

07/16/2023

Sisters and Brothers, let us put our confidence in Our Lord!

Covenant Life

- Our next Gathering is Next **Sunday, July 23** at 3pm. Please join us!
- *Exciting news: We are restarting **Children's Ministry**. Cecilia Briseno has graciously offered to organize a ministry for our little ones during our Gatherings that will enable them to have some special time together during Word Gift time. Please help spread the word to all young families!*
- 50th Anniversary content is available on our [Jubilee web page](#); past prayer meeting audio is [here](#), Word Gift summaries are [here](#), and transcripts are [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

The theme of this month is Freedom, and in particular Freedom from.....the slavery of sin. Freedom for.....God Himself and His will in our lives. God's plan is for us to be united in Him, and this is impossible if we are slaves to sin. We started the month talking about how to resist temptation to sin.

This week our Readings help us walk the path to wholeness. Isaiah 55:10-11 compares rain and snow from the heavens which water the earth and make it fruitful to the Word of God achieving the end for which He sent it. That end is Him. Therefore, a primary way to experience Freedom is to drink in the Word of God, daily, constantly. This "seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest" (Ps 65)

St. Paul reminds us in Romans 8: 18-23 of the importance of that Freedom. Not only are we set free from "slavery to corruption", but creation itself is set free when we become free. In other words, if we want a better world, we should give ourselves to our God.

Jesus Himself paints that wonderful picture for us in the Gospel reading from Matthew 15, the parable of the Sower and the seed. He talks about that productive seed on rich soil that "bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirty fold". God creates, and His grace and goodness provide all the splendor in which we live.

When we read Scripture, we are encouraged to imagine ourselves in that Scripture. Are our hearts a hard path? Are our hearts rocky ground? Are our hearts thorny? Or, are our hearts rich soil? If not rich soil, how do we prune our hearts, how do we clear the thorns or the rocks, or break up the path and nurture the soil? How do we embrace the Word of God, and allow it to transform us, our families, our relationships, and our world? It must start with allowing this seed to fall on us, to pick up our Scriptures, to read the Word of God. We must drink it in, imagine ourselves in it, ask questions of it, and allow it to achieve the "end for which I sent it" (Is 55:11).

If you don't like to read, go to daily Mass and listen. Listen to podcasts which read the Word of God, such as Fr. Mike Schmitz Bible in a Year, or acquire CD's which read Scripture to you. Do whatever you can to hear, read, consider, and prayerfully seek out our God. Then, you will truly be "Blessed" (Matt 13:16).

Please continue to pray for David and Laurie and their vacation. May our Lord give them rest and restore them, and bring them back to us safely.

Blessings to Each of You

Bob Montgomery