

Whispers of the Spirit



Meditations for October 17th to October 23rd

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 17th Isaiah 53:4-12 / Psalm 91:9-16 /
Hebrews 5:1-10 / Mark 10:35-45

Hebrews 5:5b-6 *“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”*; as he says also in another place, *“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”*

According to biblegateway.com, the name Melchizedek is mentioned 11 times in the bible: twice in Genesis, once in Psalms and the other eight times in Hebrews. Yet, for all this, we still don't really know who he was, only that he was king of a city state called Salem (that eventually became Jerusalem) and a priest who blessed Abram. He is a mystery. What we can surmise is that he spoke to God on Abram's behalf. Jesus does that for you and me. He is our intercessor and high priest. We can go to him with any care, concern, need, want, and, yes, even thanks and praise. Why not spend some extra time today with the great high priest?

Jesus, blessings and honor and glory are yours today and tomorrow. Amen.

Monday, October 18th (St. Luke) Ecclesiasticus 38:1-4, 6-10, 12-14 /
Psalm 147 / 2 Timothy 4:5-13 / Luke 4:14-21

Ecclesiasticus 38:13-14 *There may come a time when recovery lies in the hands of physicians, for they too pray to the Lord that he grant them success in diagnosis and in healing, for the sake of preserving life.*

It's been ten years since my husband went to the hospital to have a heart catheterization done. When the doctor came into pre-op, we asked him if it would be OK if we prayed for him. He agreed and we did. As it turned out, the procedure showed what my husband really needed was by-pass surgery. The next day the surgeon came

into pre-op and we asked him if we could pray. He agreed, took our hands and he began praying. I knew then and there we were in good hands and that my husband would be OK. It's a memory I will cherish for all my days. Our doctors, nurses and other medical professionals are under a great deal of stress every day. I ask you to remember them in your prayers often.

Lord, I thank you for good physicians and other medical personnel. Bless them in the work you have called them to. Amen.

Tuesday, October 19th Lamentations 1:1-12 / Psalm 26, 28 /
1 Corinthians 15:41-50 / Matthew 11:25-30

Lamentations 1:1a *How lonely sits the city that once was full of people!*

The grocery store we shop at moved from its old location to a new, larger, nicer looking one. The other day we drove past the old location and the building looked lonely, almost sad. Where it was once bustling with people, it now sits empty. If a grocery store can look like this, then so too can other buildings, especially churches. A house of worship that once held people who prayed, sang hymns and praised the Lord, now sits empty and, yes, desolate; no one left to sit in its pews, the pulpit silenced. Again, if buildings reflect this, what about people who feel like they're at the end of their rope; wondering if there is any hope left. The light of the Lord can shine into the darkness of such a soul. Today we can be reflections of that light to someone who sits alone and feeling helpless. Sometimes, all it takes is a willing ear and a smile.

Lord, shine your light into the darkness of our lives. Amen.

Wednesday, October 20th Lamentations 2:8-15 / Psalm 38 /
1 Corinthians 15:51-58 / Matthew 12:1-14

Matthew 12:12 *"How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the sabbath."*

Jesus healed the man with the withered hand. It doesn't matter why it was withered; it just was. I'm sure having a two fully functional

hands instead of one made a huge difference in the man's life. I can't help but wonder: did he leave that day praising Jesus? We haven't had active prayer teams during Sunday service for quite some time now, but that doesn't mean we no longer pray for those in need. Seek out a member of the clergy, Order of St. Luke or Daughters of the King. Jesus still heals today like he did 2,000 years ago. Sometimes it's through medicine, other times through prayer. You never know, you just might have an opportunity to leave church praising Jesus!

Thank you, Jesus, for healing the man with the withered hand. Amen.

Thursday, October 21st Ezra 1:1-11 / Psalm 37:1-18 /
1 Corinthians 16:1-9 / Matthew 12:15-21

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

In another psalm we're told to not fret. That's hard. One time when I was working in the church office our offerings were not coming in as quickly as our bills were. We prayed, and we fretted. We didn't need to fret, the Lord provided us with someone who wrote a check for our shortfall, just at the right time. That's not the only example we've seen. Perhaps the Lord will answer our needs, wants and desires sooner if we learn to not fret, be still and wait for him to act rather than adding in our two cents to "help."

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

Friday, October 22nd Ezra 3:1-13 / Psalm 31 /
1 Corinthians 16:10-24 / Matthew 12:22-32

Psalm 31:23a *Love the Lord, all you who worship him*

High church, low church, middle of the road. It matters not how you like your worship style. What speaks volumes is how engaged you are in the service. Are you present in body, mind and spirit? Recall that Jesus told the woman at the well that the time had come when the true worshipper would do so in spirit and truth. That means we can love the Lord and worship Him 24/7. We are His

cherished children and he desires us to love Him back as He loves us. However, this isn't an excuse to skip church on Sunday morning saying you can worship the Lord on the golf course just as well as sitting in a pew. Our presence encourages others who are also sitting in the pews. In other words, you are missed when we don't see you!

I love you Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you. Amen.

Saturday, October 23rd (St. James of Jerusalem) Acts 15:12-22a / Psalm 1 / 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 / Matthew 13:54-58

Psalm 1:3 *They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; * everything they do shall prosper.*

Today we celebrate the life of St. James of Jerusalem. Depending on who you ask, he was either the younger brother, the older step-brother, or a first cousin of Jesus. Whatever his family relationship was I couldn't help but think that he was planted (born) by THE stream of living water (Jesus). While we have no record of him believing that Jesus was the Messiah until after the resurrection, he did bear fruit in his own due season.

Some people "came to Christ" at a young age, others were much older. While it's really uplifting to see young people who are true believers in the Lord, truth be told it's also uplifting to see someone who lived a long crochety life suddenly turn away from that life and seek Jesus. We all have fruit to bear. The timing is up to God.

Lord, help me to bear the fruit you have in mind in your time. Amen.

