

Monday, March 8, 2010

Written by Pete Jurgaitis

Scripture - Luke 9: 46-48

This scripture reading is about pride and ego. The disciples were arguing as to which among them would be the greatest. They were seeking greatness of rank and dignity, of importance and status, all of which are measures of greatness by human standards, not of God's.

We recently witnessed how ugly such ambitions can be at the 2008 summer Olympics in China. China was accused of many human rights violations, all in the name of achieving recognition for the most athletic and talented citizens. In one incident, a young girl was recorded singing China's national anthem but she was deemed not attractive enough to be seen performing. They had another, more attractive, young girl lip sync the song for the cameras.

In the passage, Jesus recognized the motives for the disciple's arguments and felt it necessary to teach them a lesson. He took a little child, sat him by his side and said to them, "Who ever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great." Jesus' lesson is that anyone related to God is great. True greatness is not measured by human standards of achievement but by one's relationship with God.

Prayer: Jesus, may your presence in me, and your work through me, testify of your holiness and saving grace. I pray that I might have a humble heart before you Jesus. Amen.

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Written by Dotty Cacchillo

Scripture: Luke 10 1-12

Here Jesus designate a group of 72 to prepare a number of towns for Jesus later visit. What equipped the disciples for this mission was their awareness of Jesus' power and their vision to reach all the people. It is important to dedicate our skill to gods kingdom, but we must also be equipped with his power and have a clear vision of what he wants us to do.

This story suggest a different approach: begin by mobilizing people to PRAY. In christian service, there is no unemployment. God has work enough for everyone. Don't just sit back and watch others work and look for ways to help with the harvest. We too are sent into the world like lambs among wolves. Be alert, and remember to face your enemies not with aggression but with Love and gentleness. Some times this is very hard to do.

Jesus gave 2 rules for the disciples to follow as they traveled. Eat what was set before you (with out being picky) and heal the sick and tell them the kingdom of God is near you.

Prayer: May our hearts and minds be opened to the awareness of Jesus power. May we work hard, love lots and be kind to others. May we always be grateful for Gods Blessings. Amen

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Written by Judy DeSouza

Scripture: Luke 10: 25-37

As I read this story of the Good Samaritan stopping to help this stranger, I started thinking of how important it is to help others where we can, but also to learn to accept other's offers of help especially when we really do need help. It humbles us and may make us feel like a failure to ask for help, but we are all fragile human beings and may need help from others at some point in our lives. Putting aside our ego's and knowing someone is offering sincerely to help us and humbly accepting their help is an act of courage. We also must remember to pay it forward. We all do not live in isolation in this world. We are made up of families and communities and in these difficult, stressful, tough economic times, we must be willing to help each other where we can, and accept assistance when we really need it respectively. This is the Godly way.

Prayer: Father, please allow us to me mindful that we are not always strong and that we need your help and the help of others. We need to work together as a team in our families, our churches, our community and outside of our community where we are able. We pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Written by Lauren Pelletier

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

The story of Mary and Martha is one that I have heard and thought about many times over the years. I find that the more I grow in my faith and in my life, the more I can learn from this short scripture. Mary and Martha were sisters who had very different outlooks. They each believed that some things were more important than others. Jesus told Martha that she worried too much, which is something I think we all do from time to time. Mary put aside the to-do list and sat with Jesus to listen to him.

As we go through each day of our lives sometimes we get caught up in the things we believe we need to get done. Mary teaches us to stop and pay attention to what is really important. I don't ever want to lose the voice of Jesus in my life by trying to accomplish too many things that aren't bringing me closer to God.

Prayer: Lord, please help me to realize that there is no need to worry so much and be stressful over the trivial things in my life. Remind me that there is always a place for me to sit and listen to your words for they are more precious than any task on my list. Amen.

Friday March 12, 2010
Written by John Rodgers

Scripture: Luke 11:5-13

This is the story that has the famous “Ask-Seek-Knock” quote imbedded in the center. Many people are familiar with this quote as it speaks directly to the issue of *Faith*. When I read from vs. 5 all the way to 13, I can’t help but notice how this story seems to emphasize both persistence, then concentrated specific focus related to faith.

