

9/1/10

Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own. [1 Cor 3:1-9](#) [Ps. 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21](#)
[Lk 4:38-44](#)

I am so very glad that Paul is not here today. I do not think any of us could stand his admonishment. Two thousand years and look where we are. Perhaps one day we will be able to eat the solid food our Father intends for us. How hard it must be for Him. Every day we plead for our daily bread, but we are too childish for it. All He can give us is milk, or maybe a little Pablum!!! One of these days we will be ready for solid food, then He will be able to proclaim the kingdom in every town and village.

9/2/10

To the Lord belongs the earth and all that fills it. [1 Cor 3:18-23](#) [Ps. 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6](#) [Lk 5:1-11](#)

Have you witnessed any miracles in your life? Did they leave you astonished? Did you feel unworthy? Is it the same today? Am I supposed to leave everything and follow Jesus? Well...duh!

9/3/10

The salvation of the just comes from the Lord. [1 Cor 4:1-5](#) [Ps. 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40](#) [Lk 5:33-39](#)

Something very strange is happening to me. Every day I seem to be seeing passages in the bible that I have never seen before. Perhaps it is just early onset Alzheimer's, but more likely it is just another revelation of my notorious lack of attention to detail. The most recent of these episodes of serendipity is Luke 5:39. What is amazing to me is how useful this verse would be in so many discussions I have had with my friends. Even the NAB's translator footnotes point to the irony in this statement. No one likes change, yet Jesus calls us to constant change, and not just little itty bitty incremental change. Jesus calls us always to metanoia, conversion of the deepest kind, and He does it just as soon as we get comfortable where we are. What a wonderful connection this has with the first reading. A good steward must be found trustworthy, not in his own mind or even in the minds of his fellow servants. A good steward has only one concern, the judgement of his master. The beauty and wonder of Jesus judgements is how they constantly pull a person deeper and deeper step by step and leap and bound into the amazing, astounding, and life giving reality that God loves each and every one of us, and ever so slowly, we are becoming Him.

9/4/10

The Lord is near to all who call upon him. [1 Cor 4:6b-15](#) [Ps. 145:17-18, 19-20, 21](#) [Lk 6:1-5](#)

Well that's a very happy thought. We apostles are people on death row! We are fools, we are weak, hungry, homeless...We are scum!!! And what about the Gospel. Jesus taking up for His buddies who are stealing some farmer's grain, and doing it on the Lord's day to boot! This is the life in Jesus. It makes no sense to those for whom it is nonsense. Those who are filled with Jesus need no rules. He is the truth that leads all to freedom. It is not freedom from the law, but freedom to be the law, by complete surrender to Him.

9/6/10

Lead me in your justice, Lord. [1 Cor 5:1-8](#) [Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12](#) [Lk 6:6-11](#)

Why does Jesus thumb His nose at the Pharisees? Does He enjoy making them mad? How loving is that!?! It is pretty simple. Jesus came to save, to be our Lord, not Lord it over us. There is really only one thing that makes His job impossible. It is those who have a better idea, and the authority to promote it. Jesus is our personal friend and savior. It is the rule makers, and enforcers who always stand clearly in His way. He loves them too and wishes to save them, but to do so He must make them confront their own demon of power and control over others.

9/7/10

The Lord takes delight in his people. [1 Cor 6:1-11](#) [Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b](#) [Lk 6:12-19](#)

Who selected Jesus' apostles? He chose twelve after spending the night in prayer to God. He is God, why did He spend the night in prayer to God? Couple this with the first reading. These men are the ones He has set up as judges. Every single one of them failed Him. Not a single one of them was perfect. They were chosen after a night of prayer to God. They were not chosen for their great gifts or talents. They were not chosen for the things they could do well. Instead, at least it would seem from the stories they each told that came to be the gospels, they were chosen because they were open to God. It is Him alone who is the source of power. All those people who gathered around them that day were healed. They were healed not by the power coming from His apostles. They were healed by the power coming out of Him. Those twelve men were chosen to be filled with Him, when the time was right. That is why they were chosen for their open minds and hearts. A closed mind and heart can not be filled by Him and with Him. It will remain forever empty of Him and His power. It is not great minds and big hearts He seeks. It is open ones that He can fill to overflowing with His very person.

