

Covenant Life

- Our next Gathering will be a week from today on Sunday August 13th at 3pm. Please put this on your calendar and bring a friend.
- We have restarted Childrens Ministry, led by Cecilia Briseno with the help of Gracie Wagner and Eliana Medina, for all children ages of 5-10. They meet during the prayer meeting following praise & worship until the closing prayer (approximately 3:30-4:20pm). *Please help pass the word to young families!*
- 50th Anniversary content is available here; 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 readings today can be a 'wake up' call if we listen with our spiritual ears. Life can be SO busy. Satan probably secures more Christian victims due to distraction rather direct temptation. Today can be a day to contemplate our response to our Heavenly Father's revelation.

The readings today unite around the singular theme of God making Himself known. His love for you and me and all of mankind is so unbelievable that He orchestrates specific revelations to give us a glimpse. Obviously, the central question for us all is how we will respond.

The First Reading predicts The Revelation. The Second Reading retells the story that the Gospel makes so clear...God reveals Himself to us in the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus our Lord, and 1) that He is well pleased and 2) that we should listen to Him!

The Acts of the Apostles and Paul's letters reveal the passion of the disciples following the *revelation* of Jesus. Maybe this is what the readings today are meant to stir up within us. Maybe it is unwise to continue our daily routines as if every day is just another day. How did we respond when we first experienced the revelation of God? Maybe it was a Holy Spirit moment, maybe it was being healed or witnessing a healing, maybe it was being slain in the Spirit...whatever our first encounter was, how did we respond? For me I was a changed person. It left no

doubt that God was real, that He loved me, and that He had a specific mission for me.

We hear in Peter's words that same excitement. He is so glad to be present for the God's blessing that he wants to do something. Anything. It is humorous to me that he is interrupted in suggesting that he start erecting three tents. We too can get caught up in jumping to our good ideas of how to respond to God's revelation rather than just taking it in and letting Him provide us direction.

Nevertheless, there are some specific take-aways that we can glean from the readings today:

- 1) *Listen to Him* - let us never tire of our hunger for God's Word. Let us never get so distracted with all the good and needy things in our lives that we do not pause and listen and let Him direct our response to His revelation.
- 2) *Rise, and do not be afraid* - let us rise each day with the full knowledge of God's unconditional love for us and be about His work, His mission for us, without fear or concern about earthly trials or crosses.
- 3) *I am well pleased* - let us never forget that we are God's children, and like Jesus, God is well pleased in us! He smiles every time we turn to Him, we pray to Him, we listen to Him, we love Him in our interactions with others throughout our day. God is well pleased with you and me and today can be a special day to recall how He reveals Himself to us, that He is pleased with our response, and lovingly encourages us to press on as He has more for us to do.

Let us pray, *"Heavenly Father, thank You for revealing Yourself to me, for sending my Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. I recommit, with the help of Your Spirit, to rise each day, to listen to You for whatever You want to reveal, and to journey each day in that revealed mission. Let me never tire of saying Yes, let me never be distracted by life's busyness, and let me always be about Your work. I love You."*

God Bless,
David