

Lenten Reflection

Tuesday, Third Week of Lent March 21, 2017



By Associate Judi Boone

"Do not take away your mercy from us..." When I read this sentence, I am struck by the weight of it and realize that I trust the Lord's Mercy to always be a part of my life. We have learned to trust in the promises the Lord has made to us and expect Him to be there for us, and he is! We know that we may go away from him, but he will never abandon us.

"But with contrite heart and humble spirit let us be received." This is another powerful sentence. We can come boldly to the throne of the Lord. We can ask for the things of this world that we desire knowing our prayers are heard, and that our prayers are answered by the will of the Lord. Sometimes we forget to be contrite of heart and humble of spirit. Luckily, my early training in the Catholic religion, brings me back to acknowledging the humble birth of the Lord and his simple life as a preacher. I am reminded to put the kingdom of God above material things.

"So let our sacrifice be in your presence today as we follow you unreservedly; for those who trust in you could not be put to shame." The Lord deals with us in kindness and in mercy. Faith is believing in what we cannot see. We follow the Lord unreservedly because we believe and trust. Belief allows us see so many more things in this world. Things don't just happen - they are examples of the Lord at work. We are taught "ask and you will receive." The Lord isn't a wish book, thinking that is a mistake people often make. I'm not saying the Lord won't answer the prayers that we're asking. Very often he does just that. But, above all else, he gives us his most perfect gift: His grace.

My life is very quiet, I'm grateful for that. To me, the peace is a gift from the Lord. We are humans and are attempting to be spiritual beings in a material world. Jesus entered this material world and took on our humanity so that we could be saved from our sins. I love the words "knock and the door will be opened unto you." I also know that I must walk joyfully through the doors that the Lord continues to open for me. Some of those doors are not ones that I prayed for, but they are doors the Lord has chosen for me.

The Lord chooses the path that we walk on and lays them out for us. It is up to us to see the doors and accept them. I prayed for a part time job close to home, had daylight hours, less than 8 hour shifts, and that with my mobility issues, I would actually be able to do. The job was "dropped in my lap." I didn't see it coming and it's a job I never thought I would enjoy doing. I went from being a critical care nurse (retired) to an activities assistant in a skilled nursing facility. It has been a year and a half and I am having a wonderful time. He gave me a door and a push and the result is another answered prayer.

*"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior...
Good and upright is the LORD."*

