

Nudges of the Spirit

Meditations for July 19th to July 25th



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, July 19th Genesis 28:10-19a and Psalm 139:1-11, 22-23 or Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 or Isaiah 44:6-8 and Psalm 86:11-17 / Romans 8:12-25 / Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (*written by Carolyn*)

Psalm 139:2 *You trace my journeys and my resting places and are acquainted with all my ways.*

Just yesterday I mowed the grass, did the trimming and weeding and put mulch out on some flowerbeds. Then it began to rain, so I came inside and told my husband (this was before he passed away) that God told me it was time to quit for the day. To which he replied, "How? Did it start to rain or something?" Both my husband and God know that when I get started outside, I sometimes need to be told when I've done enough for the day. How very awesome it is that the Lord of all creation knows each of us so well that He can send us a simple message like, "OK, enough is enough for now" and we will understand.

Lord, open my eyes and ears that I may know when you speak to me. Amen

Monday, July 20th Joshua 7:1-13 / Psalm 41, 52 / Romans 13:8-14 / Matthew 26:36-46 (*written by Carolyn*)

Psalm 41:1 *Happy are those who consider the poor; the Lord delivers them in the day of trouble.*

When I first read this verse, I immediately focused on the poor and how we can be poor in various ways. However, after reading it several times it occurs to me that perhaps the Lord not only delivers the needy from their troubles, but also those who reach out to them and attempt to walk alongside them. So, it would seem that there is a double blessing in this one verse. It seems to me that at some point in our lives we will all be poor in different ways – yes, there is financial, but also spiritual, health, loneliness, etc. I believe the Lord allows us to experience these things in order to help someone else through similar situations. There are song lyrics which say, “Brother (or sister) let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you. Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.” In other words, we depend upon the Lord who very often works through those around us.

Lord, thank you for blessing each of us in our own way. Amen

Tuesday, July 21st Joshua 8:1-22 / Psalm 45 / Romans 14:1-12 / Matthew 26:47-56 *(written by Carolyn)*

Romans 14:10 *Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.*

I recently learned in a bible study on Romans that “the judgment seat of God” is also known as the “bema seat.” The term originates from the Greek word *bēma*, which means a raised platform, and was influenced by both Greek athletic and Hebrew religious traditions. I invite you to google the term to learn more about its origin and meaning. My question to you is, how do you feel about the idea of your life being judged? Christ died for our sins, that is true. So, what are we to be judged on? One answer might relate to how well we used the gifts we had been given. If, for example, we had been given the gift of gardening yet paved over our yards, would we have ever exercised our gift? So, I invite you to think about how you use the gifts the Lord gives you.

Lord, what would you have me do today? Amen

Wednesday, July 22nd (Mary Magdalene) Judith 9:1, 11-14 / Psalm 42:1-7 / 2 Corinthians 5:14-18 / John 20:11-18 *(written by Carolyn)*

2 Corinthians 5:16 *From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.*

In Season 1, Episode Two of The Chosen, the character of Mary Magdalene says to Nicodemus, “I was one way, and now I’m completely different. And the thing that happened in between was Him.” Today we recognize Mary Magdalene, one of the original followers of Jesus, who received healing from several demons. We aren’t given the details, but we do know she remained faithful even to the foot of the cross and the empty tomb. I wish that the bible told us more about her life after encountering the risen Lord. Can you imagine the impact her witness would have had for the women she encountered? Here was the vehicle that Jesus first used to report He had indeed risen. What is our witness about Him?

Lord, what witness of your grace may I share today? Amen

Thursday, July 23rd Joshua 9:3-21 / Psalm 50 / Romans 15:1-13 / Matthew 26:69-75 *(written by Carolyn)*

Romans 15:13 *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

We have a friend who teaches the importance of blessing other people – and he likes to use verses from the bible to do so. Surely this verse is a blessing, especially if you sit with it for a few minutes and let it speak to the area in your life where you most need to hear hope, joy and peace. Sometimes our circumstances are so overwhelming that our ears seem to get plugged but guess what – the Holy Spirit is still surrounding us even when we can't (or won't) feel it. So, for today, take a few minutes to sit with this blessing – and maybe even insert your name right after the “you”.

Lord, thank you for blessing us through scripture. Amen

Friday, July 24th Joshua 9:22–10:15 / Psalm 40, 54 / Romans 15:14-24 / Matthew 27:1-10 *(written by Carolyn)*

Psalm 40:1 *I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.*

Waiting is hard no matter what the circumstances are that surround you. Think back to when you “just couldn't wait” till Christmas or your birthday. Recently in the comics I read about some 15-year-olds who were anxiously awaiting the time when they could get their driver's licenses and how they expected to be able to take the family car when and wherever they wanted – only to have a dose of reality dampen their dreams. What is it you wait on? Perhaps it's good news from a doctor, or healing for yourself or a loved one; perhaps a phone call or visit from a child. Whatever you wait for this day, know you are not alone. Yes, at times God feels far off but he uses our friends and neighbors to be His agents when we least expect it. For that, I give thanks and praise.

Lord, thank you for being in my waiting. Amen

Saturday, July 25th (James the Apostle) Jeremiah 45:1-5 / Psalm 7:1-10 / Acts 11:27–12:3 / Matthew 20:20-28
(written by Carolyn)

Matthew 20:21 *And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.”*

The question, “What do you want?” is jumping out to me today. What do I want? I can immediately think of several things – but they are all “me” oriented. Life is not all about “me.” It’s about each of us and the plans God has 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.” Those are words of comfort when the ground our lives rest on are suddenly shaken and nothing today is what it was yesterday. I never expected to become a widow at my age. I’m sure the mother of James and John never expected that one of her sons would be the first of the apostles to be martyred. But God sees the big picture, whereas we have limited tunnel vision. Our plans are not necessarily His plans, but He loves us anyway and has a future for us.

Lord, help me be open to the future you have for me. Amen

