

Nudges of the Spirit



Meditations for November 2nd to November 8th

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

Sunday, November 2nd Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 or Isaiah 1:10-18 / Psalm 119:137-144 or 32:1-8 /
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 / Luke 19:1-10 *(written by Denise)*

Isaiah 1:18 *Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be like wool.*

Have you ever argued with God? I can tell you God has had his share of me throwing tantrums, pleading that it just isn't fair, even straight out yelling at God. I used to believe I could not argue with God because that was wrong. God knows my heart and after all he created me. He continues to mold me and refine me. My relationship with God is honest, and because it is I receive answers and sometimes understanding. My faith is developing, and I can accept things more quickly after I have these strong conversations with God.

God, continue to meet us where we are so you can transform our hearts. Amen

Monday, November 3rd Nehemiah 6:1-19 / Psalm 56, 57 / Revelation 10:1-11 / Matthew 13:36-43 *(written by Denise)*

Psalm 56:3 *when I am afraid, I put my trust in you.*

I have been self-reflecting lately about how vulnerable I am becoming as I age. We live in a culture that continually measures each of us humans by success, productivity, titles, how busy we are, etc. As we age our ability to meet these expectations grows weaker, and actually we become more dependent. I see clearly that if I continue to measure my worth by these expectations, I am going to become sad, bitter, angry, and fearful. Ecclesiastes 3:1 "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Aging is a special season where my weaknesses grant me space and silence to connect with God and his purpose for my life. I place my trust in you LORD!

Father God, gently move us from one season to another, as we help others to see your plan. Amen

Tuesday, November 4th Nehemiah 12:27-31a, 42b-47 / Psalm 61, 62 / Revelation 11:1-19 / Matthew 13:44-52
(written by Denise)

Matthew 13:49 *So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous.*

Do you know when the end of the age is? Lately we are all able to see much evil and hate polluting our world. Just turn the news on, stroll through Facebook or any of the media platforms. Trauma and fear is bleeding into, and all through, each of us. This is not normal, and like some say, "It is just the way it is now." Jesus spoke truth to us. He gives us grace, but he also told us truth. "Do not sin anymore." Call out sin and call evil what it is. Rebuke evil in the name of Jesus! We cannot afford to have our hearts close up and shut down. Let us stand up together and be the light. When the end of the age has ended, may each of you be protected by the angels by being righteous.

God may your angels be bright lights to each of us at the end of the age. Amen

Wednesday, November 5th Nehemiah 13:4-22 / Psalm 72 / Revelation 12:1-12 / Matthew 13:53-58 *(written by Denise)*

Psalm 72:16 *May there be abundance of grain in the land; may it wave on the tops of mountains; may its fruit be like Lebanon; and may people blossom in the cities like the grass on the field.*

I have been reading a historical fiction book that takes place around 1934, during the great depression in a small Texas town. They have been praying for rain as their grain is not abundant because they are experiencing a drought, and there are many dust storms. Nothing is abundant, and it is a very trying way to survive. This family decides to go to California “the land of milk and honey.” They are treated with disrespect, told to go home, the kids are not welcome in school, and the jobs that are offered are jobs nobody wants. I live in Sebastian and have never been through the realities that so many families have faced and are facing now. May we always remember to thank God for all our blessings and help anyone that is struggling.

God, bring to us people who would blossom in our church. We are a church family that cares. Amen

Thursday, November 6th Ezra 7:(1-10)11-26 / Psalm 71 / Revelation 14:1-13 / Matthew 14:1-12 *(written by Denise)*

Revelation 14:6 *Then I saw another angel flying in midheaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on earth—to every nation and tribe and language and people.*

This is unity. There are no barriers that separate us from the love of Christ. The words that woke up my heart this morning as I write this are: “eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on earth.” Do you know how blessed we are that the eternal gospel is a part of our everyday lives? Some people have never heard the gospel. Until we see that angel flying in midheaven proclaiming the gospel, we all better put our shoes on and be earth angels proclaiming the good news. Do you agree?

God, Thank you! Hallelujah! We are so blessed to live in your gospel. Bring your people to us so we can begin proclaiming the eternal gospel to all! Amen

Friday, November 7th Ezra 7:27-28; 8:21-36 / Psalm 69:1-38 / Revelation 15:1-8 / Matthew 14:13-21 *(written by Denise)*

Ezra 7:27 *Blessed be the LORD, the God of our ancestors, who put such a thing as this into the heart of the king to glorify the house of the LORD in Jerusalem.*

This is such a beautiful scripture. Ezra is affirming that God is the source of all blessings. That the LORD has touched the heart of a Persian King Artaxerxes who supports building a Temple for the Jewish people. This is pivotal in history for the Jewish people, their identity and worship. Ezra shows humility and praise as he understands that God has truly touched this king’s heart for God to order this decree. Ezra’s words are much like King David’s, as they both know our hearts are in the hands of the LORD.

LORD, teach us to serve and give you all the glory as King David and Ezra have shown us. Amen

Saturday, November 8th Ezra 9:1-15 / Psalm 75, 76 / Revelation 17:1-14 / Matthew 14:22-36 *(written by Denise)*

Ezra 9:3 *When I heard this, I tore my garment and my mantle, and pulled hair from my head and beard, and sat appalled.*

I love to laugh! When I read this, I actually laughed out loud, and thought, “This is the scripture for the day, alright.” I wonder if this is another phrase we say that came from the Bible. “I was so mad I pulled my hair out.” Now if we go deeper into the history, we see that in the Hebrew culture a public display of pulling your hair out displays grief, shame, anger, sorrow. Ezra is publicly calling for the repentance of the people, because they have sinned and have not maintained the covenant with God. Let’s remember that repentance is a complete change of heart and mind and turning back towards God and righteousness. Is there something we need to repent about today? We don’t want a loved one to have to pull their hair out in order to get our attention.

God, help us see clearly our errors, and return to you as quickly as possible. Amen

