

**Wednesday 3/31/10 Lord, in your great love, answer me. Is 50:4-9a Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 Mt 26:14-25**

Yielding to God's will is right. It is the right thing to do. It is what allows us to BE. He IS. He is the Great I AM. Our lives, as individuals as well as in community, have meaning in the measure that we surrender to His will. Thirty pieces of silver, silver born in the heart of the cataclysmic death of a long forgotten star, propelled through His space and down His ages, discovered, refined, forged, and pressed into symbols of wealth by His own paltry creatures, become the price of their salvation. His will is done. It is done for us. It is amazing. I AM becoming us raises US to Him. And He has done this for a reason that is being worked out to this very day, on this tiny planet, of this very ordinary star, in an insignificant galaxy, as He continues His creation of His kingdom with us, through us, and in us.

**Tuesday 3/30/10 I will sing of your salvation. Is 49:1-6 Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 Jn 13:21-33, 36-38**

Jesus calls us His children. We are the ones He has taught from the womb. We are the ones He has been preparing. He has not taught us to make us smart, or to fill us with knowledge. He has taught us to become something. Not to become some dim copies of Himself, but to become His very presence in this universe He is building step by step. He is building us into the light of this world, and when He is finished we will be perfect. It is so very like a dance, and I am so clumsy and keep stepping all over His feet. But He is the ever patient and perfect partner. And He is always bringing me into a line dance with so many others. It is awesome!

**Monday 3/29/10 The Lord is my light and my salvation. Is 42:1-7 Ps. 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 Jn 12:1-11**

Did you hear the "Good News!". Have you been "raised from the dead?" They are plotting to kill you too! "Because many...were turning away and believing in Jesus because of (you)." Of course being killed is not so bad, it is being ignored that makes an apostle useless. Life in the Spirit is living the useful life of bringing forth God's justice to the nations, and doing so by joyfully teaching Him through the word and witness of life. It is that word and witness that becomes His own eye-opening light. Remember that healing a blind man is important, but he still can't see anything until the light is turned on.

**Saturday 3/27/10 The Lord will guard us, as a shepherd guards his flock. Ez 37:21-28 Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd Jn 11:45-56**

Our Father has a "secret" plan. It is foretold in the readings today. You can find it written plainly in Ephesians 1:9-10 (<http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/ephesians/ephesians1.htm>). Unlike so many of ours, the Father's plan is not some precious document, typed up, and sitting on a shelf somewhere. His plan is well underway. It is in high gear! He is patiently but constantly working overtime in its execution. He is using every tool and every person available to bring it to fulfillment. Early in his history, mankind in his incredible wisdom decided to build a way to God. I think everyone remembers what that got us! If you have forgotten I refer you to Genesis 11 (<http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis11.htm>). Our Father has provided the only way to himself. Are you looking for Him? Look around you; see where people are coming together, where people are helping each other along the way to Him. That is where you can get the very best view of His construction project. Hang around there for a while and somebody will hand you a hammer, or a saw, or a page from the blueprints. Then you will be right where He wants you to be. And, by the way, it most likely will look nothing like you imagined!

**Friday 3/26/10 In my distress I called upon the Lord, and he heard my voice. Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 Jn 10:31-42**

"Is it not written in your law..." Are you Jesus? "If I do not perform my Father's works, do not believe me..." Do you do what He does? Are you performing His works? So many of us miss the point. We get so hung up on "miracles" that we do not see the real miracles. We get so busy finding and unwrapping gifts that we miss their meaning altogether. Some educators lament that people never use more than a tiny fraction of the power they have in their brain. What an infinitely tiny portion of the awesome and wonderful power of the Holy Spirit do we "sons of God" ever put

to use! Why? One reason might be that we are so hell bent on controlling it! It is the perennial childish lament, "I want what I want when I want it!" Life in the Spirit, far more than anything else, is learning to "go with the flow". It is the all powerful, all mighty, all loving God Who is in charge! There is no hurry, no worry. Just tarry, tarry with Him and do what He tells you. Those who think they are "in charge" will be quick to confirm you by what they say and do. Listen carefully to them; they too are in His hands. They are the ones He is working overtime to save. The "prophet's lament" is always a song of praise!

Thursday 3/25/10 Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will. Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38

"God is with us!", "a body you prepared for me", "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." These three phrases leap from the page to me. How very seldom do I sense the meaning of this great feast of our faith. This holy message that came to a young and insignificant Jewish girl is the same one that comes to each and every one of us. He is with us! He has and is preparing our bodies to be vessels, channels, for Him to enter our world, not as a spy, or just as our personal friend or pet. He is using us to enter our world as the King and Savior that He is. All He needs is our affirmative response. When we say "yes!" He can come to fruition in His own way to work His will through and even in spite of us. We really can help I AM become HE IS. And the way we do so is simple surrender to Him.

