

Whispers of the Spirit



Meditations for October 10th to October 16th

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

Sunday, October 10th Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 / Psalm 90:12-17 /
Hebrews 4:12-16 / Mark 10:17-31

Mark 10:25 *"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."*

My husband, Bob, tells a story of a time when he was in college that he and some friends went spelunking (cave exploring). The friends pointed him to a narrow opening and told him there was a large room on the other side. So, Bob decided he would crawl through the opening to take a look. He managed to get part way through but got stuck because the jacket he was wearing got caught on the walls of the opening. There he was, unable to go forward or backwards. With great difficulty he managed to eventually worm his way out of his predicament, but not without a bit of panic setting in. What is it that causes us to get stuck in our journey towards God's kingdom? In today's reading, the man's problem was his great wealth. It could have easily been pride, prejudice or any number of obstacles. I believe Jesus would have us "disrobe" of those extra layers before trying to enter the narrow path.

Lord, help me through my tight spots. Amen.

Monday, October 11th Jeremiah 36:11-26 / Psalm 1, 2, 3 /
1 Corinthians 13:1-13 / Matthew 10:5-15

Psalm 3:8 *Deliverance belongs to the Lord. * Your blessing be upon your people!*

To bless = to find favor. One of my favorite memories as a young child was when I was able to lie on the couch next to my mother and have my head in her lap. We were usually watching something on television, but that didn't really matter; just as long as I could be right there with her. Sometimes I would get chilly so she would cover me up

with newspaper – which warmed me right up. Memories like that are a blessing because there were other times when I was in plenty of trouble for doing (or not doing) something. Consider this: whenever we feel blessed perhaps the Lord is the actual author of that blessing. In my case, He used my mother. Perhaps He has used someone you know as well.

Lord, thank you for my many blessings and those people you have worked through. Amen.

Tuesday, October 12th Jeremiah 36:27–37:2 / Psalm 5, 6 /
1 Corinthians 14:1-12 / Matthew 10:16-23

Matthew 10:19 *When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time...*

One of the true blessings of being a prayer warrior is that, well, I get to pray for others. That's rather obvious, don't you think? When it gets tricky is when someone comes forward for prayers and I ask my standard question, "How may I pray for you?" and the person shrugs their shoulders and says, "I don't know, just pray." While 99.9% of the time I ask the Holy Spirit to guide me when I intercede for someone, I **really** need guidance when I'm told to just pray. The awesome thing is, the person being prayed for usually ends up with a funny look on their face and says something to the effect that I had hit the nail on the head. Truthfully, it wasn't me; it was the Holy Spirit at work there. I was just the conduit.

Lord, may I be a clear conduit for your healing grace. Amen.

Wednesday, October 13th Jeremiah 37:3-21 / Psalm 119:1-24 /
1 Corinthians 14:13-25 / Matthew 10:24-33

1 Corinthians 14:23 *If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your mind?*

Decades ago, when I went to work at a Savings & Loan institution, I had to learn "bank speak"; acronyms like CD, APR and words such as

compound interest and points. In the church we also have our own special vocabulary: Sanctus, Fraction Anthem, Processional, Recessional, etc., not to mention acronyms for our various groups. I can't help but wonder how confusing all this may seem to someone who has just walked in off the street. It may very well sound like we're speaking in tongues! I think I will try and take Paul's advice to the Corinthians and be careful of the words that I speak to newcomers. There will be plenty of time for language lessons later.

Lord, open my lips that I may proclaim your praise. Amen.

Thursday, October 14th Jeremiah 38:1-13 / Psalm 18:1-20 /
1 Corinthians 14:26-33a, 37-40 / Matthew 10:34-42

1 Corinthians 14:26 *What should be done then, my friends? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.*

What would it look like if everyone who entered into our sanctuary on a Sunday morning came with either a hymn, lesson, revelation, tongue or interpretation? I think it would look a far cry from our usual Sunday service. However, what Paul said would work fine in a small house church setting where more people would have an opportunity to contribute to the group in a more vocal way. Later in this same section Paul points out that God is a God not of disorder but of peace. Hence the reason why we have a particular order to our Sunday worship. Regardless of whether we worship in a large group (think Sunday morning congregation) or a small house group, let all things be done to build up.

Lord, help us to worship as you would have us do so. Amen.

Friday, October 15th Jeremiah 38:14-28 / Psalm 16, 17 /
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 / Matthew 11:1-6

Matthew 11:4-5 *Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see; the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.*

John the Baptist was in prison so he couldn't very well see for himself what his cousin, Jesus, was doing. Instead, he sent his disciples to find out for him. This reminds me of a mother working away in the kitchen and, upon realizing she hasn't heard one of children lately, sends another offspring to go check on them, "Go see what your brother is doing." When the report comes back that the boy has taken out every Lego he owns and is working on a giant spaceship in his room, the mother can breathe a sigh of relief. Perhaps John needed to be reassured that his life work was not in vain. Even spiritual heavyweights need to be reassured sometimes. That's good to know.

Lord, I thank you for your reassurance today. Amen.

Saturday, October 16th 2 Kings 25:8-12, 22-26 / Psalm 20, 21:1-14 / 1 Corinthians 15:12-29 / Matthew 11:7-15

Psalm 21:2 *You have given him his heart's desire; * you have not denied him the request of his lips.*

When my son was about 10 years of age he begged us for a dog. We explained how dogs needed to be walked daily and, since we lived in a housing development, he would have to pick up any mess the dog made. This went on for weeks and finally we agreed to go to the animal shelter to see what was available. There we met an adorable terrier mix named Lacy. We adopted her and my son was ecstatic, for a couple of days. A week later he hit upon the idea that he could give the dog to me as a gift, which he did. Over the years we accumulated a number of "Lacy" stories. She has since passed over the rainbow bridge, but she will forever be in our hearts. Sometimes we don't know what our heart's desire is until we get it. Finding Jesus is like that. We don't know how wonderful a savior he is until we get to know him.

Thank you, Jesus, for being my heart's desire. Amen.

