

Saturday April 30 I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me. [Acts 4:13-21](#) [Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21](#) [Mk 16:9-15](#)

To whom did Jesus appear? Mary Magdalene, a formerly demon possessed woman! Then to two "hangers on" who were getting out of town! These immediately went to spread the news. Not so the "apostles", not so. By the time He gets to them they have continued to piddle away the days in hiding, even though they have been duly informed by those who have seen Him alive. By the time Jesus gets to the "meeting house" the good old boys of His inner circle are in for a good little piece of His mind. Is it any different today? Those of us who feel we are so close to Him, who are so certain of His call for us, who love to celebrate the great gifts He has given us, we need to pause and think a minute! We often need a severe dose of reality, not just a reality check! We may be gifted and called to preach and to evangelize. We may be gifted and called to flap our jaws, but every single follower of Jesus is empowered and called to proclaim the Gospel, and to proclaim it to every creature. Proclamation is a work of words, but those words are only the tiny tip of the iceberg. They are also the coldest part of it, not being warmed as intimately by the water in which it is immersed. Proclamation is a work of love. Proclamation is living in the truth, in the truth that God is LOVE. Proclamation is Him in me continuing the finishing touches of His wonderful creation of His kingdom everywhere and every moment to every creature I encounter on the way.

Friday April 29 The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone. [Acts 4:1-12](#) [Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a](#) [Jn 21:1-14](#)

Builders are special people. The good ones really know their craft. They carefully select the very best materials because they know that things change with time. For the structure to last great care must be taken, especially in constructing the foundation. The same thing is so much more true in the realm of the Spirit. That is why the wise person relies only on the Master Carpenter. So each day you have a choice, your way or his. Think you are smart? Then get to work! Work all day, work all night. That's just what the disciples did, and they got absolutely nothing. Then Jesus showed up. They listened to Him. Then they immediately hauled in a big catch. So, how do I know it is Jesus? Count the fish!

Thursday April 28 O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth! [Acts 3:11-26](#) [Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9](#) [Lk 24:35-48](#)

If God is, He is. If He is not, He is not. It really is as simple as that. Oh there are some who might wish to complicate things by suggesting that He was. They might say He once was and started everything up. Nothing could be further from the truth. If He was, then where did He go? If He left or died, He, by definition can't be God. Whatever ran Him off or killed Him must be! No! Either He is or He isn't. It really is as simple as that. Why make it so complicated? Now if He is, why can't I see Him? Did you ever think that maybe you can? Please do not take my word for it. If you would like to settle matters once and for all just ask Him to come and show you. Are you afraid He will get mad at you? Everyone I have heard who asked that question was not disappointed. According to His friends He did not get mad at Didymas. Perhaps all He is waiting for is a simple invitation. After all that is probably the proper thing to do.

Wednesday April 27 Rejoice, O hearts that seek the Lord. [Acts 3:1-10](#) [Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9](#) [Lk 24:13-35](#)

How slow we are to see, to understand, to be put to use. The great artist can't use a blind man to rough out the masterpiece. He needs someone who can at least see the rough cut piece still in the block. He can't let a man who doesn't know which tool to use strike the work. Only the craftsmen who can picture the finished work, and also knows how to use the tools will be of any use to him. He can use them to chip away at the hearts of stone that are inside each of us. But there is great joy for the craftsmen whom He qualifies once they rough out the piece. They stand

in awe as they watch Him finish the work with His awesome skill and astounding attention to detail.

Tuesday April 26 The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. [Acts 2:36-41](#) [Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22](#) [Jn 20:11-18](#)

The promise is for you and your children and all those who are far away, so whenever you encounter Jesus, don't just stand there hanging on to Him, go tell somebody!

Monday April 25

Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope. [Acts 2:14, 22-33](#) [Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11](#) [Mt 28:8-15](#)

We are an Easter people, not because we serve the "Living God". We are an Easter People because the living God is our personal friend, each one of us is His friend.



