

# Nudges of the Spirit



## Meditations for February 18<sup>th</sup> to February 24<sup>th</sup>

*Nudges of the Spirit* is currently a ministry of Deacon Carolyn Quinnell, Sandy Freiburger and Denise Bersos.  
This week's selections have been written by Carolyn.

**Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>** Genesis 9:8-17 / Psalm 25:1-9 / 1 Peter 3:18-22 / Mark 1:9-15 *(written by Carolyn)*

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.*

We know from studying the culture of the time of Jesus that Matthew was most likely not immediately liked by the other disciples; after all, he was a tax collector working for the Romans. In addition, if Simon the Zealot really was from the Zealot order, he would have been against anyone who supported the Roman government. However, let's remember that every one of the disciples had a life they *left* behind in order to become a follower of Jesus. That carries on even to today. I would wager that each of us has at least one thing from our past that we are not particularly proud of, but remember *we left* that old life when we accepted Jesus. Our past lives have been forgiven. The Lord looks in our hearts to see where we are today. Praise Him!

*Thank you, Jesus, for your great love. Amen.*

**Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** Genesis 37:1-11 / Psalm 41, 52 / 1 Corinthians 1:1-19 / Mark 1:1-13 *(written by Carolyn)*

1 Corinthians 1:4 (Paul wrote) *I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus.*

Today I give thanks for the section of our prayers of the people on Sunday morning when we can bring our individual requests to the Lord. Sometimes the person leading them will pause for a bit so people can vocalize their petitions and, depending on the attendees, some do. I especially give thanks for the section where we can thank God for our blessings. My husband and family immediately come to mind, but then I will typically move on from there. I've noticed our congregations (for whatever reason) don't seem as vocal on the thanksgiving prayers as they are on the petitions. I'm sure you know that every day is a good day to say thank you to the Lord. I invite you to sit quietly with the Lord and thank Him for someone/something special today.

*Thank you, Lord, for our readers. Amen.*

**Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>** Genesis 37:12-24 / Psalm 45 / 1 Corinthians 1:20-31 / Mark 1:14-28 *(written by Carolyn)*

1 Corinthians 1:25 *For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.*

This verse strikes me as being a good refrigerator magnet verse. It's a good reminder that when we're faced with tough decisions or what seem like insurmountable obstacles, God is both wiser and stronger than whatever it is that we're facing. If the wisdom and strength of our Lord is hard for you to comprehend - join the club! Many, if not all, of us have the same limitation. An analogy of both the vastness and intricacies of God's creation can be seen in a 1977 YouTube video called Powers of Ten. Yet even though the Lord is creator of such vastness and wonder, He loves each and every one of us, down to the smallest part of our bodies that we can see under a microscope. Wow.

*Thank you, Lord. Amen.*

**Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>** Genesis 37:25-36 / Psalm 119:49-72 / 1 Corinthians 2:1-13 / Mark 1:29-45 *(written by Carolyn)*

1 Corinthians 2:1 *When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words of wisdom.*

We were at a clergy convention once where one of the priests rose to ask a question of our speaker who had been using a lot of 15-letter, multisyllable words in long run-on sentences. The priest likewise used the same type of language, as did several others who spoke after him. Our bishop finally got up and said, "Who are you trying to impress? When you speak it is far better to use plain speech!" I recall thinking, "Thank you, bishop!" Quite frankly, up to that point the whole thing had been quite boring. I learned a few things at that conference, but by far the most important was to always remember that Jesus meets us where we are and, as instruments of His grace, we must emulate the Apostle Paul in our choice of words. May I never proclaim Jesus in such a way as to talk over the head of my listener or come off as boring.

*Jesus, how would you have me speak today? Amen.*

**Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** Genesis 39:1-23 / Psalm 50 / 1 Corinthians 2:14–3:15 / Mark 2:1-12 *(written by Carolyn)*

Psalm 50:15 (God said) *"Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."*

We know a man who contracted H1N1/Swine flu some fourteen years ago. Word got out that he had been hospitalized and was close to death. Immediately prayers were lifted up for him. Today, all these years later he is alive, well and continuously praising God not only for his excellent doctors and nurses, but also for the many individuals who prayed for him. Since then, his life has been a testimony, to anyone who will listen, of how great our God is. Not all our "troubles" are physical, but God still wants us to bring them to Him. He will answer according to **His** will – which may or may not be **our** wills. I think one of the biggest obstacles to seeing God at work in the world around us is that He doesn't do what we think He should do.

*Lord, help me remember which of us is God and which is not. Amen.*

**Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>** Genesis 40:1-23 / Psalm 95, 40, 54 / 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 / Mark 2:13-22 *(written by Carolyn)*

1 Corinthians 3:21-23 (Paul wrote) *So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future – all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.*

When we were growing up, my sister was a huge fan of Elvis, my best friend thought Tom Jones was the greatest, while I was a fan of Davy Jones of the Monkees. As of this writing, the only one of those three who are still alive is Tom Jones. Today other people are idols, but here's a question: Should we, as followers of Christ, even have any idols? The Apostle Paul tells us that we should not boast about our human leaders. He was writing specifically to those people in the church in Corinth who wanted to pit Paul, Apollos and Cephas (Aramaic name for Peter) against each other. The thing is, they all loved and preached about Jesus. His message is that the person we worship is not currently a flesh and blood human, but the Lord himself. **He** is the only one worthy of our praise and worship.

*Lord, help me direct my attention to you. Amen.*

**Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>** (St. Matthias) Acts 1:15-26 / Psalm 15 / Philippians 3:13-21 / John 15:1, 6-16 *(written by Carolyn)*

John 15:6 *Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.*

I've heard it said that a rose can be considered a weed if it is growing where a homeowner doesn't want it to. Frankly, I am quite happy to have a rose grow wherever it will since in my yard they generally don't do well. However, weeds are a common problem in our flower beds, so once a week we can be found on our hands and knees yanking them out. What is pulled up is then put in an aluminum tub which, when it gets full, is taken off to the recycle place. While the weeds are in the bucket the meaning of the verse quoted above becomes very apparent. In the ground they're usually green and healthy looking. In the bucket, cut off from water and soil, they turn brown and wither. Extending this analogy to humans, sometimes we can get withered on the inside while all outward appearances

would indicate we're OK. It's not at all unusual for us to stand in line at (for example) the pharmacy and someone will start complaining about the slow service or how there is always a problem with their medications. Is complaining a sign that perhaps we're not getting the nutrients we need from the One who gives us life? I'll leave the answer to that question up to you.

*Lord, help me see your face in those around me. Amen.*