9/8/10

With delight I rejoice in the Lord [Mi 5:1-4a](#) [Rom 8:28-30](#) [Ps 13:6ab, 6c](#) [Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23](#)

Shakespeare says "What is in a name, a rose by any other name will still smell the same". Of course this is always taken wrong. The bard was making this statement in irony. Every name is so very important. The list of names in today's Gospel is not a geneological record, it is a statement of faith. The redactor left out the most important one. It is the verse, 17, which tells the story and why this list is there. Jesus mother is a simple peasant girl of Nazareth, but her fragrance is so very sweet. She, like every single other simple or complicated person He has made, is no "flash in the pan". She is a woman of rich and awesome heritage. She is a daughter of great kings, the latest in a line of wonderful creation made by Him in His awesome love for those He has made. Her greatness, like ours, is deep, unfathomable, yet, as with us, it is her personal "fiat" that lets Him make what He wants of it. Learn from her, Love her. She will always show the way.

9/9/10

Guide me, Lord, along the everlasting way. [1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13](#) [Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24](#) [Lk 6:27-38](#)

It is completely inconcievable to me that anyone who has pondered these passages can resist the notion that we are called to be Christ. I do not say to act like Christ, or to serve Christ, or to follow Christ. I say it very clearly. We are called to be Christ, God's very presence in the tiny little part (and it really is incredibly tiny) of His amazing universe that we inhabit. Is this impossible? To be Christ? Of course it is!!! (for me to do it). After all can a chunk of wood or a piece of stone make itself into anything useful. Certainly not!!! Yet, in the hands of the master craftsman, they can be turned into the most amazing and incredible works of utilitarian art. Anything is possible when it is in the hands of the Master. Glory and praise to Him Who is!!!!

9/10/10

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, mighty God! [1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27](#) [Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12](#) [Lk 6:39-42](#)

Perhaps it is time to restate the obvious. I know there are a few people who read these little ramblings once in a while. If I am not blind, then I at least suffer from ambliopia. In other words take care that you are not led by a blind guide. My words are not anything but words, it is the Word that they are meant to point to. The Word, the living Word, Jesus, is your all in all, your only sure guide. If my scribbling causes you to stop and think, please do not think too long. Instead please go straight to the Word. He alone is the answer to every question. He alone is the source of all grace and wisdom.

9/11/10

To you, Lord, I will offer a sacrifice of praise. [1 Cor 10:14-22](#) [Ps 116:12-13, 17-18](#) [Lk 6:43-49](#)

So what is all this about good fruit and rotten fruit, about firm foundations and no foundations. To me it has become exceedingly simple. In my life the only fruit is Jesus, and I can do absolutely nothing to bring Him to fruition. He does it all. My role is one of getting out of His way. How do I do that? It too is simple. It is done by prayer, giving back to Him a few of the moments of time He has given me, and it is done through loving service of my friends, everyone He puts in my path. Now the sad sequel is that I am exceedingly poor at executing this very simple plan of His. Help me, Jesus.

9/13/10

Proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes again. [1 Cor 11:17-26, 33](#) [Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17](#) [Lk 7:1-10](#)

There are a few verses "left out" from the apostle's letter. I suggest you read them too. They are more in the form of direct instruction. It is important that we meet together without divisions. How many times have I heard people complain about this or that "mass". So often I hear, "I need to go somewhere else where I can be fed". It has always amazed me that these good holy people are more concerned about being fed than feeding others. Many, many times I have pointed this out until I finally realized I always get the same answer, "You can not give what you do not have." So I just say a little prayer, and sort of feel sorry for them. After all, the apostle clearly says that if you are hungry you should "eat at home" so that we can share in communion when we are together. There is no greater hunger than the hunger for Jesus, and why people suffer it is so far beyond my comprehension. He is ever only a thought away with the absolute fullness of love and joy.

9/15/10

Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own. [1 Cor 12:31-13:13](#) [Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12](#) and [22 Jn 19:25-27](#)

Love is on the cross, and love always stands by the cross. Love is the cross's constant companion.

