

Sisters and Brothers, May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives. 10/3/2021

### Covenant Life

- Our next in-person Community Gathering will be a week from today, October 10<sup>th</sup> (since we are meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays) at 4pm in the MSMCS gym.
- If you were unable to attend our Gathering last Sunday, you can listen to the audio [here](#). The Word Gift summary will be loaded [here](#) and the transcript will be loaded [here](#).
- MSMCS is hosting a rummage sale this Saturday, October 9th at Holy Spirit Catholic Church located at 1111 W Danieldale Rd in Duncanville. Donated items can be dropped off Friday, October 8th at Holy Spirit Church at 5pm Friday evening. For questions contact Shannyn Chance [s.chance@msmcatholic.org](mailto:s.chance@msmcatholic.org)
- This year we again plan to honor Community family members who are veterans or currently serve our country. The video will be shown at the Gathering closest to Veterans Day on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Please send updates to Sue Wagner at [s.wagner@msmcatholic.org](mailto:s.wagner@msmcatholic.org)
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

**Reflection** - In praying about the readings today I was drawn to the last four verses in the Gospel ([Mk 10:2-16](#)) verses 13 to 16. Jesus is traveling with His disciples and being challenged by the Scribes and Pharisees. As the crowds gather parents bring their children hoping to be touched by Him. This is not unusual as parents always want the best for their children. The reaction of His disciples is also not unusual as they rebuke the parents for presumably *bothering* Jesus. Jesus became indignant, chastises His disciples, and welcomes the children.

What has always interested me are the two lines that Jesus proclaims at this point: *"the kingdom of God belongs to such as these"* and *"whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it"*.

I must confess a lack of insight on this one until I was directed to consider how a young child greets the morning. The mental image that came to mind was one of

my daughters standing up in her crib, full of joy, totally unencumbered by any of life's challenges, eager to explore, learn, play...simply greeting the day with hope and optimism.

It did not take long for me to see radical differences when I compared this perspective to how I greet each morning. Life is hard and it hardens us. Life is full of responsibilities and burdens and can beat us down. Life can be painful and can lead us to shut down and isolate ourselves. I suppose that this could be what Jesus was getting at with His strong words.

When a child awakes, they are not concerned with the past nor the future, they live in the moment. When a child awakes they are fascinated with the little things...light brings awareness of so many marvelous things to explore and experience. Touch brings awareness of surroundings, and a morning hug brings the inner warmth of a loving embrace. Smell and taste bring delight and quench feelings of hunger. Most significantly, I am no longer tired but energized for exploring, encountering, tasting, touching, hearing, whatever life has in store for today.

Oh, that I would greet each day with the same innocence. That I would put aside the hurts and pains that have shaped me and see every moment of every day as a Gift from God.

*Let us pray, "Heavenly Father, what fascinations do You have in store for me today? Give me the grace to see them from Your perspective. My Lord Jesus Christ, who are You bringing me into relationship with today and how can I embrace and love them? Give me the freedom to love them as You love them. Holy Spirit, what are You about today, where are You at work, how can I embrace Your will for my life today and joyously experience You in whatever You call me to do today? Give me the Gifts and Fruits to break free of whatever hardens me and holds me back from encountering You in an intimate way today so that I am assured, through our relationship, that I am doing Your will and following You without reservation. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I give myself to You and seek*

*Your kingdom, here on earth as a child greets each day. Today is the best day of my life because I am alive, and I am living today for You!"*

God bless,

David