

Nudges of the Spirit

Meditations for November 9th to November 15th



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

Sunday, November 9th Haggai 1:15b–2:9 or Job 19:23-27a / Psalm 145:1-5, 18-22 or 98 or 17:1-9 /
Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 / Luke 20:27-38 *(written by Carolyn)*

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Job 19:25-27a *For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.*"

Think about a time when you walked into a room of strangers. How comfortable where you? I realize there are some very outgoing people who would feel perfectly fine with this scenario, but for the rest of us it can be a bit of a stressful situation. Now, consider the new person who walks into your church. It takes a bit of gumption to enter a building for the first time where you know there will be no one there who is familiar. The Living Bible translates verse 27 from the passage above like this: "*Then he will be on my side! Yes, I shall see him, not as a stranger, but as a friend!*" How wonderful it would be if we could greet everyone who walks into our churches as a friend – a kind of precursor to how we're greeted into heaven.

Lord, help me to greet others in your name. Amen.

Monday, November 10th Nehemiah 9:1-15(16-25) / Psalm 80 / Revelation 18:1-8 / Matthew 15:1-20 *(written by Carolyn)*

Nehemiah 9:21 *Forty years you sustained them in the wilderness so that they lacked nothing; their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell.*

Many times, I have heard preachers talk about the miracle of the God feeding the Israelites as they wandered the desert for forty years. I've yet to hear a sermon speak about the fact that their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell. Considering the harsh desert climate, I would say that they are both miracles as well. However, the point is that God provided for their needs – whatever the needs were. After having lived in Egypt for generations, the Israelites had to be retrained as to how to be God's chosen people. They had to learn how to depend upon the Lord. That's a hard lesson, even for us today.

Lord, open my eyes that I may see your abundant blessings in my life. Amen.

Tuesday, November 11th Nehemiah 9:26-38 / Psalm 78:1-39 / Revelation 18:9-20 / Matthew 15:21-28 *(written by Carolyn)*

Matthew 15:28 *Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.*

The woman, a foreigner of another religion, was desperate for her daughter. Somehow, she knew-that-she-knew that Jesus would be able to heal her child. We're not told how she had heard about Jesus in the first place. Nor do we know how she knew where He was staying. What we do know is that she had faith – faith that would not be deterred. She is an example for us, even to this day. Jesus heals. Sometimes it's outright, like this woman's daughter. More often, especially in well-to-do countries, He heals using the medical profession and all its tools. Sometimes, the healing comes on the other side of the curtain we call death. I simply do not know how people who have no faith can face a life-limiting condition without the assurance of Jesus at their side. He is my rock.

Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

Wednesday, November 12th Nehemiah 7:73b–8:3, 5-18 / Psalm 119:97-120 / Revelation 18:21-24 / Matthew 15:29-39 *(written by Carolyn)*

Matthew 15:29 *After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down.*

In our verse for today, Matthew calls our attention to the fact that Jesus has gone “up the mountain.” This seems like a trivial detail, but it really isn’t. In the Old Testament, several God encounters happened on mountains. Think of Moses meeting God in the burning bush and again receiving the 10 Commandments. Think of the prophet, Elijah, who met God in the silence outside of a cave on mount Horeb. Think of David who established Jerusalem (on a high place) as the City of God and Solomon who built the temple there. In Jewish tradition people who lived outside of Jerusalem made pilgrimages “up to Jerusalem” on a regular basis. By pointing out that Jesus went up the mountain where people brought those in need to Him for healing, Matthew is pointing to Jesus as the new Jerusalem. It is to Him we give our praise.

Thank you, Jesus, for inviting everyone to come to you. Amen.

Thursday, November 13th 1 Maccabees 1:1-28 *(from the Apocrypha)* / Psalm 23, 27 / Revelation 19:1-10 / Matthew 16:1-12 *(written by Carolyn)*

Psalm 27:14 *Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!*

Just today I shared with someone how difficult it is to wait. We were speaking specifically about important medical tests and then waiting for results, but the topic could have been about any number of things. If you have ever taken a child to Disney, Sea World, Universal Studios or some other place like those, you know their sense of anticipation grows with each mile you drive to get there. I suppose our sense of “wanting it now” comes from our microwave-zap-it-and-it’s-done culture. But there is a good side to waiting. The aroma of baking bread or a delicious pot roast heightens our enjoyment of the meal. When we wait for the Lord, we can be sure that He is never late; rarely is He early and He is always right on time.

Lord, help me to live in your time frame, not mine. Amen.

Friday, November 14th 1 Maccabees 1:41-63 *(from the Apocrypha)* / Psalm 88 / Revelation 19:11-16 / Matthew 16:13-20 *(written by Carolyn)*

Matthew 16:13 *Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”*

When Matthew mentions that Jesus and the disciples were in the district of Caesarea Philippi, it was more than a passing reference to where they were in their travels. That area was known for pagan worship. So, Jesus in effect took his followers to an area to show them the contrast between the false idols and himself. Then He asked the questions, “Who do others say I am?” and “Who do you say I am?” Those are important questions for each of us to consider even today. Do we believe Jesus is who He says He is? Our answer, and our subsequent actions, will say much about our lives.

Jesus, I believe you are the Christ – the HOLY ONE of God.”

Saturday, November 15th 1 Maccabees 2:1-28 *(from the Apocrypha)* / Psalm 87, 90 / Revelation 20:1-6 / Matthew 16:21-28 *(written by Carolyn)*

Psalm 90:2 *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*

Just yesterday my husband and I walked past a couple of men in the grocery store who I suppose were somewhere around 35-40 years of age. I happened to hear one of them say, "The trouble is, not enough people have been punched in the face for saying something stupid." My initial thought was, "And who is to say what other people say is stupid?" I've heard several people say that we have become a nation of negative people. Yes, the evil one is working hard to turn us away from the Lord God Almighty. But our call as Christians is to keep our eyes on Jesus. When we follow His example, we become examples of love and peace in a broken world. I've read that Satan laughs at our words; mocks our toil, but trembles when we pray. So, as my husband and I left the store, I found myself praying for the two men; that they would know and follow Christ.

Lord, guide us in your ways. Amen.

