<u>Covenant Life</u>

- Our next prayer meeting is **TODAY** at 3pm and will include Children's ministry.
- Formation I teachings, after the prayer meeting, are for anyone who has attended Life in the Spirit and is interested in growing in Christian maturity or learning more about Community (existing CCGD members also welcome).
- <u>GodsDelight.org</u> has prayer meeting <u>audio</u>, <u>summaries</u>, <u>transcripts</u>, <u>teachings</u>, and <u>Jubilee</u>.
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online <u>here</u> or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

Reflection

In Community we have always been taught that God speaks to us, even today, through the whole of His Word including the Old Testament. This was true for me today reading a verse in the <u>Responsorial Psalm</u>: "How could we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land?" Even though it was an obvious reference to Israel's plight referenced in the <u>First Reading</u>, the Holy Spirit reminded me that we truly live in a foreign land that hardly recognizes God and His ways.

This analogy brought back memories of my international travel and attempts to balance the joy of exploring an unfamiliar place with the general uneasiness about being away from home and the subtle fear of what I would do if something went wrong. I think this is exactly the point the psalmist is trying to make with the rhetorical question.

This is <u>exactly</u> what is being asked of us. We must never get comfortable. God's plan to save the world involves us! If we stop feeling like we are living in a foreign land...maybe we need a holy wake up call. Even if we are clearly safer than the bible characters we read about, have we built too comfortable a place for ourselves? Are we being asked to recall why God created us and what specific mission He has for us today? He IS likely asking us to sing out...to sing a song of the Lord, day, and night, even if it makes us 'stick out' in this foreign land more!

The message of John 3:16, included in today's <u>Gospel</u> is the absolute basic Gospel message that our dying world so desperately needs to hear. Maybe the Holy Spirit is asking each of us today to <u>never</u> get comfortable, never become complacent,

never write off our sin sick culture, and resolve to keep lighting candles. We were born for this. For such a time as this, we were created.

Join me today in accepting the reality of the decline and confusion that is so present in our culture and respond with the great love described in the <u>Second</u> <u>Reading</u>. Let us accept that we <u>are</u> foreigners, we will always be foreigners, and resolve today to light a candle in whatever darkness we find ourselves in. If you and I keep lighting our candle, loving the person we are with, one person at a time, one moment at a time, we <u>will</u> brighten our world, we <u>will</u> reflect God's love, and we <u>will</u> do what He is asking of us...passing on His message of His great love!

Let us pray "Heavenly Father, thank You for Your unbounded unconditional love! Thank You for sending Your Son to win us back. Please send me Your Holy Spirit to empower my ability to live in this foreign land and continue the work He started. I want to be an active part of building Your kingdom, today and every day. I love You Lord! Amen."

God Bless, David