

# Nudges of the Spirit

## Meditations for September 28<sup>th</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>



*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, September 28<sup>th</sup>** Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 or Amos 6:1a, 4-7 / Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 or Psalm 146 /  
1 Timothy 6:6-19 / Luke 16:19-31 *(written by Carolyn)*

Psalm 146:4 *Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the Lord their God...*

I write these words at a time when our heat indexes have been consistently over 100° for several days. At this time of year, it's good to remember that God has a plan for all things and it includes a change in seasonal temperatures. When we're sweltering, we can give thanks to the Lord that cooler temperatures are on the way. Likewise, when it's really cold outside we can remember that according to God's plan, things will warm back up. These are everyday examples of hope. We can have that hope because we have experienced these temperatures before and trust the Lord's system. How can I have hope in the Lord if I never have any experience of His love? And how can I experience that love unless I have a relationship with Him? To extend the logic further, how can I have a relationship with Him if I never speak to Him? Pray. Talk to Him. Tell Him your hopes, dreams, problems – everything.

*Lord, thank you for being at the side of each of us. Amen.*

**Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>** (St. Michael and All Angels) Genesis 28:10-17 / Psalm 103 or 103:19-22 /  
Revelation 12:7-12 / John 1:47-51 *(written by Carolyn)*

Genesis 28:12 *And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.*

Later in this same passage Jacob will awaken and declare that the Lord was in the place he had slept, and in fact named it Bethel which means "God's house." In our gospel reading for today, Jesus seems to reference this incident, only He says, "...the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." Those last three words would have sounded strange to his listeners and may still do so today. But what both Jacob's ladder and the words of Jesus point to are that when we invite Him to walk with and guide our lives, we will have a glimpse into what heaven is like. While we may not necessarily see the angels ourselves, we know that they are here.

*Lord, open our eyes to see you at work in the world around us. Amen.*

**Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>** 2 Chronicles 29:1-3; 30:1(2-9)10-27 / Psalm 97, 99 / 1 Corinthians 7:32-40 /  
Matthew 7:1-12 *(written by Carolyn)*

2 Chronicles 30:20 *The Lord heard Hezekiah, and healed the people.*

King Hezekiah was trying to do what was right in the sight of the Lord, just as his ancestor David had done. In other words, he was trying to lead his people back to the ways of the Almighty and away from worship of foreign gods. So, he called for a Passover to be celebrated and prayed for his people because he knew all the people had not cleansed themselves properly. These eight words speak volumes about the faith of Hezekiah. When you pray, do you **expect** the Lord to hear you? I ask this, because recently I have heard more than one person say that they don't think the Lord hears their prayers. My heart hurts for them. **Yes**, the Lord hears all our prayers. However, like a good parent, He doesn't necessarily give in to all our whims. Think about it.

*Lord, direct my prayers to be in accordance with your will. Amen.*

**Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>** 2 Kings 18:9-25 / Psalm 101, 109:1-4(5-19)20-30 / 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 / Matthew 7:13-21 *(written by Carolyn)*

1 Corinthians 8:9 (Paul wrote) *"But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak."*

This section in chapter 8 of 1 Corinthians is filled with Paul's counsel on whether or not it is acceptable to eat meat which has been sacrificed to pagan idols. It makes for an interesting read, but the line I like best is quoted above. How many people are watching our actions to see if they can catch us doing a "non-Christian" thing in order that they may have a basis for saying, "See, they are nothing but hypocrites"? We know the church is a hospital for sinners who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ, but many in the world have not yet received the good news of Jesus. Our job is to be ambassadors for Christ so that He may touch those who do not yet know Him.

*Lord, guide my actions. Amen.*

**Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>** 2 Kings 18:28-37 / Psalm 105:1-22 / 1 Corinthians 9:1-15 / Matthew 7:22-29 *(written by Carolyn)*

Matthew 7:29 *...for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.*

Do you have a "favorite of all time" preacher – one that you could listen to for hours and not get tired? My husband and I have listened to one such gentleman, originally from England, at several healing conferences. He uses humor and life experiences mixed in with scripture and good-old-common sense, all delivered with the British accent. It's just different enough to really grab my attention. Can you imagine sitting and listening to Jesus speak? Some of His audiences did in fact sit for hours and even days just listening. I can well believe that His words brought life to the scriptures – after all, He is the Word of God. His Words bring life to us today. It's up to us to decide if we will listen.

*Lord, help me to listen to your Word. Amen.*

**Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** 2 Kings 19:1-20 / Psalm 102 / 1 Corinthians 9:16-27 / Matthew 8:1-17 *(written by Carolyn)*

Matthew 8:3 *He (Jesus) stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.*

We have no incidences in the gospels where Jesus refused a direct request to heal someone – yet we know that He did not heal everyone. For instance, there were many more invalids at the Pool of Bethesda, yet only one was healed. What about all the others? Well, we don't know that they asked. If you were to kneel at the feet of Jesus and use the same words the leper did, what in your heart of hearts would you want healing for? Sometimes the root cause of what ails us isn't immediately obvious. For instance, the tendency to have a quick temper or the desire to always be in control may be rooted in something from our childhood. Jesus chooses to heal us, but are we willing to confess and repent of the areas in our lives that need His healing grace?

*Lord, if you choose ... Amen.*

**Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** 2 Kings 19:21-36 / Psalm 107:33-43; 108:1-6(7-13) / 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 / Matthew 8:18-27 *(written by Carolyn)*

Matthew 8:19 *A scribe then approached and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."*

In Jesus' time, scribes were learned men who studied, interpreted and taught Scriptures. They were the preservers of the Law of Moses and considered experts in their field. So, when we read a scribe wanted to follow Jesus, it's a **big deal**. The expert saw Jesus as the promised Messiah. We don't know his name, nor what happened to him

after Jesus reminded him that his was a nomadic life. Most of us don't travel from place to place like Jesus did, but He still offers us the chance to leave things behind. On this day, the church recognizes St. Francis of Assisi who was called to leave behind a life of wealth in order to serve the poor. Eventually he began a monastic order and is recognized as the patron saint of animals. What is Jesus calling you to put down, so you can take up His will for you?

*Lord, today I ask for a special birthday blessing for my sister, Marty who, like St. Francis, is a great lover of animals. Amen.  
Happy birthday big sister!*

