

April 2, 2018, Daily Reflection

See You in Galilee!

“You killed Him!... He lives... Meet Me in Galilee!”

When struggling to find a collective means to tie these phrases together, I received text message with the following YouTube link to Dan Seal’s “One friend” from a dear friend I have not heard from in over eight years...

<https://youtu.be/kxXP20GUafY>

Tears filled my eyes as I listened to this song and watched the video as blessed memories came to mind of how we meet. It was not a very kind situation freshman year in high school. My friend was being teased for having head lice. This upset me. I took up for her. The funny, but sad, thing about lice, it’s one bug that does not discriminate. The teasers were treated for infestation, too. Over the years, our paths crossed as neighbors and school transportation. I was her daughter’s bus driver for 12 years. There many times my friend and I did not meet eye to eye. Our egos got the best of us. However, in the end, there was one thing we both held dear.... our faith and trust in how much God Loves us and how we reflected Him to each other and others. What a blessing to here from my friend after all these years!

In light of this, let’s take another look at the readings, except place yourself within the context.

You and I are now standing face to face with Peter... He looks square into your eyes, and states, “You killed him!” “I am so sorry. Please forgive me”, you hear me plead, while tears are running down my cheeks. What would your response be?

Suddenly, Peter takes his hands, tightly grasps your shoulders and shakes you. “He lives! Jesus is alive! Pack up! We are going to Galilee”. What would be your reaction?

You and I have a choice here. Stay at the foot of the cross and grieve? Or pack up and go see our resurrected friend? Me? I am heading to Galilee to see and be with my best friend... Are you with me?

I leave you with this song by the Sidewalk Prophets, “Come to the Table”

<https://youtu.be/umjG9mVGI5o>

God bless you!

Christina "Tina" Wheatley

April 3, 2018, Daily Reflection

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" John 20:15a

When we are troubled, whom do we look to for help or comfort? Sometimes we look for and find temporary comfort; a drug, a credit card, or a lie. But usually the quick fix only creates more troubles.

We need to be patient with our situation and walk through the process to reach an ongoing resolution. We search for support among our family and friends. We pray and ask others to pray with and for us. Looking for and inviting Jesus to walk with us provides that much needed help, comfort, consolation, peace and/or acceptance. His presence in the midst of whatever life brings fills every situation with love and God's grace.

There are times when troubles seem impossible to overcome. All forms of support help us through our struggles and remain with us as we transform into new life.

Blessings to you always...Michele Ashby

April 4, 2018 Daily Reflection

"...by the right hand ...rejoice, oh heart ... seen him. ...in the breaking of the bread"

I am so amazed and awe struck, when watching an infant discover their hand for the first time. The intense facial expressions. The cooing sounds. The hand instinctively placed in the mouth. I chuckle every time.

In this meditation, let's take a closer look at the hand, especially the right hand.. the palm, the joints... especially how your skin and muscle tissue simultaneously work together supporting your bones. Wiggle your fingers... Slowly form a fist... Uncoil your fingers ... Yes! There is your hand! An amazing fine motor appendage full of sensory stimuli moving at your will. Wow!

Change of thought.. let's go one step further by using an audio stimulus... With your right hand, tap to the beat of this song "Companions on a Journey" by Cary Landry, on your right knee. Here is the YouTube link:

<https://youtu.be/bTl1poFMPWA>

Have you ever wondered why Peter offered assistance “by the right hand”? Why didn’t Peter use either the left or a combination of both hands? Or lift the gentleman up by the shoulders to prevent shoulder injury? Could this be a parallel to our last judgement placement, one on the left and on the right? Why the right hand? This truly baffled me during the 1993 World Youth Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Here is what I discovered in Adoration before one of the Masses. Going about an hour early for Mass (hint: the doors are sometimes opened at that time.) I revisited the readings once more and followed the above mentioned directives. This thought came to mind, “The right hand is furthest from the heart.” I thought, “Yes, the heart is predominantly on the left side of an individual's chest. “ Mine is. However, in unique circumstances like my cousin, Tommy Wheatley, the heart is on the right side of the chest. What does that have to do with this scripture reading?” Again another thought came to mind, “As a temple of the Holy Spirit, how close do you want to be to My Heart?” Again I thought, “On the day of judgement, I want to be on Your left side closest to Your Heart!” “But you can’t!” “Have mercy, O Lord!”, I thought. “All one desires is be close to Your Heart to actually hear it beat! Please allow me, then, to be like Lazarus to sit on Your Lap on the day of judgement as one of Your Dearest friends”.