Saturday April 23 Holy Saturday

Where are you now? Where am I now? How can I go on without you? Loss is painful. Nothing has really changed. Billions of people are still here. How can I be alone just because you are gone? Why am I so at a loss for what to do? Because you are not here. I had no idea how precious your presence was to me until you were gone. Why is it now, only now, after you are gone that my mind is filled only with you? The remembering is all I have left, though it brings me tears, I will remember. I will never forget

Friday April 22 Good Friday Father, into your hands I commend my spirit. [Is 52:13—53:12](#)
[Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25](#) [Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9](#) [Jn 18:1—19:42](#)

Faith and common sense tell us that for God there is no time, everything is always present to Him, yet for us time is. In fact time, in a very real sense, is the only, or at least the penultimate reality. As an individual moves through this reality that is time there are points, days or hours, or even seconds that mark great turning points in his existence. Birth, that first encounter with a beloved spouse, a wedding, the birth of a child, death of a loved one, any of these and many more stand as marks of a life. So too is life in the Spirit. Baptism, mysticism, encounter with the ultimate reality of oneself, and of God. These turning points are the pinnacles of meaning in one's time, in one's life. It is no wonder at all that for so many the turning points of the flesh and Spirit coincide. Science would say it is adrenalin that marks these events in a brain, turning them into memories, and science is correct. Science is correct as far as it goes.

So it is for each individual. But what about us? What about a group, a family, a community, a nation? Of course it is the same. Do I need to mention traditions, celebrations, values? Those are the "things", the events that make us what we are in time. We trace to some, though often quite indefinite, beginning, and are moving to some dimly imagined end. But what about us? What about humanity? Common sense flags these turning points in a life and give it meaning. Surely each one can point to an ultimate singularity that, more than any other defines him as the person he is. It is in this single space of time that the meaning for his existence can be discovered. All other time points to it or moves, with certain new meaning, away from it, until the person is gone from time. So what about us? What about humanity?

In the eastern desert Moses stood before a burning bush who proclaimed "I AM" in self definition. Then, in a moment in history that will never be forgotten, a man, a real, physical man, an historical

person, three times repeated that same assertion, "I AM". Meanwhile, though he surely is, we, in his chosen successor and beloved companion, three times vehemently proclaim "I am not!" The judge sits and asks a very simple question, "Truth? "What is the truth?" There you have it. It is the essence of time itself. Either all of history flows into and out of those moments two millennia in the past, or they do not. Either HE IS, or he is not. Either WE ARE or we are not. For those who can grasp it, our history is like a great river whose water, gathered from many, many small source points flows inexorably down and into a great narrow canyon. There its powerful, mighty presence is collected in one small place and from there it flows on out into the vast delta where its life giving water makes life possible.

So what about us? So what? What do we do? What do I do? The answer, my friend, is so very simple. If IT IS then our work is done. The task is complete. Our role is to remember. Our role is to surrender. Our job is to recall and to remind. You see the turning point never ends. Since the turning point defines us, we carry it for all our time here. If not there truly is no meaning and all is simply chaos. It is in this very reality of our mission. We were instructed not to go change every creature in the world through conquest. No! we are sent to tell the story. We are sent to help them all know, to help them remember. We are sent to baptize them in Him, the one WHO IS. The turning point is so important that He cannot leave it to us alone to understand. Instead He rose and remains with us to keep breaking open its meaning for each and all of us until our time comes to an end. Two months or less in the history of humanity, three days or less, define us. All else is preparation and conclusion. It is the remembering that is the key. Do not forget. Do not forget who HE IS and who WE ARE.

PS: 40 is a prophetic number. It always, in scripture, seems to denote a period of time. I think it does not mean clock time, but God's time. I translate 40 units of time as "enough time". It is the amount needed to get us where God wishes us to be. (The readings are Lectionary #40)

Thursday April 21 Holy Thursday Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ. [Ex 12:1-8, 11-14](#) [Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18](#) [1 Cor 11:23-26](#) [Jn 13:1-15](#)

Oh how blest, how very blest and fortunate am I! Every day I can enjoy that special presence of Our Lord. And all because of His simple request. It is the simplicity and ordinariness, and normality of it. It is His way. "Remember me" in the simplest of meals, a little piece of bread, a little sip of wine. So what do I "do" as a result of this remembrance. It too is so very simple, plain, and ordinary. No words even are needed, simply the simplest of service, the very mundane and unpretentious acts that give comfort to my friends. Men may think highly of me when I ramble on in eloquence (though I seldom do), or when I craft with my hands some beautiful inspiring work of art (if I ever do so), or scribble with my pen, or punch out on the keyboard some entertaining story or words of wisdom (that are so seldom understood). Not so My Father. He just smiles, or chuckles at his handiwork. It is when I do the very simple normal tasks that help my fellows, and do it with love for them, that He is pleased. It is then that He is glad that He made me, though He loves me not one tiny bit more for it!

