

## Covenant Life

- Our next in-person Gathering is a week from today on Sunday February 26<sup>th</sup> at 3pm continuing the pattern of meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.
- If you have not already do so, PLEASE click [HERE](#) to RSVP for our Golden Jubilee Celebration on March 25-26 at MSM.
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), and read the Word Gift summary [here](#) and the transcript [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.
- **NOVENA**: We are preparing for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a **nine-week novena** to pray, meditate, and discern what God is asking of us going forward. Try to spend quality time daily praying and reflecting, attentive to prophetic words. We want the Lord to reveal His plan for us in this time, individually and as a Community. This week's topic is Repentance and Reconciliation. Do not worry if you miss a day, each day is a new invitation from the Lord to turn to Him. God is not looking at the number of our prayers, but our hearts turned to Him. If you know someone who is without email, please print a copy and visit them so we can be united in seeking our Lord. Please continue prayers for Gretchen and the Jubilee team.

In the [Gospel](#) today Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount raising the bar relative to retaliation and enemies. For me these are amongst the most challenging versus in the entire bible.

Regarding retaliation Jesus teaches us to offer no resistance to one who is evil...turn the other cheek...hand over more than is being taken from us...offer more than is demanded of us and lend as requested. Regarding enemies He teaches us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Sisters and Brothers, as I read these words and do an examination of conscious, I must confess the that I am not close to what Jesus is asking. My instincts are totally opposite.

Further, reading the last verse in the Gospel that states "*be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect*" always came across to me as an unattainable goal.

There is a similarly stated verse in the [First Reading](#) "Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy". While I am not opposed to tall challenges these two verses appear to me to be quite lofty.

As I reflected on these verses and asked the Holy Spirit to speak, I heard two things. First, today is not judgement day, today is a new day, a new opportunity to turn to our Lord (Lm 3:22), receive His mercy, repent and be reconciled. This is clearly covered in the [Responsorial Psalm](#) today that explains God's great mercy. It is also a perfect tie into our Novena this week that is attached to this letter.

The second thing that came to me was a scripture that I received during my prayer time this past week that was also shared at our Coordinator Day of Prayer yesterday. In [Math 11:30](#) we read "For my yoke is easy, and my burden light". I felt like the Lord was saying that Jesus' challenges and these lofty goals are made more difficult because I am doing my own thing and not totally focused on our Lord and His will. If I would but take up only His yoke, my burden would be light!

Praying through this more a couple of additional scriptures came to mind: [Zech 4:6](#) "Not by might, and not by power, but by my spirit" and [Phil 4:13](#) "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Yes God has a great call before us, life on high with Him, attainable through His abundant mercy if we are willing to repent and be reconciled. This is attainable if we focus on Him, set our loads down, and journey home through Him who strengthens us!

*"Jesus Christ, I choose You, I accept the challenges You issue and will start anew today. I repent of anything that holds me back and receive Your mercy and forgiveness. I claim the promise of an easy yoke and light burden and know that this is all possible as I surrender to Your will and allow You to strengthen me. I love You Lord!"*

God Bless,  
David