Wednesday 3/24/10 Glory and praise for ever! Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Ps Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 Jn 8:31-42

Well, we all know that the "trailer" is just a tease. It includes a few dramatic scenes to whet the appetite, but there is much, much more to the "story". Carve out a little time to sit down and read through at least the first part of the Book of Daniel. There is a whole lot more to the story including one of the oldest and greatest litanies of praise. The gospel is much harder to believe than the story of Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael. Remain in the word...you will know the truth...the truth will set you free...My word has no room among you...do what you have heard...In the final analysis, and the final analysis is all that really counts, what is really important is who is my Father. "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and am here; I did not come on my own, but He sent me." All the dramatic stories and metaphors, and interpretations of dreams fade away. If God is my Father then I would certainly act like it. If I do not act like it...well...

Tuesday 3/23/10 O Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come to you. Nm 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 Jn 8:21-30

OK, I know it is a big book! Read it anyway. It is not a big book because it is saying many things. It is not a big book because what it says is difficult to understand. It is not a big book because it has been around a long time. It only says one simple thing, "God is love". Though this is impossible to understand it is absolutely essential to know. Though it has been around a very long time it is not finished until its message rests deep in the heart of every single person. Read it! Read it but do more. Lift it up, not the little paper thing with all the pages, goofy. Lift it up in your heart. Lift it up in your life. Lift it up in all you are. Then you will glimpse I AM, and best of all, so will those who see you. Life in the Spirit is very, very simple. Stop speaking on your own, acting on your own, doing on your own. Just BE.

Monday 3/22/10 Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side. Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62 Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Jn 8:12-20

Oh, we are so far from God! How can this be when He is so close to us! Our minds are so full of ourselves. We are always so quick to tell others what to do...when it is in line with our own plans and schemes, when it meets our own understanding of what is good. How much more careful and slow we are to give advice that puts demands on us or on our time, or our plans. God is so close, only a slight turn away. At the very most, 180 degrees! How can I know if my decisions are right, if I am walking where He wants me to go? Take a step. Stop, look, listen, you will very quickly learn whether it is the right way or not. Walking in the Spirit is so wonderful simply because He is always at your side.

Saturday 3/20/10 O Lord, my God, in you I take refuge. Jer 11:18-20 Ps. 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 Jn 7:40-53

Why does God hide His ways from us? The answer is that He does not hide them. We simply refuse to see them unless they match our preconceptions. The stories of the scriptures are not meant for us to contemplate the ignorance or lack of faith of men of old, but to point out to us how little we have learned from seeing their example! It is not hard to see what God is doing or what He wishes us to do. We have been told very plainly, and shown in so many ways, and we are led moment by moment. All we must do is continue to follow in His ways and watch Him like the fisherman watches the birds.

Friday 3/19/10 The son of David will live for ever. 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Why is it so hard to believe? He is all around us all the time. Everything that is happening is pregnant with miracles. Why are we so afraid to embrace life? Why does He have to send angels, or dreams, or prophets, to get our attention and our "yes". Did you hear how the angel addressed Joseph, "Son of David". It is very clear what the angel meant. Just a few verses earlier the evangelist clearly says "Jacob was the father of Joseph". Why do we find it so difficult to proclaim that "we are Jesus". We all know that God can do anything He wants including turning this lump of clay (like he does some simple bread and wine) into the real presence of Jesus. We read it, we sing it, we say it in prayers, why do we find it hard to believe. I expect that our lack of faith in this one little point has more to do with our contemplation of the implications than with any lack of mental abilities or insight.

Thursday 3/18/10 Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people. Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 Jn 5:31-47

Jesus words are very plain today. "Only Him!" Look nowhere else. Truth is only in Him, knowing Him. Life is only in Him, loving Him. Can you grasp it. You do not need to search for Him. If you will just stand still for a minute! He is searching for you. Just let yourself be found, then He will tell you exactly what to do. It is no secret. He is God. He is the same always. You will do exactly what He does. You will be exactly who He is. Do not fall into the trap of "human" judgement by judging yourself or heeding other's judgement. It is not the praise or approval of men you seek. He is the only mirror that can give you a true reflection. Look at Him. Listen to Him.

Wednesday 3/17/10 The Lord is gracious and merciful. Is 49:8-15 Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 Jn 5:17-30

There is so much truth and wisdom in the words of these passages. We could stop right here for many months. This is the truth of life in the Spirit "I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people." Wow! Can you grasp it? Why do the heathern rage?!?! I can't do anything on my own. I can only do what He shows me He is doing. And He loves me, so He shows me everything. That really is life in the Spirit, simple as that. When you live in the Spirit you do not seek your own way, but only the will of Him Who sent you. It really is not difficult to tell the difference. Those who think it is are only fooling themselves.

