

# Nudges of the Spirit



## Meditations for February 11<sup>th</sup> to February 17<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 11<sup>th</sup>** 2 Kings 2:1-12 / Psalm 50:1-6 / 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 / Mark 9:2-9 *(written by Carolyn)*

2 Kings 2:9 *When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit."*

Shall we talk about the elephant in the room? Elisha knew his master was about to be taken from him, and Elijah knew it as well – yet neither of them mentioned it until after they crossed the Jordan River. So, how does this apply to us today? We rarely know the day and hour of our passing. When I was around 30-ish, a good friend of mine was killed in an automobile accident. She left an injured husband (he was driving and sustained multiple non-life-threatening injuries) as well as two children. The older of the two had been angry with his mom just prior to the accident and had refused to say good-bye when she left the house. He dealt with the guilt of that refusal for quite a number of years. My point is, when we have a chance to express our love for others – do so. We just never know when the Lord will call us home.

*Lord, may your love flow through all families. Amen.*

**Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>** Proverbs 27:1-6, 10-12 / Psalm 25 / Philippians 2:1-13 / John 18:15-18, 25-27 *(written by Carolyn)*

John 18:15b *Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest...*

When I hear the word "disciple" my immediate thoughts go to the original twelve that Jesus called; but he had many followers (aka disciples). Since our verse above does give the name of the person who was known to the high priest, I can only assume it was someone outside the original inner circle. This almost seems like an inconsequential detail, but I think it's a word of encouragement to those of us today. There are (and have been) millions of followers of Christ – most of whom we have no idea of their name. What's important is that God knows their name. And not only does God know their (and our) names, He also knows our hearts. Today our Lord calls us to come closer. Peter willingly went into the inner court of the high priest so he could stay close to Jesus. Are we willing to do the same?

*Jesus, take my hand as I walk toward you. Amen.*

**Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** Proverbs 30:1-4, 24-33 / Psalm 26, 28 / Philippians 3:1-11 / John 18:28-38 *(written by Carolyn)*

John 18:38 *Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him."*

Several years ago, the church we were in at the time did a Lenten series on worldviews. It was stressed that people who are born in other countries with different cultures will look at our common world with different viewpoints than ours. Pilate's question to Jesus is a deep one because his (Pilate's) truth was that (according to history books) he had been reprimanded by Rome for using excessive force against the Jews and here the Jewish religious leaders were demanding that he put one of their own to death for, as far as he could tell, no reason. That would not sit well with Rome. God's truth was that His Son would be a sacrifice for the sins of the world. That's a hard pill to swallow, unless we learn and believe the rest of the story – the good news that Jesus was raised from the dead. So, what is the truth for you? Is Jesus who the bible claims He is, or He just another one of the would-be messiahs of Israel?

*Lord, help us to know your truth. Amen.*

**Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** (Ash Wednesday) Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 / Psalm 103 or 103:8-14 / 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 / Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 *(written by Carolyn)*

Psalm 103:4 *He (the Lord) redeems your life from the grave \*and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness.*

Today marks the beginning of Lent with our traditional Ash Wednesday services where we are told to remember that we are dust, and we shall return to dust. During these weeks coming up we will contemplate the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, as well as the temptations the evil one inflicted upon Him. Also today, in our secular world, some will celebrate Valentine's Day. The two actually have something in common – love. Jesus left his heavenly home to be born into our fractured world – all because it was the will and love of Abba that the world be redeemed to Him. Valentine's Day is a celebration of people's expression of love – though it can never be as perfect as Abba's love. So, you see, today is a good day to renew our love of the Lord as well as celebrate our love for each other.

*Lord, help us to love as you would have us love. Amen.*

**Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>** Habakkuk 3:1-10(11-15)16-18 / Psalm 37:1-18 / Philippians 3:12-21 / John 17:1-8

*(written by Carolyn)*

Habakkuk 3:2 *O Lord, I have heard of your renown, and I stand in awe, O Lord, of your work. In our own time revive it; in our own time make it known; in wrath may you remember mercy.*

Today was a “be in nature day” even before I knew what the readings were. So, when Habakkuk speaks about being in awe of the Lord's work, I tend to relate that to the beauty that surrounds us. Then I remember that we are part of the Lord's work and therefore beautiful in His sight. Some of us might plea with God, “In our own time revive us!” because we're not feeling young – peppy – beautiful – healthy – forgiven – cherished – whatever word works for you. Sometimes it's hard to put one foot in front of another, but the promise of our Lord is that He is always with us. He walks with us and shows us His mercy. For that, we can say thank you!

*Lord, thank you for being with us. Amen.*

**Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>** Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 / Psalm 95, 31 / Philippians 4:1-9 / John 17:9-19 *(written by Carolyn)*

Philippians 4:2 *I urge Eudora and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.*

There was a church that welcomed a new rector and his family. Over time he was well received, but his wife was a different story. She brought with her ideas of how the Sunday School program should be run which were different than how the teachers had been doing things. Neither side budged in their positions, so she eventually withdrew her two girls from the program. In response, the teachers boycotted the whole program. The rift fueled an exodus from the church, which took years to reverse. In our verse for today Paul urges two women to come to an agreement. Our Lord urges us to lay aside our differences before coming to the table. The evil one takes pleasure in our bickering, while the Lord rejoices in our reconciliation. Which one will you participate in today?

*Lord, help us to see you in each other. Amen*

**Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>** Ezekiel 39:21-29 / Psalm 30, 32 / Philippians 4:10-20 / John 17:20-26 *(written by Carolyn)*

John 17:20-21a (Jesus prayed) *“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that all may be one.*

The evening before Jesus was crucified, He prayed not only for His disciples, but for you and me. We are the ones who have come to believe through the handed down words of the disciples. He also prayed for those who will come after us, that they also will believe in Him. We have our work cut out for us, do we not? There is a song that has the opening lines: “God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus. He came to love, heal and forgive...” If we are to follow in the footsteps of the disciples, this line sums up our instructions pretty well: love, heal and forgive.

*Lord, guide my actions in all things. Amen.*

