

Nudges of the Spirit

Meditations for August 2nd to August 8th



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, August 2nd Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 17:1-7, 16 OR Isaiah 55:1-5 and Psalm 145:8-9, 15-22 /
Romans 9:1-5 / Matthew 14:13-21 (*written by Carolyn*)

Isaiah 55:2 *Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.*

When we moved from one area to another, a friend gave us something that quoted both Matthew 6:21 and Luke 12:34, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." So, when I read today's verse, I have to ask myself, "Where do I spend my money?" Then a follow-up question that also goes with the verse might be, "What am I eating?" One of our daughters brought two bags of mini donuts when she was visiting and left them in my pantry, so I decided to try some for breakfast. While my taste buds appreciated them, my stomach was saying, "So, where is the nutrition?" I don't know about you, but sometimes I decide to take an easy route instead of doing the work on tasks that will be better for me (like eating donuts instead of a healthy meal). The trouble is, if I do that too often then it becomes a habit that is hard to break. It's better if I ask the Holy Spirit to guide me in all things – even if I have to put in extra effort.

Lord, guide me in all things. Amen

Monday, August 3rd Judges 6:25-40 / Psalm 80 / Acts 2:37-47 / John 1:1-18 *(written by Carolyn)*

John 1:3a *All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.*

Can you imagine creating the very thing that you would be crucified on? Honestly, I would be tempted to not make it; yet even if trees had not been around, there would have been another vehicle for Jesus to die upon. And it wasn't the tree that killed him – it was people and yes, Jesus brought them into existence also. That is love that is beyond my comprehension. By the same token, the Word also spoke into existence all the good there is in our world – the kindness, generosity, friendliness, acceptance and support we give each other. So today, I would like to give thanks to those who exemplify those traits – those who spread the love of the Almighty through their actions. I would like to emphasize the positive that's going on around us, rather than focusing on the negative. Will you join me?

Lord, help me to see the blessings that surround me daily. Amen

Tuesday, August 4th Judges 7:1-18 / Psalm 78:1-39 / Acts 3:1-11 / John 1:19-28 *(written by Carolyn)*

Acts 3:2 *And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple.*

I have read that the Beautiful Gate was both taller and wider than other entryways into the temple, and therefore the one most used by worshippers. From a strictly economic view, it would make sense for the friends of the lame man to put him there because worshippers entering the temple were already in the mindset of generosity as commanded by the law; and let's remember that the lame man was unable to enter the temple. But take a look at

this another way. John 10:7 has Jesus declaring that He is the gate for the sheep. So, along come Peter and John, who give this man a beautiful gift of healing in the name of Jesus and suddenly he can enter the temple for the first time in his life. Sometimes we need the catalyst of another person in order to affect our healing. We are all children of the living Lord, so today I say to you, in the name of Jesus be healed.

Lord, I thank and praise you for touching our lives. Amen

Wednesday, August 5th Judges 7:19–8:12 / Psalm 119:97-120 / Acts 3:12-26 / John 1:29-42 *(written by Carolyn)*

John 1:41 *He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).*

If you read today’s passage from John then flip over to the selection from Acts, you will notice that Simon (eventually to be known as Peter) has journeyed from someone who never heard of Jesus, to an apostle who boldly proclaims Jesus to be the Messiah. He had quite a spiritual journey. While we may not be able to preach like Peter or evangelize like Paul, we still have our own journeys to walk in order to live into the lives that the Lord has in store for us. Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” I find comfort in this promise. I pray you do as well.

Lord, we don’t see the big picture, but You do. Help us to put our trust in you. Amen

Thursday, August 6th (the Transfiguration) Exodus 34:29-35 / Psalm 99 or 99:5-9 / 2 Peter 1:13-21 / Luke 9:28-36 *(written by Carolyn)*

2 Peter 1:15 *And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.*

Recently I had the opportunity to be around a lot of relatives. As does happen, we began reminiscing about things that happened in our past. It was always interesting to hear the different viewpoints of the same situation. In our readings for today, the apostle Peter is reminding the early church followers of the good news that Jesus lived, died and rose again for the world. Recall that in those days the gospel was shared by spoken or behavioral testimony. Peter was concerned about the early believers correctly remembering all that Jesus said and did. Who in your past was concerned about you having a personal relationship with Christ and getting the message right? Likewise, who are you planning on sharing that news with so they may remember it after you are gone?

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

Friday, August 7th Judges 9:1-16, 19-21 / Psalm 88 / Acts 4:13-31 / John 2:1-12 *(written by Carolyn)*

Acts 4:22 *For the man on whom this sign of healing had been performed was more than forty years old.*

Forty years is a long time to be so lame that other people have to carry you to someplace where you can beg for money just to eat. Forty years is a long time to have to live off the generosity of others. And yet, it all changed in an instance. All of a sudden, he could stand, walk, enter the temple, jump up and down and dance. All of a sudden, he no longer qualified as a beggar. All of a sudden, the Lord changed his life. But why forty years? My only thought is that the Lord's timing is not our timing. He sees the larger picture that we are unable to view. I have found that waiting on the Lord is sometimes frustrating. I want to say, "Lord, do this now!" but that is my will and not His.

Lord, help me to wait for your timing in all things. Amen

Saturday, August 8th Judges 9:22-25, 50-57 / Psalm 87, 90 / Acts 4:32–5:11 / John 2:13-25 *(written by Carolyn)*

Psalm 90:1 *Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.*

It was at this time last year when my husband first learned there was something up with his prostate. Eventually he would learn he had cancer, and later testing would reveal there was additional cancer in another part of his body. It was a journey neither of us wanted to take, but we knew the Lord was with us with each step. We prayed for physical healing and for a while it looked as though the Lord would answer that prayer. Instead, He chose to grant him the ultimate healing. Toward the end of his earthly life, my husband told me he was at peace with where he was going. Just two days before his passing he was blessed to be given a vision of the river of life in heaven. Yes, the Lord is the dwelling place for all of us. Blessed are those who are able to share that message with others.

Lord, help me to share my faith with those who are struggling. Amen