Tuesday 3/16/10 The Lord of hosts is with us; our stronghold is the God of Jacob. Ez 47:1-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 Jn 5:1-16

The water of the Spirit is broad and deep. It brings life wherever it flows. Watch to see where it is moving, plunge in and you will be healed. Even if you have been sick for thirty-eight years, perhaps even more! It is His Spirit, The Lord of hosts is with us! Why do the law lovers get so bent out of shape? Life is just too short!!! The Spirit is at work all the time, patiently blowing where He will. Why do so many build walls to hide behind? Knock down the walls, break the chains, walk out into the gentle and refreshing breeze, wade right in and bring with you absolutely anyone who will come along.

Monday 3/15/10 I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me. Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b Jn 4:43-54

The joy of the homecoming is very special. Those who recognize the prophet make his life miserable. They either slavishly expect him to meet their every need or work with all their might to shut him up. It is only at home where he can be who he is. Is it not curious that Jesus wants to make His home in our hearts? He wants to live in us the normal life. That is what is truly amazing. One does not leave his gifts behind when he comes home, but everybody there has grown accustomed to them. It is when we are at home that we are humble, and it is when we are humble that we have come home. Home is where the miraculous is recognized for the normality that it is.

**Saturday 3/13/10** It is mercy I desire, and not sacrifice. Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab Lk 18:9-14

Discrimination really is at the very root of the evil we do one another. It really is. How often do we say? "I'm not like him or her", which always means I'm better. "I am more patient, more kind; I'm not jealous or big-headed. I don't blow my own horn, and am certainly never rude. I am never looking out for myself. I am so cool-headed, and I never, never, never hold a grudge. The only thing I do all the time is shout for joy at the truth, never when I do something wrong! I can put up with any injury. I am filled with faith, hope, and love!" Lord, there is only one thing I ask. Lord, please deliver me from mirrors.

**Friday 3/12/10** I am the Lord your God: hear my voice. Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 Mk 12:28-34

It is a very special grace when one of those moments of real insight come, the moments that seem to pull all the meandering strings of wisdom together into a simple and profound truth. The whole of these readings seems to do that for me. Fifteen years or so ago I received a precious gift in the "person" of Micah 6:8 <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/micah/micah6.htm> . I understand it was Pope John XXIII's favorite verse, and it has been very important to many others including me. This little daily sharing started out with Matt 5:48 <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/matthew/matthew5.htm>, which is a call or a promise, and are they not really the same thing? This set of verses today seems to me to be Micah 6:8 in reverse. So many precious verses are buzzing in my mind, Ps 107, Ps 24. How are we to do the "right thing"?, only by His example, and only with His constant help. How are we to take care of those in need?, only with His constant flow of gifts to them through us. How are we to walk humbly with Him? Only as He humbly, so very, very humbly dwells in and with us.

**Thursday 3/11/10** If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 11:14-23

Dear Lord, help me gather! How joyful it is to gather! How sad to watch it scattered! So many suffer, so many are crying, searching, and dying for want of you. Help me to gather, Lord. Help me in this one simple way. Please, Lord, I am begging you with all my heart, open the eyes of those you have called into your vineyard. Let them see when they are scattering what you have worked so hard to gather. Soften their hearts Lord, they love you too, more than I do. Why do you keep such plain things hidden? How can they listen to your voice when their ears are closed? Help us to see, help us to hear, help us to love.

**Wednesday 3/10/10** Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. Dt 4:1, 5-9 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 Mt 5:17-19

How can it be? What sense can we make of this gospel? Jesus was always arguing with and condemning the Scribes and Pharisees, especially when they pointed out His infractions or the infractions of His followers. There is no contradiction in this passage. Why? Because it is the Scribes and Pharisees who are breaking the law. How? Those "good ole boys" set themselves up as the law. They made themselves greater than the law, greater than God. "I am the Lord your God, you shall not put strange gods before me." No gods are stranger than people who begin to act like god. Isn't it curious that their judgments always seem to come down hard against any who disagree with them. They thrive on making things difficult so people will need experts like them. Well Jesus made it all so simple. Here it is. He says step one, Love! Then, as soon as we

discover it is impossible for us, He says, "OK, here, receive my Spirit of Love, just let Him into you and He will do the loving for you." Soooo...would you obey the law? Just love Jesus.

