

Nudges of the Spirit



Meditations for October 18th to October 24th

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

Sunday, October 18th Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalm 99 OR Isaiah 45:1-7 and Psalm 96:1-9 (10-13) /
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 / Matthew 22:15-22 (*written by Denise*)

Matthew 22:22 *When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.*

Wouldn't it be sweet if Jesus lived next door and we could ask him any question we want anytime? We get so used to our physical relations that we sometime forget that Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit. Jesus intercedes for us with The Father. When he died on the cross the veil in the temple was torn, so we can have a direct relationship with God. Jesus lives closer than next door, Jesus lives in us. God can speak through us in the quiet times of meditation and contemplation. God can speak to us through other people. We must practice the fine art of listening.

Jesus, when you speak to us, we are amazed. Teach us to listen to your voice and recognize you in all things. Amen

Monday, October 19th (St. Luke the Evangelist) Sirach aka Ecclesiasticus 38:1-4, 6-10, 12-14 / Psalm 147 or
147:1-7 / 2 Timothy 4:5-13 / Luke 4:14-21 (*written by Denise*)

Psalm 147:5 *Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.*

For years I have watched an eagle camera in Big Bear Valley. The parents of the nest are Jackie and Shadow. People have an opportunity to watch the eagles every day and learn about them, their habits, their history, and watch their young be born and fledge. Jackie became ill as her babies were ready to leave the area. There was a campaign going on to buy the 93 acres by the nest so it would not be developed. Jackie was rescued and taken to Ojai Raptor Rescue. At this exact time lots of donations had been raised, even by school children watching the nest, but it was short 5 million dollars and the deadline was coming up in two days. A generous couple donated the rest of the money and the land was saved. Unfortunately Jackie did not make it and passed. God's mighty power allowed Jackie to pass in a safe place. We all knew she passed, so we were not wondering what happened to her. God saved the land for many generations, and there are two more young eagles flying high all through an eagle named Jackie.

LORD, we don't understand your ways. Open our eyes to see your mighty power in the everyday activities of our lives. RIP Precious Jackie! Amen

Tuesday, October 20th Ecclesiasticus 6:5-17 / Psalm 26, 28 / Revelation 7:9-17 / Luke 10:1-16 (*written by Denise*)

Revelation 7:17 *For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.*

The words "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes," struck my heart as I read this. I have recently been in a season of grief. It appears that one loss piles on to another and then the memories of other losses are just waiting for me to open the door so they can join in with the tears I am shedding. These are times when I honor the process and stay very close to Jesus. As time goes on the grief gets a bit lighter each day. Grief will come back, it always does. Following Jesus I continue to love and keep my heart open, even if that makes me vulnerable. The promise that God will wipe every tear from my eyes brings me such comfort.

God, you care so much for each of us. Please surround anyone feeling grief today with your angels. Amen

Wednesday, October 21st Ecclesiasticus 7:4-14 / Psalm 38 / Revelation 8:1-13 / Luke 10:17-24 *(written by Denise)*

Ecclesiasticus 7:5 *It is better to heed the rebuke of a wise person than to listen to the song of fools.*

A wise person, when corrected, will welcome the opportunity so that they too can grow in the relationship. Honest helpful correction is always valuable rather than empty flattery and foolish talking. Proverbs 9:8, “Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you: rebuke the wise and they will love you.” It brings up some great question for all of us. Do I consider myself wise? Do others come to me and consider me wise? Do I welcome opportunities in my relationships for truthful, honest conversations, or would I rather keep the peace and do anything to flatter and avoid conflict? Proverbs 27:6 “Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.” Let’s all take some time today to contemplate these messages.

God, we are willing to be wise and follow your ways. Lead us to people who will be authentic with us, and who we are welcomed to be authentic with them. Amen

Thursday, October 22nd Ecclesiasticus 10:1-18 / Psalm 37:1-18 / Revelation 9:1-12 / Luke 10:25:37 *(written by Denise)*

Luke 10:27 *He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

This scripture is most likely very common to most of us reading this today. Jesus was quoting this from the Torah (Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18). Jesus continues to give us a parable of what it means to love your neighbor. It doesn’t matter who you are, how much money you have, how convenient it is for you; it all relies on loving God and your actions that precede this relationship. We have all heard the saying “First thing first.” The first thing we always must be doing is loving the Lord our God. If we are loving God, we will be open and available to love our neighbor.

Lord may my relationship with you be always in the front of my mind and on my heart. Amen

Friday, October 23rd (St. James of Jerusalem) Acts 15:12-22a / Psalm 1 / 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 / Matthew 13:54-58 *(written by Denise)*

Matthew 13:58 *And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.*

I think we are all guilty of this kind of thinking from time to time. We build a story in our heads about others based on experiences from our past. We tend to box people into a way that we can understand them, and don’t leave room for them to grow. I know many people who have accepted Jesus as their Savior and they are not their past any longer. They are not even recognizable as they were before. Faith is the cornerstone of our lives as Christians. There is a mystery component that is unable to be explained by the rational mind. Let us all take a leap of faith today, and watch how God shows up.

Holy God, open our eyes and ears so that we may grow in our faith as we get closer in relationship to you. Amen

Saturday, October 24th Ecclesiasticus 15:9-20 / Psalm 30, 32 / Revelation 10:1-11 / Luke 11:1-13 *(written by Denise)*

Psalm 32:1 *Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

I for one am so grateful for the forgiveness, mercy and grace that God has extended to me over the years. I do not have to stay in misery for weeks when I take my sins to him on the cross. I think of this scripture from Matthew at times like this. Matthew 18:21-22, “then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’” Shouldn’t I grant my brothers and sisters the same forgiveness, grace and mercy that God grants me?

Jesus, give us courage to come to you 77 times if necessary to forgive someone who has sinned against us. Help us to remember that we too sin against others and you forgive us. Amen