Mass began as usual, however an intense and unexplainable feeling came over me... the sights... the smells... the sounds... something was missing. At the sign of peace. I found myself, not only offering my right, but cupping the other person's hand with both of my hands, beaming a brighter smile, vocally stating “Christ’s Peace be with you!”, and mentally asking God to bless the person whose hand I had captured. Many did not accept my hand. I blessed them anyway by touching their shoulder with my hand closest to my heart or reverently bowing. My heart leaped for joy! at Holy Communion. I physically accepted the blessed morsel with my hand closet to my heart!. The precious drink seemed sweeter as I sipped. Finally, all five of my senses beamed. Wow! Ultimate Satisfaction! Fully accepting my Dearest Friend and Savior fully into my heart. Am I “born again”?

I leave with this YouTube link containing the song “Blessings” by Laura Story:

<https://youtu.be/1CSVqHcdhXQ>

God bless you!

Christina “Tina” Wheatley

April 5, 2018, Daily Reflection

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. Luke 24:45

We have been blessed with numerous opportunities to study the scriptures, the Word of God, within our parish. When we study as a group or individually we need guidance and resources as well as our life experiences and discussions to bring understanding and application to our current situations. Thank goodness there are those who do the research for us and share their knowledge through our Bible study programs. We need to make ourselves open to reading, reflecting, sharing, and making God's Word a part of our everyday lives.

How can we possibly live and love our faith if we don't know or try to understand our salvation history? How can we truly love God if we don't know the story of his love for humanity and for us as individuals? Just listening during the Liturgy of the Word during Sunday Mass is not enough. If you're reading this you've moved past that to reading Scripture daily and you're taking the time to reflect on those readings and, hopefully, searching for and finding that application to your life or your current situation.

As we take the initiative to understand the Scriptures, may God be with us. May our Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with us as we take that understanding and share it whenever an opportunity presents itself. God will provide the opportunities and the ability to understand.

Blessings to you always...Michele Ashby

April 6, 2018, Daily Reflection

"So Jesus said, ' Cast your net over the right side of the boat and you will find something'"

What is your succession plan? Who will take your place? Jesus knew who would take his place.

Confrontation and rejection transpires in any given situation, when the status quo is challenged.. Challenging the situational normalcy and defending what one believes to be the right generates a fear of losing control and of the unknown. Is that what Peter felt when Jesus was taken away? Now, on the shore, necessity for change illuminates the door post of possibility. All it takes is a "leap of faith" through that door to permit miraculous impossibility to blossom.

Faith is the "corner stone" of one's whole being. It characterizes and defines an individual, who you are, what you are capable of, and who you will be. When weighed and measured properly, Faith's nurturing features fills one's heart with hope generating an inward evolutionary change into a deeper unconditional love of God, which then transmits to others.

In other words, with faith and determination, a “future full of Hope” can happen!

Enjoy this YouTube link to beautiful song performed by One Voice Children Choir:

<https://youtu.be/9jAtB UBWh0>

Make sure to select the drop down arrow for the reasoning behind this video.

God bless you always!

Christina “Tina” Wheatley

2009 Thankyou Music. CCLI#: 546929, Music and Words: Keith and Kristen Getty and Stuart Townsend, Artist: Keith and Kristen Getty, Album: Awaken The Dawn, Youtube link: <https://youtu.be/fXB8ihepUpE>