

Sisters and Brothers, may the Lord bless us with His Peace.

01/10/2021

Covenant Life

- Laurie and I have been enjoying Fr. Mike Schmitz's podcast entitled *The Bible in a Year* that I referred to in last week's letter. If you are looking for a resource for daily scripture study, consider joining in. Details in the last letter or [here](#).
- The audio from our December Community Gathering is [here](#) and the transcript is [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222

Reflection - Reflecting on the readings today I could not help but ponder the words heard as Jesus emerges from the baptismal waters "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:11)

We know that God created us with a void, a place within each of us that cannot be filled by anyone or anything except our Lord. I think part of this void is also the desire to be recognized, appreciated, valued, respected...just as every child seeks from their parents. Unfortunately, many do not get this unconditional love and acceptance and continue seeking it throughout their lives. Also, unfortunately, many seek this from a culture that is not capable of meeting this need.

As I reflected on these words today, I had the sense that God the Father wanted each of us to hear these words as His words to us today. We are His beloved. He is well pleased with us. Period. It does not matter how we got to where we are today, He loves us, He is pleased with us!

Looking back on my experience of growing up in Community I heard these words over and over from you, my sisters and brothers in Christ. We hear Him, we discern His words, and then we proclaim His words to each other. We are a blessing to each other because we proclaim His words in truth to each other. God truly loves us, is pleased with us, and we need to pass this on to one another.

The other words that I want to emphasize today are the prophecy from Isaiah. Scholars are unsure who for certain these words were directed at except that we are confident that they were fulfilled in Jesus. I offer that we ponder them as words directed to each of us today: *"I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness."* Isaiah 42:6-7

God Almighty has called each one of us by name, grasped us by the hand, formed us, made a covenant with us, and asked us to be a light to the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to set prisoners free, and to bring His light to all who live in darkness.

Sisters and Brothers, I offer that this is how we are called to respond to His unconditional love and acceptance. He loves us, He is pleased with us, and is calling us to be His people by responding to these words to be a light to the nation, to heal the sick, free the captives, and so live in the light that when people see us, they see the Father.

This is the story of the Christian Community of God's Delight. A people formed, covenanted, and actively responding in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring His presence and shine His light. Thank you for saying Yes to this covenant and for continuing to say Yes.

Let us pray *"Heavenly Father, thank You for loving me when I do not feel love. Thank You for affirming me when I do not feel affirmed by the world around me. Today I turn from seeking love and affirmation from the world and look only to You, my Savior, and my God. I know You are calling my name. I grab Your hand and say Yes. I accept the formation You offer. I reaffirm my covenant with You. I ask for a new outpouring of Your Holy Spirit to empower my ability to be a light to the nations, to heal the sick, to free the captives, and to bring Your light to all who live in darkness. Allow me to experience Your love. Use me and empower me. Amen."*

God bless,
David