Knocking on the door in the dark of night and requesting from a friend only to be denied, illustrates that desire alone, or need alone does not cause prayers to be answered and intentions manifest as real life experiences. Persistence is the key, as well as bold immutable expectation. Believing when all evidence points toward the contrary is to demonstrate genuine faith. Then further on, the story explains the connection between what is asked for, and what is given. For when you truly know your hearts desire, concentrated and specific, then persist in the knowing and expecting the condition to be, then no earthly force can prevent your desire from becoming.

Prayer:

I AM in harmonious synchronicity with The Creative Force of All That Is. This day the conditions of my life are an extension of that which I believe myself to be. As need and desire initiate my creative vision, I steadfastly focus upon that which I intend to manifest with the assurance and confidence that all my prayers and intentions will unfold as productive contributions to serve the common good of That Which Is. All gifts are from The Father and minister to the glorious expansion of His Kingdom. I AM an integral part of the creative process, a conduit of unlimited power unfolding the Will of Creation through my thoughts, beliefs, needs, and desires.

Saturday, March 13, 2010

Written by Joyce Monem

Scripture: Luke 12: 13-21

It's 10 p.m. Tuesday night and this writing was due today. It's been two days of chaos and stress at work, the bathroom sink is leaking – AGAIN, the dog just vomited - AGAIN and I could easily continue my list of woes for another paragraph or two. For a good part of this afternoon and evening I've had an increasing number thoughts about the children's book 'Alexander's Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day'. When the main character, Alexander, is facing another frustrating or disappointing part of his day he considers moving far, far away. Specifically, he considers moving to Australia. THAT sounds like a very good idea. A very good idea, indeed. I could go quickly. A few toiletries, my iPOD, clean underwear and I'd be set. Ahh!!, What a relief that would be! But... maybe I need my camera. And my phone. And a bathing suit and some other clothes and the jewelry and shoes that match. And, well.....maybe I can't go as quickly as I fanaticized. The thoughts of the worldly possessions I MIGHT need to bring start to proliferate. And then, even two weeks later images of Haiti flash across the TV screen. The never- ending drama and tragedy that I find myself ashamedly drawn to. I'm haunted by the loss, the devastation, the struggle. The Presidential palace, the churches, the banks, the homes – they're gone. The spare clothes with coordinating jewelry and shoes, the iPod and camera – if they had any of it before, it is undoubtedly gone now. The other images that frequently appear are of people in their tent cities engaged in worship, dance or song. Or an image of a small boy being pulled from the rubble in triumph – his arms raised in joy. It was a quiver, a crack, a jolt and nearly everything came tumbling down. Their money didn't spare them, their status didn't spare them, their vocation didn't save them. They turn to that which is left – each other, the help of many nations and their faith.

Prayer: Jesus help us to remember, REALLY remember that we may find enjoyment in the material things of the world but our true riches and joys are found in your everlasting kingdom.

Sunday, March 14, 2010

Written by Barbara DeBisschop

Scripture: Luke 12:22-34

Readers of these devotionals are likely secure in the fact that God is all knowing and always loving. Most of us also have some history in seeing the goodness of God and being blessed by his provision and yet even with that understanding, the most faithful among us are plagued to some degree by worry. If we face the reality of our finite lives, the future is always uncertain and it's the uncertainty that can drive us into frenzy, leaving us paralyzed with fear of the unknown.

As mysterious as the future is, so are the workings of God. In his plan, there are a thousand possibilities that lie before us and finding peace in the midst of the unknown requires us to surrender the worry and notice the blessings. It's an exciting notion to recognize that before your needs ever surfaced; God was already paving a path for them to be met. God knows what you need better than you do and his solutions are more powerful than our highest hopes.

Keeping your focus on all that God has already blessed you with, and immersing yourself with gratitude for all you have will keep you so busy that you won't have time to worry. Magnify your joy and leave your needs in God's capable hands where you will find inexhaustible resources for living life to the fullest.

Prayer: Father God, thank you for your unending provision and your grace in caring for me in ways I cannot conceive of. Help me to abandon the negative practice of worry and surrender to your perfect plan for my life. Let my gratitude be a beacon of light to attract all the blessings you have planned for me. Resting peacefully in your provision, I thank you. Amen