

Nudges of the Spirit

Meditations for July 14th to July 20th

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

Sunday, July 14th 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 or Amos 7:7-15 / Psalm 24 or Psalm 85:8-13 / Ephesians 1:3-14 / Mark 6:14-29 *(written by Sandy)*

Ephesians 1:14 **this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.*

Have you ever compared what you might inherit here on earth to what you will inherit in the Kingdom of God: like no more tears, no more sorrow or pain of any sort (Revelation 21:4)? Just the thought of this makes me full of joy. I am sometimes amazed at what people go through here on earth and endure so much. The world is a very troubled place right now, and volatile. When someone says that (life) beats the alternative, it is my opportunity to tell them that I am gladly anticipating the alternative. I can't wait! Can you? Inheritance in human fashion is a material concept. Inheritance in the spiritual, saved by grace, is much more desirable to me. If you know the words to the song, "I Can Only Imagine", then you know what I am talking about. I'm not sure how I will react when I see Jesus, but I know I await in great anticipation. I hope and pray that you do also.

Father God, thank you for your saving grace. I can't wait to see you. Amen

Monday, July 15th Joshua 2:1-14 / Psalm 25 / Romans 11:1-12 / Matthew 25:1-13 *(written by Sandy)*

Matthew 25:13 *"Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."*

Have you ever been really excited about going on a vacation trip? Some of us are planners and list makers and some of us decide what we will pack right before we go. Which do you think is the wise choice? I think that the list makers are the wise ones. I know if I don't write things down, I have a tendency to forget something to take with me. I would much rather be prepared than to worry, once I am on my way, about whether I forgot something. The parable in today's reading in Matthew is much the same as preparing for a journey. The bridesmaids who were prepared and ready were the ones that went into the wedding feast. The other 6 were not prepared and were not present when the groom came for them. The lesson is to be ready at all times for being called home to be with the Lord in heaven. The simplest way for being ready is to follow God's will and to love Him. Let's do that!

Teach me your ways, O Lord. Amen

Tuesday, July 16th Joshua 2:15-24 / Psalm 26, 28 / Romans 11:13-24 / Matthew 25:14-30 *(written by Sandy)*

Matthew 25:29 *"For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away."*

Sloth is one of the 7 "deadly sins". The Bible does not list these all in one passage but were formalized by Pope Gregory 1 around 600 AD. Sloth goes a bit beyond just being lazy because it is also part of being fearful of the "what ifs". The slave that had the one talent knew that his master would reap where he did not sow. The slave was fearful of stepping out to see if he could make a profit for his master. This is like one of us being too fearful to step out and share the love of Christ with others so that our Master can bring more sheep into His fold. The slave that kept the 1 talent was called worthless. Jesus explained by the way of the parable, in verse 30, that such people would be thrown into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Think about where you want to go after this life.

Help me with my laziness, Lord. Amen

Wednesday, July 17th Joshua 3:1-13 / Psalm 38 / Romans 11:25-36 / Matthew 25:31-46 *(written by Sandy)*

Joshua 3:3,4 *“When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place. Follow it, so that you may know the way you should go, for you have not passed this way before.”*

Have you ever gone somewhere where you didn't have a clue what was going to happen or what you would be doing? Sometimes our daily lives can be like that. The Lord has plans for us throughout the day that we are not aware of. When I joined the Army, almost 50 years ago, I didn't have a faint clue of what I was about to embark on. Coming from a small town in rural upstate New York, I was pretty naïve to what the world was all about. I trusted God to lead me through 8 weeks of Basic Training. Yes, it was very challenging at times, but God was right there to help me navigate the obstacle course, learn to fire a weapon, learn how to march, and understand the theory of teamwork and discipline. There are many other things that I learned but I knew that God, like the Ark in this passage, was before me and I was to follow him. You too can venture into uncharted territory knowing that God is with you and will be your guide. Trust in His direction for your life.

Thank you for all the adventures WE have been on together. Amen

Thursday, July 18th Joshua 3:14–4:7 / Psalm 37:1-18 / Romans 12:1-8 / Matthew 26:1-16 *(written by Sandy)*

Romans 12:3 *For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.*

Paul was writing to the Romans and advising them not to get a big head or be judgmental toward others. I know sometimes I can be guilty of forming a very quick opinion of someone and learn that I was totally wrong once I take the opportunity to get to know them. We need to look past what a person is wearing or how clean they are. We do not know their situation. Think about the homeless Vietnam Veterans. They came back to being mocked, having stones thrown at them and being spit on. These men and women put their lives on the line so that we can have the freedom to worship God without being in harm's way. In many countries today, people are in grave jeopardy for worshipping God and must do it in secret. But you know what? God is right there with them in the trenches, so to speak. So, next time you see someone on the corner, don't automatically judge them. Hand them some food or a snack or even a bottle of water. For Jesus said something like this: what you do for the least of these, you have done to me.

Lord, help me to be more charitable and accepting. Amen

Friday, July 19th Joshua 4:19–5:1, 10-15 / Psalm 31 / Romans 12:9-21 / Matthew 26:17-25 *(written by Sandy)*

Matthew 26:24 *“The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.”*

Can you imagine? Thirty pieces of silver was about a month's pay in Jesus' time, but we *are* talking about the Son of Man. And then to be told it would be better if you had never been born! Whoa! That is really serious. Judas loved Jesus but his greed got in the way and maybe wanting to be popular tripped him up also. I can also imagine that Judas was probably looking out for his own security. What would you be willing to do to betray Jesus? I hope my answer would be that I would NEVER betray my Lord. In Romans 12:11, Paul tells us “Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.” He goes on to say, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.” How far are you willing to go for Christ? My answer is...

Father, for all that you give, I would go to the ends of the earth for you. Amen

Saturday, July 20th Joshua 6:1-14 / Psalm 30, 32 / Romans 13:1-7 / Matthew 26:26-35 *(written by Sandy)*

Psalm 32:11 *Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.*

Sometimes on Saturday, I take a deep breath and as I am exhaling, I say a big ahhhhhh. I am rejoicing that another week has come and gone, and God has been right there to help me through it. There is a song called Rejoice and I would ask you to look up this link, close your eyes and bask in the Joy of the Spirit.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQ844gkniyQ>



Enjoy your day and always rejoice in the Lord for He is worthy of praise.