Wednesday April 20 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](#)

The love of God is all I need, but I need it so! It is not my aim to garner the animosity of my companions. Why does it seem so very easy to do so? A man has three friends. He is a very unselfish person. Each of his friends is a very unselfish person. Being unselfish, and being a devoted friend, the man takes great pains to look out for each of his friends. After all, they are so very unselfish that they can easily be taken advantage of. Of course each of his friends does the same. It is the epitome of unselfishness to look out for your friends...or is it? You see, in their devotion to each other, in their mutual care and concern, these three wise men become the most selfish clique you could meet. They will go to great lengths to protect each other. It is so

insidious and it is the reality of so, so, many "religious people". Jesus did not say there is no greater love than for a man to "look out for" his friends. He said there is no greater love than to die for them.

Tuesday April 19, 2011 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](#)

When a man is armed, people look at him differently. Many will keep their distance saying, "Look, He is dangerous." Others will watch him very carefully, "What are his intentions?" A few may know him as a friend. They will be thankful that he is armed, "Perhaps he can help me if trouble comes." Other strong men will keep a careful eye on him. They will be wary of him until they are certain of his intentions, "Will he be friend or foe?" A few of them will confront him. They will probe and test him to make sure he is and remains "on their side", or to destroy him before he gets stronger. It is much, much different with one who carries a concealed weapon. For good or evil the concealment lets him draw very close to those he would befriend or to those he would destroy. Stealth is itself the weapon of choice for the master strategist, and God is the Master of all.

Monday April 18, 2011 The Lord is my light and my salvation. [Is 42:1-7](#) [Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14](#) [Jn 12:1-11](#)

Life in the Spirit is the ultimate life of peace and joy. The certainty of the outcome removes all urgency, doubt, and fear. Each moment is encountered in joyful anticipation in the certainty that God's will will be done. All thought of personal power is turned to the task of simple self control, and though that is not an insignificant task, you know that it depends wholly on His power and His grace.

Saturday April 16, 2011 The Lord will guard us, as a shepherd guards his flock. [Ez 37:21-28](#) [Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13](#) [Jn 11:45-56](#)

Becoming obnoxious to people is one of the easiest things to do. It is also sometimes the calling of the just one. Standing firm against the self righteous takes almost no effort. It takes no planning or scheming. It takes almost no exertion of personal energy. What it does take is a great amount of prayer and complete surrender to God. It takes the all faith He has given a person simply to be patient and trust in Him. Is He real? Then, since He is God, He must be in control. Does He love me? Then whatever happens is by definition the best thing for me and for the others too. You see, God loves EACH one. He uses all things not to build character or characters. He uses all things to build His Kingdom, His family. One can never be certain of the personal consequences of anything. Will I die? Will I live? Will I suffer? Will I find comfort? The only certainty of life in the Spirit is that every occurrence will lead us closer to His Kingdom. The great joy of Life in the Spirit is in the wonderful grace that comes with the certainty of that truth. Those alive in the Spirit are always obnoxious to those living in this world.

Friday April 15, 2011 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](#)

It is obvious why the heathen rage. What is strange is why don't the faithful show more calm. Perhaps it is because they do not really believe. Is it their fault? Faith is a gift of the Father. Believing is not a mental drill. It is not an intellectual assent. Believing is the simple yielding to the one who is in control. Faith, true faith, makes a person a joyful member of the crew, not the captain of the ship.

Thursday April 14, 2011 The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. [Gn 17:3-9](#) [Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9](#) [Jn 8:51-59](#)

I am, or am I? Life in the Spirit is being. Any other "life" is not really life at all. At best it is a cruel and dim reflection of life. The subtle, or really not so subtle, truth of the Gospel is quite simply Jesus' wonderful invitation for us to be. He is. We are. But we are solely because of and through

Him. Not by what He did. Not because we are grateful. Nor because we "put Him first." We are when we say yes to His amazing invitation to come and be, to come and be where He is, to come and be His, to come and let Him perfect us as He changes the water into wine, and the stones into flesh and knits us into Him, His very body.

