

7/2/10

**One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. [Am 8:4-6, 9-12](#) [Ps 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131](#) [Mt 9:9-13](#)**

**Where do you rove in search of the word of God? Are you blind? He is over there busily teaching the tax collectors and sinners. Are you too blind or too proud to sit with them?**

7/3/10

**Go out to all the world and tell the Good News. [Eph 2:19-22](#) [Ps 117:1bc, 2](#) [Jn 20:24-29](#)**

**I know the way. I have the truth. I have seen the light. Really? Life in the Spirit is never about "I". Everytime I see it or say it there are two "I's" in Spirit, and that makes a "we". Yes I know the way, but only a tiny bit of it. Even all of us together are so very short of the fullness of knowledge of the way. I do have the truth, but never the whole of it. What is truth? I have seen the light. It is a wonderful rainbow and my paltry eyes will only work for a small portion of its spectrum. Does Didymus doubt, or does he speak plainly in the faith that his Lord and God will grace him with all that is needed to sustain his faith. One thing is certain, because of the stand he took in demanding proof, the proof was given, not just to him, but to all the others too. Trusting God is never an excuse for uncritical mindless following the way of others. Mature life in the Spirit is always an intimate apprenticeship with the very way, truth, and life who is the light of this world, and the only bad question is the unasked one.**

7/5/10

**The Lord is gracious and merciful. [Hos 2:16, 17c-18, 21-22](#) [Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9](#) [Mt 9:18-26](#)**

**I think there is something very profound in today's readings, especially as we citizens celebrate our anniversary of freedom. I grew up in a church of limited vision. Perhaps it was my own poor powers of perception, but I understood that it was all about us and them. We had the "faith" and were missioned to protect it and ourselves from being tainted by "theirs". Then a wonderful, holy, little man, Angelo Roncalli, anointed by the Holy Spirit, was elevated to the papacy. It was time for God to make some changes. There is a powerful message in the first reading, though it is diced up and deserves your taking some time to ponder the whole scripture it is cut from. For me it puts everything in bright perspective. I have long considered Vatican II an event where we, the church, began to open our eyes. Today's readings call me to what I see as a deeper vision of Vatican II. It is God, Himself, bringing us into the desert and speaking tenderly to our hearts. We, profoundly symbolized in this passage as singular and feminine, are to call Him our husband. The condemnation of those who do not know Him is certainly not our portion to mete out. We are called, rather, to let Him use us to graciously invite them to**

join us in every place that gives Him room to "speak to their hearts". In the end it is His way. One heart at a time He calls us into Him and all begin to become "we". Life in the Spirit is just that. It is living in this divine partnership with Him that brings us all together into the wonderful life of love in the Trinity of God.

Freedom is not the gift that lets us run untethered. It is the gift that draws us ever so patiently into the reality of the oneness and awesome power of God. Why one is healed and not another, why one dies and not another, is of no consequence at all. In the end it is certain that each must die to come into the life that is our calling. This is the freedom we so desperately need for and thirst for, freedom from our own desires and designs.

7/6/10

The house of Israel trusts in the Lord. [Hos 8:4-7, 11-13](#) [Ps 115:3-4, 5-6, 7ab-8, 9-10](#) [Mt 9:32-38](#)

How many times have we heard the old adage, "too many chiefs and not enough Indians"? In the life in the Spirit there is only one chief. Idols are not made with our hands. Anything becomes an idol when we put our trust in it instead of turning to the Lord who provides not only the harvest, but also the laborers as well.

7/9/10

My mouth will declare your praise. [Hos 14:2-10](#) [Ps 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-13, 14 and 17](#) [Mt 10:16-23](#)

It is not finished. That is why we enjoy our life in the Spirit. So long as one tiny spec is out of place He will continue to patiently use all creation that freely turns to Him to draw everything else His way. How do I know it isn't finished? Because I know I am very far from even where I can imagine that He wants me to be. Let's just keep helping each other praise Him all the time.

7/23/10

The Lord will guard us as a shepherd guards his flock. [Jer 3:14-17](#) [Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13](#) [Mt 13:18-23](#)

Today's reading makes it very plain. The one who hears and understands is the one who bears fruit. It is not the other way round. If you wish to be useful, listen. Listen and ponder until you understand Him.