9/16/10

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. [1 Cor 15:1-11](#) [Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28](#) [Lk 7:36-50](#)

I am who I am very simply by the grace of God. It is not what I do that is of any importance. What is important is how I am able, with His grace of course, to yeild my will to Him. It is not my plan but His that is of any use to anyone, especially to me. So often people go around "trying" to discover and do God's will. The problem is that like every

other thing about Him, His will is just so very far beyond our understanding, let alone our doing. That is why so many of His little commandments come out as negative don'ts. If we just stop doing the wrong things long enough maybe His wonderful grace will be able to flow in greater abundance to those He has placed in our paths.

9/17/10

Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full. [1 Cor 15:12-20](#) [Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15](#) [Lk 8:1-3](#)

Jesus will always be found exactly where He always is, on the way of the cross. For Him in Judea that way started in the little cave in Bethlehem and ended a few miles away on Golgatha, not on its summit but in the tomb near its base. Jesus is always in those on the way of the cross, but that way never ends until it is transformed in the joy of resurrection. All else is truly vain.

9/18/10

I will walk in the presence of God, in the light of the living. [1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49](#) [Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14](#) [Lk 8:4-15](#)

Many, I suppose nearly all people read the scriptures as if they were meant to speak of all mankind. Perhaps because I am woefully so self-centered I often find myself reading them as if they describe only me. From the first perspective it is easy to consider that the holy book is placing people in different groups, the mortal man vs the spiritual man, the pious men vs the heartless ones, the stupid vs the smart. From my perspective, it is all about me!!! All those fellows dwell in my skin, and doing His will is a constant struggle among them. Some days the arrogant, greedy, and proud ones manage to forge an alliance that the rest of me finds very hard to resist. Another day Mr. Timid and the 'Fraidy-Cat join hands. In every encounter with others outside me there is the possibility, perhaps probability, that the rascals will rule. But there is hope for me, and those I meet, and that hope is only in Jesus. He too is there, and He is ever so slowly winning them over, one by one and even in groups. It is not that He is winning over those I meet so much as He is winning over those within, so that those troublemakers do less damage to His other friends who cross my path. And oh what a joy it is when Mr. Angry-man turns to Calm or Mr. Covet begins to give. That, my friend, is when the joy comes in the morning!

9/20/10

The just one shall live on your holy mountain, O Lord. [Prv 3:27-34](#) [Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5](#) [Lk 8:16-18](#)

Those of you who have heard the story of my conversion and conviction may recognize this passage from the good news according to Luke. It was written very specifically and personally by God to answer my ignorant prayer. When I read those words, in the right place, and at the right time, and realized that they had been written 2000 years ago just specifically for me, my life changed for ever. God in His overwhelming goodness and in

answer to the prayers of so many friends reached out and touched me in the most amazing way and when we connected He gave me everything I could ever have dreamed of and only asked one simple thing in return. He asked me to surrender my will to Him. It has been a great struggle over the last thirty-odd years since the spring of 1977, but once in a while I really think I am able to let go, and the amazing thing is that when I do He uses me in the most astounding ways to do so many little things for others. My friends, just ask and He will do the same for you. I know most of you are far better at it than I am. I just want to share with you the very simple insight that this is normal human life. This is what He intends for us all from Adam to the newest newborn. A life of love is the normal life, everything else is abnormal and needs to be fixed.

9/21/10

Their message goes out through all the earth. [Eph 4:1-7, 11-13](#) [Mt 9:9-13](#)

To me the message of today's gospel is clear. When Jesus said "Follow me" to Matthew He was not calling the man to leave his friends, but to bring Jesus to them. Too often we are tempted to see the church as a refuge from "the world" rather than a gift meant to sanctify it. We all wax pharisaic at times!

9/22/10

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for my feet. [Prv 30:5-9](#) [Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163](#) [Lk 9:1-6](#)

Who can add anything to God? Anything I say or do is so very much less than the tiniest scrap of His wisdom. Therefore I will always simply point to Him. At the very best I am simply an "attention getter" to direct folks attention to Him.