**Tuesday 3/9/10** Remember your mercies, O Lord. Dn 3:25, 34-43 Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 Mt 18:21-35

Why on earth do we tell God to remember His mercies? We are the forgetful ones! At least I am. It is very good for me to take time now and then to remember all the mercy I have received over so many years from my friends. Though, as it says in the old spiritual, I have given off the "study of war", I seem to cause a lot of collateral damage every where I go. A long time ago, at least a few hours, I came to the conclusion that God has different ideas for different folks. Why I have such a difficult time putting this into practice I will never know. Why does He give me so many "projects" and so few "helpers", and not a one of them ready to lay down all thier "projects" to devote themselves to mine!!! Sooooo...I am entirely grateful for the wonderful mercies these good friends have shown me. It has been a lot more than seventy-seven times that I have been forgiven. And right square dab in the middle of these readings! "Guide me in your truth and teach me". How on earth can I be so deaf, dumb, and blind!

**Monday 3/8/10** Athirst is my soul for the living God. When shall I go and behold the face of God? 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 Lk 4:24-30

Well you are correct that God holds no advanced degree in human psychology or persuasive speaking. He has never completed a Dale Carnegie course, nor a lecture or anything by Og Mandino. He is God. It is not necessary. He simply, very simple and directly just tells it like it is. He is all power so He chooses to demonstrate His power in the most simple, yet profound ways. Water, the water of Baptism; fire, the fire of a lighted candle; bread and wine, food and drink beyond comprehension, these are the powerful things He uses. Why do we take so long to learn? He is so close. He is. He is there, if we just turn, a simple turn to Him, anywhere, any time, any way. Every time we do He, He Who is, will be.

**Saturday 3/6/10** The Lord is kind and merciful. Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

The rest of the story; what happens next? Does justice reign? Do they live happily ever after? Have they all come to thier senses or does insanity win again? Life in the Spirit has a constant. You will always be surprised. You will frequently be amazed, often bewildered, sometimes awed, but you will always be surprised. Our God is the God of surprizes. Suggestion; look for your little brother today and have a party with him.

**Friday 3/5/10** Remember the marvels the Lord has done. Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Discernment can be tricky. Seems like twenty pieces of silver are always easy to come by. It isn't easy to persevere especially when doing so goes against the wishes of others. Is this really where You want us to go, Lord? Then why don't You show these others? Why tell me to tell them? Now they are all mad at me! I do not know what I will do if they rip off my Hawaiian shirt! Oh well, You must have Your reasons, but I could use a little help over here!

**Thursday 3/4/10** Blessed are they who hope in the Lord. Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 Lk 16:19-31

I, for one, have personally witnessed the truth of this gospel. I have witnessed it in my involvement in the Cursillo. I am happy to report that it is not entirely accurate. There are always a few who will listen, not to the dead man, but to the Holy Spirit. Walking dead men are just attention getters. The messengers are always fully alive. In that is hope for the rest of us. Take note of the dead men, but take heed of the Holy Spirit.

**Wednesday 3/3/10** Save me, O Lord, in your kindness. Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16 Mt 20:17-28

Today's verses speak very plainly to us. They speak the words again that Jesus spoke from the cross. Words of forgiveness, begging the Father to forgive us, words of promise, sharing with us

the certainty of our lot in His service, and words of trust placing a life in the Father's hands. The gospel also reports the reaction of His followers to Jesus' "Good News" of His crucifixion. Are we any different today. Do we not brag about what a good job we are doing and will do as His disciples? Do we not beg Him ourselves and through our friends for the best seats in the Kingdom? Do we not plot to lord it over each other, or rejoice in the special favors He has for us, or get all indignant toward the others who seem closer to Him or ask Him favors? Ahhhh, we still do have much to learn!!! But, thanks be to God, the textbook is right there. Be sure to study. The big exam is not far away, and the Master is always giving us "pop quizzes"!

**Tuesday 3/2/10 To the upright I will show the saving power of God. Is 1:10, 16-20 Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 Mt 23:1-12**

Pick and choose. Are we not supermarket Christians? What goes in our basket? Well it is up to us. Only the best for me...but, of course, it must be affordable. I need the really good deal. I want the "blue light" special. I need to carry it home to collect dust on my overstocked shelves in my overflowing cupboard. And I have the cash, or at least the plastic, to pay for it. How dull we are, how slow to learn. This life is a test. It is about giving not consuming. When we finally do come to that checkout counter we will pay. We will pay every last dime. It will cost us very dearly if we arrive with a full warehouse; however if we arrive with an empty cart, having given it all away, we will walk into the Kingdom, our debts all cleared by the one who really paid the price for our foolishness.

**Monday 3/1/10 Lord, do not deal with us according to our sins. Dn 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 Lk 6:36-38**

The stairway to heaven may have a narrow gate but it is a very wide stairway. There is room for everyone, everyone who passes through that gate, to make His way to the Father. The stairway to heaven is God's abundant, ever present loving kindness and mercy. It is so wide and His mercy is so abundant. To receive it all we need to do is give it away.