

Whispers of the Spirit



Meditations for November 28th to December 4th

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

Sunday, November 28th Jeremiah 33:14-16 / Psalm 25:1-9 /
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 / Luke 21:25-36

Psalm 25:6 *Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness,
O LORD.*

One of the things I came to realize as I prepared sermons for the Wednesday services is that very few saints of the church were considered to be holy from their youth. For the most part, they were average, everyday young people, some with behavior worse than others, who had personal encounters with the risen Lord. Yet the Lord loved and redeemed each and every one of them. The Lord wishes to redeem you as well. I realize that those who read these meditations already have a relationship with Jesus and for that I give thanks and praise. At the beginning of this month, we recognized all the saints who have gone before us. Today I would like to offer the idea that we remember before the Lord all those in our lives who are still living and are continuing to be sign posts to the Lord for us.

Lord, thank you for friends, family and even strangers who point the way to you. Amen.

Monday, November 29th Amos 2:6-16 / Psalm 1, 2, 3 /
2 Peter 1:1-11 / Matthew 21:1-11

Matthew 21:10-11 *When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."*

One of our former presidents had a mother who lived close to the town where we were in South Florida. Whenever he visited, he

would fly into the airport in West Palm Beach on Air Force 1 then travel by motorcade to see his mom. It always presented a security issue because the various local police agencies would have to coordinate rolling roadblocks. For the unsuspecting drivers on the road, the extra delays would cause mixed reactions; everything from, “Oh, look, there’s the President!” to, (angrily) “I’m running late enough as it is – what’s going on?” I suspect the celebration around the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem also caused mixed reactions. I can’t help but wonder what my own reaction would have been. A spiritual exercise for you: close your eyes, picture yourself in the scene of Jesus entering Jerusalem. Where are you and what are you doing?

Come, Lord Jesus. I welcome you. Amen.

Tuesday, November 30th (St. Andrew) Deuteronomy 30:11-14 / Psalm 19 or 19:1-6 / Romans 10:8b-18 / Matthew 4:18-22

Matthew 4:18-19 *As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”*

I love the way the series *The Chosen* integrates our verse for today with John 2:35-41, because it shows that John the Baptist had pointed Jesus out to Andrew and he (Andrew) had visited with Jesus for a day. It also points out that Andrew told his brother Peter about Jesus. So, when Jesus appeared on the seashore and said to the brothers, “Follow me,” it wasn’t as though He was a total stranger who appeared out of nowhere. That’s an important point because most people are introduced to Christ by someone they already know. It makes sense if you think about it. Would you make a life-changing decision based on something a total stranger said, or does the recommendation of a friend hold more weight? For me, it’s the latter. The projection of that is that we too have a friend or acquaintance who needs an introduction to the Lord. But before you do that, make the important step of speaking to the Lord about your friend first.

Lord, to whom would you have me give witness? Amen.

Wednesday, December 1st Amos 3:12–4:5 / Psalm 119:1-24 /
2 Peter 3:1-10 / Matthew 21:23-32

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

As I sat down to work on today's thoughts, I looked out the window and spotted an Anhinga on the shore drying its wings. This bird swims underwater, spears a fish with its beak then heads to the trees or shoreline to spread its waterlogged wings in the sun to dry. It takes patience to dry anything that's waterlogged, but in the bird's case it's necessary. As much as the Anhinga is patient, our Lord is even more so with us. He waits. He waits for us at each step of our learning/growing process. Sometimes he waits for other situations to be just right before moving us forward. How great it is to have such a patient teacher.

Thank you, Lord, for waiting for me. Amen.

Thursday, December 2nd Amos 4:6-13 / Psalm 18:1-20 /
2 Peter 3:11-18 / Matthew 21:33-46

*Psalm 18:17 He reached down from on high and grasped me; * he drew me out of great waters.*

There is a type of healing prayer called healing of memories. In it, we ask the one being prayed for to remember a difficult time in their life and then ask Jesus to show himself in that memory. Quite often the person will see Jesus step between them and whoever or whatever the situation is. It's not unusual for them to also feel as if they were being embraced by the Holy. I can think of no greater comfort or protection than Jesus coming to us in our time of need.

Thank you, Jesus, for taking the arrows for me. Amen.

Friday, December 3rd Amos 5:1-17 / Psalm 16, 17 / Jude 1-16 /
Matthew 22:1-14

Psalm 16:7 *I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; * my heart teaches me, night after night.*

We heard a gentleman by the name of Mike Evans speak at a conference a number of years ago. Mike made the comment that he sits quietly with the Lord every moment, not talking or praying about anything, but just sitting in silence. Mike said he was sure that during these times Jesus downloads stuff to his mental hard drive because later in the day he would find himself giving words of encouragement or comfort to someone and, after saying them, would wonder to himself where those words came from. They could have only come from Jesus. Perhaps the lesson here is that spending time with Jesus every day, just sitting and being in His presence, would benefit us all.

Lord, help me to be still in your presence. Amen.

Saturday, December 4th Amos 5:18-27 / Psalm 20, 21:1-7(8-14) /
Jude 17-25 / Matthew 22:15-22

Psalm 20:1 *May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble, * the Name of the God of Jacob defend you...*

What a nice blessing this verse makes. To add to it, continue reading through verse 4. It reminds me how important blessing prayers are, both for us and for the person receiving them. For us because it encourages us to think of the person we wish to bless as being special to the Lord. For them because they are reminded that they are indeed special to the same Lord. I saw a bumper sticker once that said, "My Father is the King of Kings; that makes me a princess." You, my friends, are either a prince or princess yourself and, because of this, you are cherished by your Father in heaven. May you be blessed this day.

Thank you, Abba, for making me your child. Amen.

