

Nudges of the Spirit

Meditations for November 23rd to November 29th



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 23rd (Christ the King) Jeremiah 23:1-6 / Canticle 16 or Psalm 46 / Colossians 1:11-20 / Luke 23:33-43 *(written by Carolyn)*

Luke 23:43 *He (Jesus) replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."*

In my secular brain, the image that comes to mind when I hear the word "paradise" is an island surrounded by clear blue waters, coconut palm trees, lots of white sandy beaches and breezes from the ocean that chase away the heat of the day. I doubt seriously that is an accurate description of the Paradise that Jesus promised to the man hanging from a cross next to Him. The very last act of Jesus while he too was hanging in excruciating pain was to pardon and accept the criminal. That says to me that it is never too late (or too soon) to accept Jesus as our Savior. Today is a good day to give our lives to Him all over again.

Lord, remember me... Amen.

Monday, November 24th Joel 3:1-2, 9-17 / Psalm 106:1-18 / 1 Peter 1:1-12 / Matthew 19:1-12 *(written by Carolyn)*

Psalm 106:1 *Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.*

Christian music artist Phil Wickham has a song out entitled, "What an Awesome God". The first line reads: "God is great give Him all the praise / Hallelujah Name above all Names / Fire in His eyes healing in His veins / Everywhere His glory on display." When I see God in such a way, I don't know how I can do anything but praise Him. Yes, He may allow us all to go through difficult times where we suffer, but suffering helps us to become stronger in our faith in Him. As German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, once said, "What does not kill you makes you stronger." I will admit, every now and then I feel like asking God, "Aren't I strong enough yet?" Apparently, the answer is no. How about you? Are you strong enough yet?

Lord, give me strength to do what it is you would have me do. Amen.

Tuesday, November 25th Nahum 1:1-13 / Psalm 121, 122, 123 / 1 Peter 1:13-25 / Matthew 19:13-22 *(written by Carolyn)*

Psalm 123:3 *Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.*

One of my favorite places to connect with the Lord is when I am close to water, whether it be the ocean, a river or large lake. There's something about it that soothes my soul and lets me take a deep breath and just relax. It's important that we have places like that, because anytime we read the paper, turn on the computer, listen to the news or even take a trip to the local store, we are most likely bombarded with examples of people showing contempt for one another. It's times like these that I find I need to take a deep breath and focus on the Lord.

Lord, help me to listen only to you and leave the contempt behind. Amen.

Wednesday, November 26th Obadiah 15-21 / Psalm 119:145-176 / 1 Peter 2:1-10 / Matthew 19:23-30 *(written by Carolyn)*

1 Peter 2:9 *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, I order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

I suspect great damage can be done if we only read the first half of the verse above; that is if we stop after the words, "God's own people." We may be chosen, but we are not chosen on the basis of the color of our skin or

gender. We're not chosen to sit on our duffs and think we're better than everyone else. Instead, we are chosen because the Lord has called us to proclaim His love for ALL people – not just those who look and think like we do. This was a lesson that Peter himself had to learn. After all, he was born a Jew and was taught from a young age that the Hebrew people were God's own children and everyone else was not – including his Gentile neighbors. But Peter changed his thinking and brought many to Christ. We're told on the day of Pentecost 3,000 were converted by his words. May we all be so bold as Peter was that day.

Lord, what would you have me say? Amen.

Thursday, November 27th (Thanksgiving Day) Deuteronomy 26:1-11 / Psalm 100 / Philippians 4:4-9 / John 6:25-35 *(written by Carolyn)*

The Collect for Thanksgiving Day: *Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone! My prayer for today is that everyone put aside our differences and concentrate on what we have in common with each other. May we each easily bring to mind that which we are thankful for and praise God for our blessings.

Thank you, Lord. Amen.

Friday, November 28th Isaiah 24:14-23 / Psalm 140, 142 / 1 Peter 3:13–4:6 / Matthew 20:17-28 *(written by Carolyn)*

1 Peter 3:14-15 *But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.*

It's not always easy to be loving when the situation around you is less than pleasant. After all, there are times when those of us who are called to follow Christ find ourselves in situations where we would prefer to not be. For example, I have walked into several rehab/assisted living facilities and immediately smelled odors that were far from the aroma of a nice bouquet of flowers. Or I've stood outside in both the heat and cold registering people to receive food because what was being given out was going to help provide their families with sustenance. But in both those places, I knew I was not alone. Christ was there with me and my co-workers. And at the end of the day, I was doubly blessed to see the face of Christ reflected back at me through the people whom we were there to minister to.

Lord, help me to depend upon YOU in all things and through all things. Amen.

Saturday, November 29th Micah 7:11-20 / Psalm 137:1-6(7-9), 144 / 1 Peter 4:7-19 / Matthew 20:29-34 *(written by Carolyn)*

Matthew 20:32 *Jesus stood still and called them, saying, "What do you want me to do for you?"*

If Jesus were standing in front of you at this very moment and asked you the question he asked of the two blind men, what would you say? Jesus did not ask what the men wanted Him to do for their families or friends – after all, they were yelling, "Have mercy on us!" So, in your imagination picture Jesus saying, "What do you want me to do for you?" not "What do you want me to do for someone you love?" Every time my husband and I take communion to someone in their home or at a facility, we get to a point in the service where we asked, "How may we pray for you today?" Some automatically say they would like healing, but many others will ask for prayers for someone else. The same happens at our monthly healing service. Why is it that we're ready and willing to ask for

prayers for others, but are shy about asking for ourselves? Remember, we are worthy of His love and grace. We simply have to accept it.

Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

