

Covenant Life

- **TODAY** is our next in-person Gathering at 4pm and will also meet on the 4th Sunday, July 24th.
- Being together is SO important to living our covenant and therefore I strongly encourage you to listen to Bob Montgomery's sharing on [Regular participation in CCGD and Area events](#) by clicking [here](#). Each meeting we hear an exhortation to live our covenant (simplified version is [here](#)). Other sharings are at the bottom of our home page [GodsDelight.org](#).
- In lieu of the regularly scheduled NSC conference, CHARIS has organized a conference in the US and Pentecost Today USA (formally the NSC) will be hosting. The conference will be July 29-31 in Providence RI. Details are [here](#). Laurie and I are attending 😊 if you have questions.
- If you have not had the opportunity to listen to Fr. Michal Markiewicz's Day of Renewal teachings, a special page was created for you to listen [here](#).
- Our 50th Anniversary Team is seeking help to plan our coming celebration on March 24-26, 2023. Contact Gretchen Montgomery at gretchenannem@gmail.com if you are willing to help.
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), and read the Word Gift summary [here](#) or 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.

In today's [Gospel](#) we hear the scholar ask Jesus the question of what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus recognized his correct response "*You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.*" When he presses Jesus with the question "*And who is my neighbor?*" Jesus tells the famous story of the Good Samaritan.

We have all heard many teachings and homilies on this passage, but since God's Word is eternal and ever informing as we seek to hear Him speaking to us, it seemed prudent to not dismiss the opportunity to meditate on the passage and ask for a fresh word for us today.

As I prayed about the passage, I asked myself the question, who and how often do I encounter victims? My first thought was rarely...but as I remembered that Jesus told the story to make a point, so I allowed myself to think more broadly. Are we not all victims of the world, the flesh, and the devil all throughout every day? What if I expanded the scope of the victim in Jesus' story to every encounter? Does it make sense to put myself in the position of the traveler and test my response?

The example set by the Good Samaritan is one of engagement, empathy, and active love. He did not dismiss the victim as the two prior passers did but had the courage of engagement. His response was one of empathy and active love. He did not just say encouraging words, give him money, or even just pray with him...he went out of his way to do whatever was needed to restore the victim.

I had to ask myself this question then, if every encounter (Laurie, my children, extended family, work associates, Community, MSMCS, fellow parishioners, true strangers in restaurants, stores...) is a victim encounter where the other party could be struggling with something, what is Jesus asking of me in response? I think the answer is the same as the Good Samaritan...engagement, empathy, and active love.

Our CCGD covenant is built on living the words spoken by the scholar *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."* We also know that our witness has always been our love for one another. The question posed *"And who is my neighbor?"* invites us to contemplate who is the other we are called to love? The topic I propose for us to reflect on today is answering that question in the broadest possible way. Can we attempt to engage, be empathetic, and actively love every person we encounter throughout every day? Is the Holy Spirit prompting us to see the hurt that we all have and be the Good Samaritan and actively love every person all day each day? We know that we cannot, if by our own strength, but in Him all things are possible!

Let us pray. "Lord, you know how much I love You and want to love those You send into my life. Help me today to see the victim that we all are and love, actively love, every person You send to me today. Give me the words, the energy, the courage, to love them as You love them. Amen."

God Bless,
David