Covenant Life

- Our next prayer meeting will be next Sunday, June 23rd at 3pm. We plan to have Children's ministry and a Formation I teaching.
- GodsDelight.org has prayer meeting audio, summaries, transcripts, teachings, and Jubilee.
- 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.

Reflection

The <u>Responsorial Psalm</u> today is "Lord, it is good to give thanks to you." I therefore would like to give thanks to two groups. First, a big thank you to all the fathers and spiritual fathers who have given so much of themselves to make me into the person I am today. Bobbie, all the Coordinators over the years, all the Ministry leaders who served as mentors and servants, and all the fathers who lived their calling as loving selfless fathers...they all had a transformative impact on my life. They are unsung heroes who sacrificed wages, family time, leisure time...to serve and mentor me, you, and many others. So many countless lives have been touched. Thank you!

I also want to give thanks to the Lord for all who served at Camp Jesus this week. It was truly an amazing week. My numbers could be off but there were about 250 children, 100 youth, and scores of adults celebrating Jesus with such enthusiasm, love, and joy that truly this was a camp fittingly called Camp Jesus!! I thank Michael and Sandi Medina especially for their leadership, Paul Dorsey and the Tinajero clan and the many Community families who were out there day after day serving. What a blessing it was to see the joy in SO many faces this past week!

The <u>First Reading</u> today provides comforting words for us to reflect upon: "I, the LORD, bring low the high tree, lift high the lowly tree, wither up the green tree, and make the withered tree bloom." The ever-important reminder in these words is that we are not made for this world. We are destined for life-on-high with our Lord and we must never lose sight of this goal. We are barraged with the temptation to be "high trees", "green trees", to be successful in the world's eyes but our Father promises that He will lift us up. It is ok to be 'lowly' in the world's eyes, it is ok to be 'withered' in the world's eyes. We are not of this world and must not take on the rat race that is thrust upon us...eyes on Him!

The <u>Responsorial Psalm</u> build on this with promises "the just one shall flourish" and "they shall bear fruit even in old age." The older I get the more I cling to a promise such as this. Lord, continue to pour forth Your blessings upon Your people who, even in our old age, continue to love You, serve You, and continue to plant seeds in Your vineyard.

The <u>Second Reading</u> contains one of my favorite scriptures, "we walk by faith, not by sight." These are powerful words that capture how radically God is asking us to follow Him. It was well captured in a Hollywood film that I saw as a youth <u>Indiana Jones - The Last Crusade (1989) - Leap of Faith</u>. God is literally asking us to not walk by sight, not trusting our own wisdom but trusting Him alone! This can be so very hard to do yet this is another blessing of our Community...so many examples of God honoring our faith and working miracle after miracle. Some of His miracles were big, healing of incurable cancer, but many were small, almost hidden daily miracles of His Presence as we turn to Him. The point is that He promises that we are not for this world, that He will lift our broken, lowly, withered bodies and we will forever bear fruit! The key of course is to have faith in Him, in His love and providence and never tire of surrendering everything and everyone to His holy perfect will!

Let us pray, "Heavenly Father, I do surrender all that I am, all that I hope to be to You! I claim the promise of Your protection and providence. Even when things look grim, and I am on that blind path and have to take that Leap of faith, I do it with confidence...confidence in Your love and mercy...confident in Your promises. Lord, give me Your Holy Spirit so that I can walk only by faith in You. I say Yes to You today and every day and look forward to spending eternity with You. Amen"

God Bless,

David