

## **Daily Reflection for Monday, April 23, 2018**

### **“I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly”**

In today's reading Jesus again tells us that he is the Good Shepherd. He is a shepherd whose sheep know him and he knows them. A herd of sheep will recognize the voice of their shepherd and follow him wherever he leads them. The shepherd leads them to green pastures, cool water and safety from dangerous predators. Their lives depend on their shepherd. In the last line of this reading Jesus tells us that he came to give us Spiritual Life. An everlasting life!

Years ago I heard a song with this very message. It was at a first Communion Mass. The song writer added a line at the end. The song said; “I have come to bring you life, life more abundantly, life full of mystery – if you will let it be.” “ If YOU will let it be” It is up to us to accept this abundant life. It is up to us to follow the voice of our shepherd. It is up to us to grow in our faith life when we prayerfully feed on the word of God and the Eucharist.

Blessings to “Gods sheep!” – Dolores Snyder

## **Daily Reflection for Tuesday, April 24, 2018**

Small Things:)

Please listen to “Little Things With Great Love”, written by Aubrey Assad for the 2017 National Youth Conference :

<https://youtu.be/pm5VQAxdMrc>

“When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain faithful to the Lord in firmness of heart.”

Out of curiosity, one asks one's self what exactly did Barnabas see when he first arrived in Antioch? Scripture is very vague at this point.. Was Barnabas greeted with a gift, a spear three inches from his face, and told “pick it up” by a bystander like David Wells? Or was the gates of the city flung open by two hospitable smiling faced individuals, who would cheerfully state, “Welcome! Come on in?”

Scripture is very vague at this point. One can only speculate and pray some random acts of kindness and hospitality amongst the people of Antioch may have been witnessed. Someone caring for a homeless person. A parent teaching a child to read. A teenager helping an elderly person. A coworker helping another lift a heavy object. A kindness shown to a stranger. Some

small ordinary action done in an extra ordinary way not seen in Jerusalem. The Sovereign God's hand at work renewing and revitalizing amongst all people. What Great Joy Barnabas experienced!

It's occurring within our own parish and community! The mission last week put this in perspective. One was challenged to celebrate the small things in life, continue to cultivate a heart of gratitude, smile reflecting God's Joy, and persevere with tolerance and mercy when there is none. We do this all the time. Now to stop dreaming and start doing small things:)

I leave you with this song by Josh Wilson, "Dream Small":

<https://youtu.be/ZrkYjmMAgN0>

With Great Joy, God bless you always!

Christina "Tina" Wheatley

Wednesday, April 25th

Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

We don't talk about it very often but we do have an enemy who watches and waits for an opportunity to attack us and destroy our faith in God. The Good News is that Jesus has defeated him through his death on the cross! Jesus also gave us the weapons we need to resist the devil, stand up against him and overcome.

St. Paul tells us in Ephesians chapter 6 that we have a Sword which is the Word of God, we have a Shield which is our Faith, we have a Helmet which is our Salvation, and more.

He also tells us to pray at all times and in the Spirit.

We are not alone, our brothers and sisters are all going through the same things we are. If we stand together and resist the devil we can accomplish together what God has called us to do which is to "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."

Lord God, show us how to use the weapons you gave us, to resist the devil and do what you have called us to do in Jesus name!

Selah,  
Katie Thompson

## **SJPII Daily Reflection for Thursday, April 26, 2018**

With uplifted arm he led them out, and for forty years he put up with them in the desert. Acts 13:17b-18

I love Bible studies! (You'll probably read this comment in my reflections regularly.) When numbers show up they usually have meanings associated with them. So it is with the number 40 as referenced in a couple websites I reviewed: [www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-the-bible/introduction.html](http://www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-the-bible/introduction.html) and [www.reasonsforhopejesus.com/the-meaning-of-numbers-in-the-bible](http://www.reasonsforhopejesus.com/the-meaning-of-numbers-in-the-bible). One in every five scriptural passages contains a number.

Some of the Biblical meanings for 40 include: time of trials, probation & testing and 40 can also represent a generation. There are seventeen references to the number 40. That's more than I could recall. Some include: 40 days & nights of rain; 40 years in Egypt, years in Midian, years Moses served God; 40 days on Mt. Sinai for the Law; 40 days after birth for a male child to be dedicated to God; 40 days spies were in the land of Canaan; 40 years Israel wandered in the desert; 40 years of peace in the age of judges; 40 days of temptation in the desert; and in our church year, 40 days of penance during Lent as well as 40 days from the resurrection to ascension.

For many individuals today, they reach a "mid-life crisis" around the age of 40. That point in their life when they reflect on what they've accomplished or not experienced, what's really important, what type of legacy they want to leave behind for the future, etc. Forty may or may not be the number for you, but I pray when each of us reflects on our time that our understanding of our relationship with our Lord becomes a priority for us in every action we take or will take in the future. And that we will be remembered for this relationship.

Blessings to you always...Michele Ashby

At time of Publication we did not have the Daily Reflection for Friday, April 27, 2018.