. Praise God!

Thank you, Jesus, for not leaving us alone. Amen.

Tuesday, April 27th Wisdom 3:1-9 / Psalm 45 / Colossians 1:15-23 / Luke 6:12-26

Wisdom 3:9 *Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.*

What is truth? Pilate asked this question (see John 18:38) as Jesus stood before him. He certainly wasn't the first person to ever ask this question and most likely not the last either. On a simplistic level, we may ask ourselves a version of this question whenever we read a sales ad or try and compare two products side by side. Or, we as parents may wonder if our offspring is telling us the truth when he/she arrived home 30 minutes after curfew. Unfortunately, truth is not always obvious. Our scripture for today tells us that if we trust in Jesus, we will understand the truth of who he is. Whether or not we believe the sales ad or our offspring – hmm... perhaps we should ask Jesus for direction there as well.

Jesus, open my eyes to your truth. Amen.

Wednesday, April 28th Wisdom 4:16–5:8 / Psalm 119:49-72 / Colossians 1:24–2:7 / Luke 6:27-38

Luke 6:31 *Do unto others as you would have them do to you.*

My husband leads a bible study on Friday mornings via Zoom. The group has been studying the book of Genesis for some time now.

The lesson for the day that I am writing this piece covered the sons of Jacob as they journeyed to Egypt for a second time to obtain grain to eat. Jacob instructed his sons to take gifts to the person who was in charge of distributing wheat in order that they may find favor with him. My husband used the example of going into Starbucks and demanding a beverage versus trying to establish a rapport with the counter person. It put me in mind of this particular verse. To paraphrase, "Treat others as you want to be treated." Sounds simple enough, right? Yet, we are often preoccupied and don't notice the cashier, waiter, person next to us in line, etc. What would Jesus do in our situation?

Lord, open my eyes to see as you would have me see. Amen.

Thursday, April 29th Wisdom 5:9-23 / Psalm 50 /
Colossians 2:8-23 / Luke 6:39-49

Psalm 50:14 *Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving* and make good your vows to the Most High.*

It was a morning when my husband and I normally volunteer our time at a drive-thru food pantry. I had not slept well the night before, so I said to God, "OK, I'm going to need your help today. You know I didn't get a good night's rest." About a half an hour later we received a text message from the food pantry director saying we should stay home and be dry; heavy rains were expected that morning. My next thought? "Well God, that's not quite the help I expected, but thank you!" Often times our prayers are answered in ways we don't expect, but that simply means the Lord is looking at a bigger picture than we are. He still deserves a heart felt "thank you."

Thank you, Lord, for watching over our going out and our coming in. Amen.

Friday, April 30th Wisdom 6:12-23 / Psalm 40, 54 /
Colossians 3:1-11 / Luke 7:1-17

Colossians 3:11 *In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!*

My husband and I were so taken by the first season of The Chosen that St. Mary's showed for our Lenten studies that we have downloaded the app for the series and have begun watching season two. In the second episode Simon is "getting on Matthew's case" about keeping a journal of everything Jesus says and does. Simon is afraid the journal will get into the wrong hands and points out that Matthew had been a tax collector working for the Roman government. Matthew says to Simon, "We all have left something behind to follow Jesus." Not only does it silence Simon, but it also gives us something to think about. What have we left behind to follow Jesus?

Lord, thank you for calling us all from our former lives into community with you. Amen.

Saturday, May 1st Wisdom 7:1-14 / Psalm 55 / Colossians 3:12-17 / Luke 7:18-35

Colossians 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.*

I was outside this evening picking up dead stuff that had been blown from the trees by the recent storms. As I was doing so, I recalled two different people telling my husband and I how messy live oak trees are. Well, to be honest, they are messy. However, they provide homes for the squirrels and birds and shade on hot days, so today I'm thanking God for our messy trees. Is there something you can thank God for this day? Something a bit out of the ordinary? Think about it.

Thank you, God. Amen.

