

Nudges of the Spirit



Meditations for November 24th to November 30^h

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

Sunday, November 24th (Christ the King) 2 Samuel 23:1-7 or Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 / Psalm 132:1-13(14-19) or Psalm 93/ Revelation 1:4b-8 / John 18:33-37 (*written by Carolyn*)

Daniel 7:9 *As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire.*

In the comic strip “Family Circus” people are depicted wearing white robes and sitting on a cloud looking down at earth from heaven. Truth be told, we don’t know what heaven is like; and we won’t know till we get there. This is much like trying to describe the Grand Canyon to someone who has never been there. Even pictures don’t do justice to what has been described as a huge ditch in the earth. I know I had a few “wow” moments on my first visit. So, considering the Grand Canyon is pale when compared to what we believe heaven is like, I’m sure we are all in store for some major “wow” moments in our future. And the biggest “wow” of all will be Jesus waiting to welcome us home.

Lord, we don't know what it will be like when we get there, but that's OK since we know you are there. Amen.

Monday, November 25th Zechariah 10:1-12 / Psalm 106:1-18 / Galatians 6:1-10 / Luke 18:15-30 (*written by Carolyn*)

Galatians 6:4 *All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride.*

Work ethic. Why do some people develop work ethics that are “over the top” and others do just enough to slide by? Thinking about my own background, somewhere along the way my sister was labeled as the athletic one. OK, granted she was better at every sport than I was, probably because I spent more time with my nose in a book.

But what about our work ethics? I would say we each learned, from our parents, to try our best at whatever we did. But how do we know what exactly our “best” is? As I have gotten older, I’ve learned that I have a plumb line for “right” living – and His name is Jesus. Does that mean everyone should have that same plumb line? It’s not my place to put that guide on anyone but myself. Whether or not He is to be your guide – well that’s between Him and you.

Lord, guide me to do those things you would have me do. Amen.

Tuesday, November 26th Zechariah 11:4-17 / Psalm 121, 122, 123 / 1 Corinthians 3:10-23 / Luke 18:31-43 *(written by Carolyn)*

Luke 18:41 (Jesus asked the blind man) “*What do you want me to do for you?*” He said, “*Lord, let me see again.*”

I have worn glasses since I was in the 6th grade. I still remember the first time I walked out of the doctor’s office wearing my new eyewear. I looked around at several things and asked my mom, “How long has that ladder been at the top of the lighthouse?” She gave me a funny look and informed me it had been there since the day the structure was built. I didn’t realize that I had not been able to see clearly for quite some time – if ever. With my new glasses, the world around me came into focus. Sometimes our skewed vision is not physical, but attitudinal. We are all born with our own unique world views and unless some major effort is made on our part, we keep those views our entire lives. But when we ask Jesus to correct our vision, He’s more than happy to do just that.

Lord, help me to see as you would have me see. Amen.

Wednesday, November 27th Zechariah 12:1-10 / Psalm 119:146-176 / Ephesians 1:3-14 / Luke 19:1-10 *(written by Carolyn)*

Luke 19:4 So he (Zacchaeus) *ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him (Jesus), because he was going to pass that way.*

Those of us who are vertically challenged can relate to the frustration Zacchaeus must have felt when he wanted to see Jesus. We spend time peeking around shoulders and standing on tip toes,

and generally thinking, “If I were only taller.” So, in our verse for today, Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree; not a palm tree, their branches would not have held his body weight. No, our tax collector friend wisely chose a species that was sturdy and would be able to support him in his quest to see Jesus. Who in your faith journey supports you in your quest to get closer to Jesus? I sincerely hope you have someone you can talk things over with; someone who has the courage to say, “Hey, you may be getting a bit off track here.” So, today, in the name of Jesus, may you be blessed with a spiritual friend who can support you as well as a sycamore; and may you be that support for someone else.

Lord, thank you for our spiritual friends. Amen.

Thursday, November 28th (Thanksgiving) Joel 2:21-27 / Psalm 126 / 1 Timothy 2:1-7 / Matthew 6:25-33 *(written by Carolyn)*

Joel 2:22 *Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.*

Happy Thanksgiving Day! We have several neighbors who have the same landscape service. Monday mornings around 8 a.m. we hear their mower and trimmer working away. Invariably, I will have a quote go through my head: “The mowers are coming! The mowers are coming!” The lines are from a 1982 movie, The Secret of Nimh, which my daughter watched multiple times as a young child. (Feel free to look it up on Google for the plot.) I wonder sometimes if we consider the wonder of the gift God has given us in nature. Think of the creation stories (yes, there are two of them) in Genesis, the Lord spoke air, water, foliage and animals into being, just as He did us. He blessed it all and said it was good. Is it still that way?

Lord, direct us to take care of your creation in a way that is pleasing to you. Amen.

Friday, November 29th Zechariah 14:1-11 / Psalm 140, 142 / Romans 15:7-13 / Luke 19:28-40 *(written by Carolyn)*

Luke 19:35 *Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.*

Oh, what a story the colt has to tell! He gave the King of Kings a ride on his back! The extra cloaks on the road and all the people making such a noise along the way were a bit of a distraction, but he managed to safely deliver Jesus to Jerusalem, just as he was tasked to do. What stories we have to tell as well – anytime we know the Lord has intervened in our lives. And when we tell others about what has happened to us, we give witness to the glory of the Lord. That witness gives encouragement to others to tell their stories – which in turn allows even more people to hear about Jesus. It’s what we’re all tasked to do.

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

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

Matthew 4:19 *And he (Jesus) said to them (Peter and Andrew), “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”*

December 1st of 2019, my friend, Ruth Wallace, and I began a new ministry – that of writing daily meditations to be shared with those in our parish family and beyond. Several changes have been made since then: Ruth retired from writing, others have contributed along the way, my husband and I moved to a new town and therefore a new parish and the meditations themselves had a name change. If someone had asked me then if I would still be writing five years later, I would have said, “I have no idea. Let me get through the first month!” I would imagine that Andrew had no idea what he was getting into when he said “yes” to Jesus. Ministry is like that. First, we say “yes” then we later learn what we signed up for – but only when we get out of the way and let Jesus work through us. Andrew’s life changed the day he left his nets. I would bet you are also different now than before you began to follow our Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