Wednesday April 13, 2011 Glory and praise for ever! [Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95](#) [Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56](#) [Jn 8:31-42](#)

What you do does not make you who you are. Who you are is what determines what you will do.

Tuesday April 12, 2011 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](#)

Lift Jesus higher!!! How do we do that? We can build a big tower. We can wear a big crucifix. We can wear purple sneakers, dye our hair orange, pierce our nose. All those things would get attention. Yes but what would people see when they look. They see someone trying to get attention, and usually they smile, or sneer, and turn away. On the other hand we can love other people. We can care. We can listen to them. We can say please excuse me when we step on their feet. We can point out a better way and offer to walk it with them. We can make a new friend. Dyeing hair, buy shoes, putting on jewelry, saying prayers are very easy compared to befriending another, especially one who needs a friend, one who has been bitten, one who is far-away. It is so much easier to turn the other cheek, the one on the bottom, and just walk away to the Church house. Whichever you choose to do in each and every encounter, and at each and every opportunity, always remember He is with you. He is there. When it comes to lifting Jesus higher, all He needs from us is consent. He does all the heavy lifting. He is the power and glory of Our Father.

Monday April 11, 2011 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 8:1-11](#)

The abuse of power is so very human. We are conditioned by life itself to turn things to advantage for ourselves. It really is so very human to play God. In the end that is what use or abuse of power is. So very much of our lives are for show. The bard wrote that all are but actors and the world is our stage. We are all "show people". God is different. He is the "real McCoy". We act like it. He is it. Why is this? It is pretty simple. Jesus told us to be perfect as He is perfect. He also told us only My Father is good. The solution to this apparent dichotomy is simple to deduce. If only God is good, only by being God can we become good. How can this be? How can there be any other way? It is again impossible for us but not for Him. It is very difficult. He will spend our entire lives working on it. Unless it is possible we have no hope. Attempting to reach holiness by being good is futile, while the one who is holy is the pure embodiment of goodness.

Saturday April 9, 2011 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](#)

What awesome readings for a person who has been squelched. They would be so comforting for one with clean hands, but where can such a person be found. We are all so very short of the glory of God. We are just a race of men who suffer from intermittent blindness. Now and then one sees clearly and the others simply cannot believe it. When the seer attempts to explain himself, his words simply fail, for the hearers are unable to visualize what they have never seen. Those who serve the Lord must have great patience as they wait, with much prayer, for Him to open the eyes of others. How blissful when He does! What joys and raptures they share!!! Without a single word they understand each other. This is communion in Jesus' Holy Spirit. The blind Pharisees will win every battle, until they stand, with dripping swords, and begin to think and listen to Him. Then their eyes will be opened too. They will lay down their swords and embrace those they have vanquished. They will do this with many, many tears, tears of great joy. We are brothers, all blind brothers, searching for the truth.

Friday April 8, 2011 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted. [Wis 2:1a, 12-22](#) [Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23](#) [Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30](#)

Some people dread being considered obnoxious to others. Not me!!! I learned a long time ago the wisdom of these words of Wisdom. The ones who trust in themselves and their own rules, plans, and designs for themselves and others do not always do so out of a desire to be wicked. They just are a little lacking in faith. Faith is a very strange commodity. First it is a pure gift. It really is like a tiny seed. No one, not even the most skilled man of science with the most intricate machines can make a seed from scratch. But even the smallest child can plant it, even squirrels and birds can plant it. Even an attentive child, with just a tiny bit of direction, can water it and tend it until it sprouts and begins to grow. If God loves us, and He most certainly does, then we know He has given us the seed. Don't drown it, don't over fertilize it, and don't hoe around it so much you damage its roots. Just patiently let it be and let it grow. It needs just a little water and care. Do not be discouraged when it blossoms and the beauty and fragrance of its flowers become obnoxious to those who neglect their seed or try to water it with fire hoses, or bury it under bushels of manure. Be happy to be obnoxious, perhaps He can use your example to help them see the error of their ways. Like the sprouting seed, Faith, Hope, and Love are very, very normal.

