

## Covenant Life

- We will have an in-person Community Gathering **TODAY** at 4pm in the MSMCS gym.
- If you were unable to attend our last Gathering, you can listen to the audio [here](#), review the Word Gift summary [here](#), and read the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.
- During the last few months, we had several folks change their address:
  - *Pauline Nuss: 870 W. Arapaho Road #249, Richardson, TX 75080 (same home phone number)*
  - *Larry & Brenda Lenzen: 12735 Camden Place, Farmers Branch, 75234*
  - *John Wagner: 677 Cowboys Pkwy Apt 3131 Irving, 75063*
  - *Robert and Dee Schnitzius: 477 County Road 2418, Honey Grove, TX 75446*

**Reflection** - The readings today contain strong words against jealousy and greed, but two other aspects of the reading caught my attention. The first was verse 41 in the Gospel ([Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48](#)) that reads "Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward." Growing up in Community I was formed by the amazing stories that Bobbie would share about the ministries he was involved in as well as the simple wisdom of Margaret's testimonies. Each Sunday we heard both extremes of miracle testimonies and simple acts of loving kindness. I always had a hard time envisioning being a part of miracles or international ministries, but I could relate to the encouragement to simply love one another.

In fact, as I think back, I think I was most inspired to give my life to the Lord and commit to living as a covenant member of the Community because of the many simple and selfless acts of love I witnessed. In the crowd of Community were people from all spectrums including doctors, lawyers, vice-presidents...all shedding their worldly identities and doing the little things ("giving a cup of water") to show love through service.

I share this not just out of nostalgia, but also to prompt our recommitment to being a people of love and service who are constantly seeking to 'give a cup of water' to anyone in need. What attracted me to Community and probably many

others was 'seeing how they love one another'. How can we live this in 2021? How can we live this in our covid inflicted culture? My exhortation is that we each recommit to living it at home, work, school, wherever God has planted us, and, that we seek out ways to overcome the obstacles of 2021, especially our distance from one another, and show this selfless love to our covenant brother and sisters and those God is encouraging us to reach out to. The gift of covenant community will only prosper if we fully live the call so others see what a tremendous gift it is.

The second thing the Holy Spirit highlighted to me was the first few verses of the first reading ([Nm 11:25-29](#)) from Numbers where God bestowed His Spirit on the seventy elders that were with Moses. God was moving, He was about a work with Moses and the Israelites of his time. It was enough for the elders to simply be counted amongst those with Moses to receive God's blessing. We know God is not finished with His work to draw all His children to Himself. He is active in our world today and His plan unfolds, one day at a time.

So how do I discern my part? How can I be a part of what He is doing today? How can I be close to His work and others who are doing His work? The seventy elders all made a personal choice to come together, to rally around Moses, to give their lives to God and be open to the impartation of His Spirit. We are asked the same questions and given the same opportunities. We know God is at work, it seems our world and culture are in far greater need than even in Moses' day. My second exhortation is that we redouble our effort to seek Him. Personally every day and collectively as a people. This is obviously hard to do as physically spread out as we are, but we are blessed to have covenant brothers and sister across the metroplex. Call those who are close to you and suggest a regular meeting to gather together to study scripture, share our lives, and give testimonies to one another. Invite friends and family to join you. Moses gathered 70 elders and God poured out His Spirit. Let us gather and beseech God to pour out His Spirit upon us as we gather together. We need regular interconnected lives if we are to truly live out our Covenant.

Let us pray *"Heavenly Father, show me the little ways that I can serve those that I am closest to. Show me how to witness for You by the way I love those around me. Bring me together with other like-minded sisters and brothers that I can serve and encourage, and who in turn will encourage me in my journey to You. Father, I know You are in work in my life, in this time, reveal to me what You are doing so that I can cooperate with You in bringing Your love, through the witness of my yes, to those You bring into my life. Amen."*

God bless,

David