7/24/10

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, mighty God! [Jer 7:1-11](#) [Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11](#) [Mt 13:24-30](#)

I missed yesterday in transit, and thought I would let it go, until I read these wonderful readings. From time to time I have been asked why I did not enter the diaconate. I once

did, in WV, but He moved me to Texas and I never again heard Him calling me to it. Perhaps He has chosen me rather to "lie at the threshold" and continually proclaim "this is the temple of the Lord!". There is a typo in the Psalm. Take time and click it to read the whole Psalm 84. It is truly beautiful, especially if you keep in mind that He dwells everywhere and is in every good thing. The passage from Jeremiah again portends Michah 6:8 as well as Jesus and His teaching, and it is all summed up so very well in the image of the Gospel. As the apostle says we are "in" this world but not "of" it. In the end, as always, it is all Him.

7/26/10 Feast of Jesus' Grandparents

You have forgotten God who gave you birth. [Jer 13:1-11](#) [Deuteronomy 32:18-19, 20, 21](#) [Mt 13:31-35](#)

Wow! What dire predictions! Yet the Kingdom will flourish, it will leaven the whole batch. Help us, Lord. Help us know, deep in our hearts, that all our plans and schemes are nothing, that you alone are Lord. Help us see only you and only your way of perfect love. Help us know in our very hearts that you are real, that you are in control. Bind us together, Lord, to do your perfect will.

7/28/10

God is my refuge on the day of distress. [Jer 15:10, 16-21](#) [Ps 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18](#) [Mt 13:44-46](#)

The Kingdom is certainly "the" great treasure, but what a curious treasure it is. It is absolutely worthless until it is given away to others.

7/29/10 St Martha's Day

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob. [Jer 18:1-6](#) [Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab](#) [Jn 11:19-27](#) or [Lk 10:38-42](#)

We are clay in His hands. The two gospel stories today are among my favorites. John has Mary sitting at home mourning the death of her brother, Lazarus, while Martha goes out to meet Jesus, urging Him to save her brother's life. Luke has Martha complaining to Jesus because her sister is sitting and listening to Him instead of helping with the chores. In both cases it is Martha, a woman of action, who learns a beautiful lesson. In John she learns that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. In Luke she learns that it is silly to worry and be anxious, Jesus is all we need. In these cases Jesus is not chiding Martha or trying to change what she is doing, instead He is calling her to faith and trust in Him in everything. That is the better part, in fact the only part of any value, and it is truly the pearl of great price. Just love Jesus.

7/30/10

Lord, in your great love, answer me. [Jer 26:1-9](#) [Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14](#) [Mt 13:54-58](#)

The prophets would no doubt have a great hey day in our world. Have you considered that perhaps they are having one. Perhaps we just cannot understand, we cannot see it. It is too close to us, too familiar. We continue to plead with God to do this or that for us and for our Church. Perhaps it is time to read the signs of the times. Perhaps it is time for something new, namely the realization of the ancient faith of our Fathers in the faith who simply and

constantly just listened and said yes to the Lord. All the schemes and plans, all the words and prayers, all the rites and rituals will pass away. And they will do so long before God's Word. It is all that is eternal.

7/31/10

Lord, in your great love, answer me. [Jer 26:11-16, 24](#) [Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34](#) [Mt 14:1-12](#)

**The beginning of Life in the Spirit is always the same. It begins with meeting God. It is really that simple. No one who has met Him in person can remain unchanged. He is always and ever present and available to each person, but He will not force Himself on any. There is only one thing He asks of us. He asks simply to be invited. Just a glimpse of the awesomeness of our Creator and His constant loving presence is simply overwhelming. Why then are there so many who do not know Him? Is it possible that it is our fault? Is it possible that in His great love for us and faith in us He is counting on us to help the others? Could it be that He is counting on us to help everyone else make that invitation? For me that is what intercessory prayer is all about. "Lord let me live so that others may invite you into their hearts. Knowing You is everything. Everything else is nothing."**