

## Covenant Life

- Our next prayer meeting is two weeks from today on July 14<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. We plan to have Children's ministry and a Formation I teaching.
- [GodsDelight.org](http://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

There simply is nothing more important in our lives than growing more in love with our Lord. Doing this requires spending quality time with Him, in conversation, and in quiet, asking Him to reveal Himself, His love, His plan, His divine will... This of course is prayer...a topic we discuss a lot in Community. As I was reflecting on the Gospel today it seemed like a perfect passage to practice praying using Lectio Divina.

As a quick refresher, recall that Lectio Divina has four steps. Before starting, find a quiet comfortable place, sit in silence, attempting a calm tranquil state. Next become docile to the Holy Spirit invite Him in.

1. The first step is to READ a short bible passage slowly and carefully, perhaps a few times letting it soak-in.
2. The second step is to MEDITATE and ponder the passage from various angles. Look beyond the information and ask the Holy Spirit what He might be revealing. Imagine entering the Biblical scene to visualize what is taking place, either as an observer or one of the characters. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal who we identify with and why.
3. The third step is to PRAY offering praise or thanksgiving, asking for God's grace, seeking healing or forgiveness, or responding to anything that the Holy Spirit prompts.
4. The final step is to CONTEMPLATE by simply resting in God's presence, in silence, allowing Him to love us, open to an experience with the One who inspired the text.

The [Gospel](#) story contains two faith stories, the women who touched Jesus' garment and was healed and Jairus, a synagogue official pleading for his sick daughter. In practicing Lectio Divina on this passage Jarius and his actions was my focus.

The more I reflected on Jairus' faith the more impressed I was. Jairus was not just a concerned father, but he was a synagogue official. I suspect that the peer pressure was not to accept Jesus, His teachings, or follow Him in anyway. Jairus however demonstrated by his actions (came forward...fell at his feet...pleaded earnestly) that his faith in Jesus far outstripped his concern about the impact of associating with Jesus. Jairus was really willing to put himself 'out there', go on record, speak up above the crowds, and humbly fall to the ground and beg.

This gave me plenty to ponder. How much courage and conviction do I have? Am I willing to put everything on the line? Lord, give me the strength and fortitude to always speak up for You and those whom You love!

As the story unfolds Jairus is presented again and again with opportunities to doubt, opportunities to walk away, opportunities to let fear or failure enter in. When those from his home confront him with the fact that his daughter had died, He does not abandon his engagement with Jesus.

A few minutes later Jesus turns to him and says, "*Do not be afraid; just have faith.*" This is a climax moment. Jesus appears to be too late. His daughter is dead, what else can be done for her? Again, Jairus is presented with a crisis of faith...and again he does not abandon his engagement with Jesus.

Sisters and Brothers, fortunately we are not placed in Jairus' shoes very often in life. Let us pray that we will have Jairus' faith, courage, and fortitude when we are faced with our own crisis'. What I want to share today is that Jesus is teaching us through this lesson that He is ALWAYS present to us. He ALWAYS wants what is very best for us. He is ALWAYS asking for us to surrender control and allow His perfect will to unfold. We do not have to wait until there is a crisis in our lives to turn to Him. He is asking us to turn to Him every moment of every day. The more we yield, the more He will be able to accomplish through us.

Finally, my prayer is that we will continue to endeavor every day to grow in our intimate relationship with our Lord and Savior and allow His Holy Spirit to teach us, day by day. If Lectio Divina is not a part of your daily routine, consider giving it a try today with this Gospel passage.

Let us pray, "Jesus, we are grateful for the lessons You teach us. Today I surrender my life to You and ask for a double portion of Your Holy Spirit. Give me the faith of Jairus so that I will continuously turn to You and enable You to work

in and through me to accomplish Your perfect will and for Your Gospel to be made known through the example of my love for You and of those in my life. Amen"

God Bless,

David