9/23/10

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge. [Eccl 1:2-11](#) [Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14](#) and [17bc](#) [Lk 9:7-9](#)

Qoheleth is correct. Everything is vanity. In the end only one question always remains, "Who is this guy, Jesus?" And the correct answer is always "You are the one I am becoming."

9/24/10

Blessed be the Lord, my Rock! [Eccl 3:1-11](#) [Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4](#) [Lk 9:18-22](#)

Virtue is what we all strive for. Perfection is always our goal, even when it appears so very distant from us. One day we will each come to understand that He is unfolding our future moment by moment and only He knows the whole of it. For each of us perfection is where we are. Where we are at this moment is the absolute best He has been able to make of His creation. Our now is the sum product and perfect result of all His work so far. Tomorrow, the next moment, will be even better.

9/25/10

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge. [Eccl 11:9—12:8](#) [Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14](#) and [17](#) [Lk 9:43b-45](#)

Science is the great search for truth through proven observation. Faith is the certain knowledge of truth that transcends proof, Nevertheless truth is truth. When Rudolf Clausius and others formulated the Second Law of

Thermodynamics they were simply coming to understand and codify a basic truth of the universe that God has created. The simple implication of the Second Law, "the Entropy of the universe always increases", is that all matter and energy in the universe is becoming less useful to man as time rolls on. When the average temperature of the universe reaches absolute zero, all matter and energy will be completely useless. Right now the temperature of the universe is estimated to be about 2.7 degrees C above absolute zero and falling. What does this mean for me? We know by faith that this "world" is passing away, just as science teaches. We know by faith that the "Son of Man" was handed over to men, and as predicted by the second law, they did everything they could to destroy Him. But by faith we know for certain that their efforts were in vain, for He is risen. He is alive and He is present here, no longer in physical being, but in spirit and truth. The energy He abides is love, and it has no corresponding entropy. The energy transformations of the universe always lead to greater disorder. It is an observable, provable fact. The Love of Jesus, quite the contrary, always brings communion. When this universe finally reaches the final depth of cold that is absolute zero, it will have been surpassed by His new kingdom where His love will reign forever. And here is the greatest secret of all. His kingdom is here where He is, gradually emerging and growing in every act of love.

9/26/09

The Lord will guard us as a shepherd guards his flock. [Zec 2:5-9, 14- 15a Lk 9:43b-45](#)

We are still amazed at every thing that God does. He is amazing. There is a difference now. The meaning is no longer inscrutable. He has sent His very Spirit to teach us and guide us as He continues every single day to be "handed over to men". The dwelling place is here and He is coming to dwell among us. He is glory in our midst!

9/27/10

Incline your ear to me and hear my word. [Jb 1:6-22 Ps 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7 Lk 9:46-50](#)

[Lectionary 455](#)

If you are having a bad day, just think about this man. Faith is not the act of rejoicing in the blessings of God that we see. Faith is in the certainty that all we see is a blessing from God. Are you the best you can be? Always remember there is somebody better, it helps keep you humble.

9/29/10

In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord. [Dn 7:9-10, 13-14](#) or [Rv 12:7-12ab Jn 1:47-51](#)

Why does God come to us so often through angels? Didn't the saving work of Jesus tear the veil between God and man? Could it be that His power is so great and so awesome and so overwhelming that, for the sake of our survival, He must often work in our lives through His

special agents? In any event it is still all about Jesus, the one and only stairway to heaven. How great *is* our God!!!

9/30/10

I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living. [Jb 19:21-27](#) [Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14](#) [Lk 10:1-12](#)

Memorial of [Saint Jerome](#), priest and doctor of the Church

[Lectionary: 458](#)

There is a profound reality in the service of Jesus that He abides in companionship. There is in every Christian friendship a deep and profound reflection of the Trinity and of trinitarian life. It is in two bound by love, filled with love, alive with love, that new life emerges. Just as Father and Son are one in the Love of the Spirit, so are two friends, so are mother and child, so are husband and wife. It is this communion that makes the Trinity present, or better, it is through this communion that the Trinity, the ultimate grantor of free will, is given permission to work His will here among us. Two by two, and when one couple joins with another, in that same spirit and experience of His living love the results are awesome. He abides in love!