

Sisters and Brothers, we pray 'teach us your ways Oh Lord'

01/24/2021

### Covenant Life

- The Community coordinators continue to pray and discern when it will be safe to hold another in-person Community Gathering. Please join us in praying not only for an end of the virus and those affected but also for wisdom and discernment for the Coordinators.
- The audio from our last 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** - The Gospel today begins with Jesus' proclamation *"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

Obviously, this was a timely message when it was first proclaimed but since none of us knows the day or time when God will call us home, let us each receive it from the Holy Spirit for today. *"Lord show me where I need to repent. Give me Your grace to really believe in your Gospel and conform my life to You today."*

These are easy words to pray but we all know that living them every day is tough and what life's journey is all about. We are all in different places, with our own unique circumstances, and with our specific life challenges. But still, the call is the same. Jesus is calling each one of us, today, and we have a choice to make.

The Catholic readings today provide us contrasting examples of possible responses. The first reading, from Jonah, presents someone who pushes back, goes in the opposite direction of God's call, and who only goes in God's direction after life's challenges call for repentance. Reading the entire story (the book is only three chapters) we learn that Jonah, after seeing the fruit of his following God's will, is actually angry with God and continues to brood over things not happening according to what he thinks is right and just. Do we identify with this?

Jonah's response to God's call is quite different from what we read about in Mark's Gospel. Both times when Jesus issues the call the disciples react immediately and decisively. They *"abandoned their nets and followed Him"*. They

*"left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed Him".*

So, where are we today? Do we identify with Jonah and turn away from what God is asking us? Are we angry with what He has asked us to do? Are we angry with God because we see things in our family, in Community, in our Church, in our country that are not happening according to what we think is right and just?

Or are we following the example of Simon, Andrew, James, and John and immediately abandoning everything and just saying Yes and following Him?

These are questions that no one can answer for us. We each have to close the door of our prayer closet and have this discussion with our Lord Jesus, one-on-one. For those who are joining in with Fr. Mike and his reading the bible podcast the story of Joseph provides another colorful example of encouragement to look beyond whatever circumstance we might be facing and the importance of keeping our eyes on God and putting our full faith and confidence in Him. Joseph's resolve must have been sorely tested but, in time, he came to see the hand of God at work bringing about His perfect will.

*Let us pray "Heavenly Father, I repent of the times I have focused on myself and what I want and what I believe to be right and just. Give me Your grace to really believe in Your Gospel and conform my life to You. Today, I respond to Your call in a new and fresh way. I abandon everything and seek only Your perfect will. I know that I can make any journey, I can walk any road, I can accomplish any task if You are at my side. I choose You and declare You as my Lord and Savior. I commit to spend quality time with You every day, to hear Your specific direction in my life. Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything. Amen."*

God bless,

David