Thursday April 7, 2011 Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people. [Ex 32:7-14](#) [Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23](#) [Jn 5:31-47](#)

Oh, we are still so stiff-necked and hatd headed!!! We take the most precious gifts God has given us and turn them into idols. When will they ever learn...when will they ever learn! When will we learn??? Yet His mercy abounds. Even when we have set up our structures and proclaimed them as our salvation, even then He does not abandon us or destroy us. He is still with us, every moment, watching and waiting for even the slightest turn toward the truth. He waits actively, letting nor even the slightest opportunity go to waste. With such a wonderful, merciful, kind and loving God so very close, why are we so intent on constructing our own salvation? Why do we find it so hard to believe Him? He is the only truth.

Wednesday April 6, 2011 The Lord is gracious and merciful. [Is 49:8-15](#) [Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18](#) [Jn 5:17-30](#)

How do I know what I should do? How do I know God's will for me? Folks, it just isn't that hard. He has told you quite plainly. He has come and lived among us to show us what is His will. He is still here! He can be observed all the time. Now there are those who can read and listen to history who are impressed by what He has said and done. They are so impressed that they sit around trying to figure out ways to do similar things and once in a while even try to do them, or at least try to make others do them. There are some who have come to realize that Jesus might just possibly have meant what He said and so they go to great pains to attempt to imitate His actions, usually with much weeping and wailing and the constant notion that their falling short is ok, since, after all they are not really Jesus, just people trying to be like Jesus. These are all good people striving for goodness. Then there are those who realize they are baptized (a little Greek word that means "totally immersed, like a sunken ship") in the Father, Son, and Spirit of the living and ever present God. These are the ones filled with joy, no matter the trouble they are in, no matter the ignorance they face. These are the persons, totally free, filled with love, dedicated to friendship with a conviction and sincerity that is truly amazing to others. These are the ones whose only criterion is the Gospel that God loves each and every person. They live their full lives as normal human beings, no pretention, no imitation, simply the normality that God is alive in them and EVERYONE else. These are the people of joy. They do not do what He wants, they surrender and enjoy letting Him do with them as He wills. So what about the others, the observers and imitators? They are so very close to the truth, just a simple turn away. They are trying and He honors that. They just need a little more time, and a lot more prayer. Doing His will is as impossible as it would be for a hammer, by itself, to jump up and strike a nail head. The only really fruitful act is an act of letting go and letting God.

Tuesday April 5, 2011 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](#)

Are rules bad? Of course not, how can rules which point out the shoulds of life, be bad? The problem with rules is their plurality. The wisdom of Jesus is the understanding that all rules are but dim pointers to the rule. The rule is LOVE. The rule is Jesus. When there become rules there of necessity needs to be a hierarchy of them, and, of course, that means there must be a hierarchy of rulers to interpret, enforce, and propagate the rules. That is the problem. The hardness of the hearts of men is the problem. Men who seek power, men who are seduced by power, men who find their meaning in status and power simply cannot resist the powerful spirit of ruling. The rules always go to their advantage and to promote their agenda. Spiritual blindness is so very different than physical blindness. A blind man cannot see. A spiritually blind man sees only what he wants to see, and he sees it so very clearly that he is completely blind to the will of God even when he proclaims it in words.

Monday April 4, 2011 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](#)

Dawn always comes in the morning. It always comes. It never fails. It is unimaginable that dawn will not come. It comes whether we see it or not. Jesus is the same.

Saturday April 2, 2011 It is mercy I desire, and not sacrifice. [Hos 6:1-6](#) [Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab](#) [Lk 18:9-14](#)

To all those who have friends attending the Cursillo #598 this weekend in Houston, Wow! What a powerfull message! He does know well His plans for us. We do to. All He wants of us is so very simple to know. He very simply calls us to be merciful. Can it be that simple? Not only can it be, it really is. We are all so very stiff necked and hard hearted that His constant communication is His call for us to be merciful to one another.

Friday April 1, 2011 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](#)

Why ask questions when you know the answer? "Momma can I keep this stray puppy?" "No!". How many times do you think Momma will get asked this question? Why? Could it be that someone keeps asking in the hope the answer will change? Could it be that someone imagines she was just mistaken, that she did not hear Momma correctly? God speaks very plainly so as not to be misunderstood, and I imagine that He does not often change His mind, yet I so often go to Him asking "What would you have me to do?" Love Me. Love your neighbor as yourself. That's pretty plain Aramaic, English, Spanish, or whatever! And just in case someone wasn't listening, Jesus translated it into a life that clearly cries out to each and every one of us, "Love as you are being loved by Me!"