

# Whispers of the Spirit



## Meditations for January 10<sup>th</sup> to January 16<sup>th</sup>

*Whispers of the Spirit* is a shared ministry of  
Deacon Carolyn Quinnell and Ruth Wallace.  
This week's meditations are written by Deacon Carolyn.

**Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>** Genesis 1:1-5 / Psalm 29 / Acts 19:1-7 /  
Mark 1:4-11

Psalm 29:11 *The Lord shall give strength to his people; \* the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.*

Her name was Virginia. We knew her as the greeter for our 8am service where she welcomed every stranger like a long lost relative. One Sunday, during a stewardship drive, Virginia gave her testimony about being a former missionary, then adding the statement that everything we have comes from the Lord. The best we can do is give it back to Him. Virginia was tiny in stature, but powerful in faith. She didn't have an easy life but the Lord gave her the strength to deal with ups and downs, and the peace to let Him be in charge. He will do the same for you and me.

*Lord, thank you for the life and witness of Virginia. Amen.*

**Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>** Isaiah 40:12-23 / Psalm 1, 2, 3 /  
Ephesians 1:1-14 / Mark 1:1-13

Isaiah 40:13 *Who has directed the spirit of the Lord, or as his counselor has instructed him?*

I have known some kids who have tried to get away with telling their parents what to do. Admittedly, sometimes it is rather cute, but more likely not, and they rarely get away with it. Let's be honest with ourselves; sometimes we like to tell God how to do things. Maybe some people more than others, but we've probably all tried it at one time or another. News flash: God didn't create any of us to be consultants for Him. Don't believe me? Try reading all of today's lesson from Isaiah.

*Lord, forgive me of the sin of trying to tell you how to do something. Amen.*

**Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>** Isaiah 40:25-31 / Psalm 5, 6 /  
Ephesians 1:15-23 / Mark 1:14-28

Psalm 5:2 *Hearken to my cry for help, my King and my God, \* for I make my prayer to you.*

There is never a good time for a car to quit working and ours was no exception at the post office. AAA will tow, but because of Covid they will only transport vehicles, not people. So I called a church member who graciously met us at the post office and gave me a ride home to pick up our other car. On the way back to my husband, I prayed to God asking him to heal the car. When I returned to the post office my husband introduced me to two new friends who volunteered to take the trailer we were pulling back to our house, so my husband left me with the non-working car while he showed them the way. Later, the tow truck driver arrived, he asked a couple of questions, did one little thing, got in the car and it started right up. That day, God disguised his angels as friends and a tow truck driver.

*Thank you, Father, for your heavenly angels. Amen.*

**Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>** Isaiah 41:1-16 / Psalm 119:1-24 /  
Ephesians 2:1-10 / Mark 1:29-45

Isaiah 41:13 *For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Do not fear, I will help you."*

Couple this verse with a line in today's gospel, Mark:1:31, "He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them." Whether or not she realized it then, the Lord literally held Simon's mother-in-law by the hand and healed her. Out of gratitude, she then served. Notice in the Isaiah passage the Lord doesn't say he will hold your hand, or in time of trouble he will hold your hand. It says the Lord holds your hand. Now. At this moment. As you read this. Awesome.

*Thank you, Lord, for holding my hand. Amen.*

**Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>** Isaiah 41:17-29 / Psalm 18:1-20 /  
Ephesians 2:11-22 / Mark 2:1-12

Psalm 18:20 *He brought me out into an open place; \* he rescued me because he delighted in me.*

I'm sure the story is a common one at places where free food is given, but I will relate it anyway. The thirty-something woman pulled into the drive and upon being greeted she said, "I am so blessed. I was wondering how I was going to feed my family when I came around the corner and saw the free food sign." On that day the woman felt the Lord delighting in her, for He took her out of a place of turmoil and gave her a ray of sunshine. The Lord delights in each and everyone of us; we need only to open the eyes of our hearts and accept it.

*Thank you, Lord, for lifting us up from the messes we make. Amen.*

**Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>** Isaiah 42:1-17 / Psalm 16, 17 /  
Ephesians 3:1-13 / Mark 2:13-22

Mark 2:17 *When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."*

Jesus was trying to have a nice dinner with Levi the tax collector and his friends, when the scribes of the Pharisees come along and start pointing fingers at him for his choice of dinner companions.

Sounds a bit like tattling to me, but the scribes were complaining to the disciples who were also sitting at the same table eating. I love the reply Jesus gives which is quoted above and wonder if he had even the faintest smile on his face when he said it. After all, the only righteous person in the group was Jesus himself - everyone else was a sinner. Therefore, Jesus came for everyone present, including the scribes. He came for each of us as well.

*Thank you, Jesus, for being the great physician. Amen.*

**Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>** Isaiah 43:1-13 / Psalm 20, 21:1-14 /  
Ephesians 3:14-21 / Mark 2:23 – 3:6

Mark 2:23-24 *One sabbath he was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?”*

As a point of clarification, plucking heads of grain would have been considered work, and it was unlawful to work on the sabbath. That being said, does it seem at times that the Pharisees have planted spies to try and catch Jesus doing something against the law? After all, were they also in the grainfield checking up on them? The word tattletale comes to mind. However, before we judge them too harshly let's take a good look at ourselves. We had a priest out in California who, when someone would make a remark about what a fellow parishioner wore to church, would always reply, “Hey, they can come in their bathing suit for all I care. Just as long as they're here worshipping the Lord.” Thankfully, I never saw anyone take him up on that, but his point is well made. Like Jesus said at another time, we should take the log out of our own eye before being concerned about the splinter in someone else's eye.

*Lord, help me to keep my eyes on you and not others. Amen.*

