

Whispers of the Spirit



Meditations for January 16th to January 22nd

Whispers of the Spirit is a ministry of Deacon Carolyn Quinnell and friends.
This week's selections have been written by Deacon Carolyn.

Sunday, January 16th Isaiah 62:1-5 / Psalm 36:5-10 /
1 Corinthians 12:1-11 / John 2:1-11

Rather than focus on one or two verses from one of the readings for today, I would like to focus on the words of the Collect: *Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

When I was a newbie to the healing ministry my path crossed with a lady I will refer to as D. Since then we have seen each other a handful of times and on each occasion I can't help but notice that the light of Christ seems to surround her. Her smile and laugh are infectious. Oh, that we would all shine with the radiance of Christ's glory.

Lord, may your light shine through me. Amen.

Monday, January 17th Genesis 8:6-22 / Psalm 25 /
Hebrews 4:14–5:6 / John 2:23–3:15

John 3:1 *Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.*

John's account of the meeting between Jesus and Nicodemus does not mention anyone else being present. Theoretically it could have been witnessed by one or more of the disciples; however, if it was not, then how did John know word for word what was said unless he was later told by Nicodemus himself? Later in John's gospel we read that Nicodemus accompanied Joseph of Arimathea in ministering to the body of Jesus after he was crucified. So, my

conclusion is that at some point Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews must have either secretly wanted to be a disciple, or actually became one. What strength, what courage it must have taken for him to make such a radical decision – and Jesus was right there all along to help him. He's with us as well; in our big decisions and small, if we ask him to be.

Jesus, guide my thoughts and actions this day. Amen.

Tuesday, January 18th (Confession of St. Peter the Apostle)
Acts 4:8-13 / Psalm 23 / 1 Peter 5:1-4 / Matthew 16:13-19

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.

One of the real pluses of both the Cursillo movement and the Order of St. Luke healing ministry is that most of the time the Holy Spirit works through “uneducated and ordinary” people. Jesus told his disciples that He would not leave them alone: He didn't and that has continued throughout the ages even to today. The Holy Spirit empowers us to give thanks, praise and witness to the saving love of Jesus Christ – while using our basic personality traits to do so. If you aren't one to suddenly start singing in tongues while standing at the seashore, well that's OK. Perhaps, though, He would have you give a quiet witness to someone. He knows you and what you're capable of. Let Him use you today.

Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Amen.

Wednesday, January 19th Genesis 9:18-29 / Psalm 38 /
Hebrews 6:1-12 / John 3:22-36

John 3:31 The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks about earthly things. The one who comes from heaven is above all.

It's interesting to have conversations with clergy we've just met. Invariably someone will ask my husband what kind of work he did

before he retired. Once they find out his background is in physics and worked as an engineer who dealt with lasers and optics, their interest level is suddenly peaked and they have all kinds of questions. Sometimes it's a bit comical, but he easily speaks of that which he knows. In our gospel reading for today, John the Baptist tells his followers that he too can only speak about what he knows, which are things from the earth. He then adds that if they want to know about heavenly things, they should ask the one who came from heaven. The same goes for us. If we want to know what heaven is like, read God's word in scripture and ask Jesus.

Lord, open my ears to hear your Word. Amen.

Thursday, January 20th Genesis 11:1-9 / Psalm 37:1-18 /
Hebrews 6:13-20 / John 4:1-15

Psalm 37:7 *Be still before the Lord* and wait patiently for him.*

The other day our son described for us how it was taking his two boys fishing. The youngest is OK with sitting and waiting on a fish to bite. In contrast, the older boy starts getting fidgety within 2 minutes of the bait hitting the water. Comments like, "Nothing's happening," or "When are the fish going to bite?" and then, "This is boring," are common. Like the older son, we too become easily impatient for the Lord to work in our lives. We may find ourselves saying, "Nothing's happening here Lord!" Our psalmist tells us to wait patiently and be still, much like a good fisherman waiting to make a catch.

Lord, help me to be still before you. Amen.

Friday, January 21st Genesis 11:27–12:8 / Psalm 31 /
Hebrews 7:1-17 / John 4:16-26

John 4:16 *Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."*

I would be willing to bet that each of us has something we really don't want others to know about us, whether it be something we've done in the past, an attitude, a habit or prejudice. The woman at

the well had something all the other women in town knew about her, and shunned her for it. Therefore, she made her trip to the well to get the water she needed when no one else was around. Jesus knew her history and went right for the jugular vein to bring it out in the open. Did you notice though that He did not condemn her for her lifestyle, but rather used it to prove to her that He already knew about her. Then He gave her an invitation to turn her life around. He already knows all about you as well, and He extends that invitation to you in love.

Thank you, Jesus, for inviting me to follow you. Amen.

Saturday, January 22nd Genesis 12:9–13:1 / Psalm 30, 32 /
Hebrews 7:18-28 / John 4:27-42

John 4:42 *They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”*

The woman’s testimony was important, for without it how could the other townspeople have known anything about Christ? However, it was not an “end-all”. They needed to hear the Word for themselves, to make a personal connection to Jesus. As an analogy, I can hear about peppermint patties, but until I take a bite and taste one I cannot know the cool minty sensation of one. If I only hear about Jesus but never know the warmth of his presence in my life, I will not fully know His saving grace. Different people experience that “knowing” in their own unique ways. For some it’s a growing awareness; for others a special “ah-ha” moment. For some a quiet walk in the woods or by the beach brings a sense of closeness; for others the intense learning/sharing experience of a Cursillo weekend or other such gatherings bring the same feeling. The Lord works in many ways.

Lord, thank you for touching me. Amen.

