



Recognize Faith, Wherever It Is Found

Luke 7:1–10

“Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed.”

When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.”

May 29, 2016

Thoughts for the Week

Let no one grieve at his poverty,
for the universal kingdom has been revealed.
Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again;
for forgiveness has risen from the grave.
Let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free.
He has destroyed it by enduring it.

—John Chrysostom, bishop of Constantinople

The man who is contented to be only himself, and therefore less a self, is in prison. My own eyes are not enough for me, I will see through those of others. Reality, even seen through the eyes of many, is not enough. I will see what others have invented in reading great literature I become a thousand men and yet remain myself. Like the night sky in the Greek poem, I see with myriad eyes, but it is still I who see. Here, as in worship, in love, in moral action, and in knowing, I transcend myself; and am never more myself than when I do.

—C. S. Lewis

"In former times, God, who is without form or body, could never be depicted. But now when God is seen in the flesh conversing with men, I make an image of the God whom I see. I do not worship matter; I worship the Creator of matter who became matter for my sake."

—John of Damascus

"We do not wish to abolish teaching and to make every man his own master, but if the curates will not teach the gospel, the layman must have the Scripture, and read it for himself, taking God for his teacher."

—William Tyndale

"If God has given graces to some good women, revealing to them something holy and good through His Holy Scriptures, should they, for the sake of the defamers of the truth, refrain from writing down, speaking, or declaring it to each other? Ah! It would be too impudent to hide the talent that God has given us, we who ought to have the grace to persevere to the end. Amen!"

Marie Dentière, former abbess and wife of a Protestant minister (1495-1561)

"Should we not press it home upon our consciences that the sole object of our conversion was not the salvation of our own souls, but that we might become co-workers with our Lord and Master in the conversion of the world?"

—*Lottie Moon, Baptist missionary to China (1840-1912)*

"By everything true, everything holy, you are your brother's keeper."

—*Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury (1801-1885)*

"Where there is Love and Wisdom, there is neither Fear nor Ignorance.
Where there is Patience and Humility, there is neither Anger nor Annoyance.
Where there is Poverty and Joy, there is neither Cupidity nor Avarice.
Where there is Peace and Contemplation, there is neither Care nor Restlessness.
Where there is the Fear of God to guard the dwelling, there no enemy can enter.
Where there is Mercy and Prudence, there is neither Excess nor Harshness."

—*Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)*

"Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so ...
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die."

—*John Donne*

"No other sentiment draws people to Jerusalem than the desire to see and touch the places where Christ was physically present, and to be able to say from their very own experience: 'We have gone into his tabernacle, and have worshipped in the places where his feet have stood.'"

—*Paulinus of Nola (5th century)*

"I shall be most happy indeed if I shall be an humble instrument in the hands of the Almighty, and of this his almost chosen people."

—*Abraham Lincoln, 1861*

Prayer Thought – Zimbabwe

God of love, you are the way of peace. We give thanks for an awareness of your presence in moments of true joy and your comforting Spirit in moments of great challenge.

Come into the brokenness of our lives with your forgiving and healing spirit. Restore us to right relationship with you, with others and with your world.

God of compassion and justice, we pray for an end to political unrest and a restoration of peace in Zimbabwe. Touch the hearts of all who suffer from poverty and violence. Deepen your compassion in our hearts that we might be the instruments of your love for all people in our own communities and in our world.

Help us live in solidarity with those who suffer from poverty, hunger, abuse, discrimination and violation of rights. May we respond to your abundant grace with compassion and generosity so we can build a better world for all.

We pray these things in the spirit of peace, and in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Stewardship Thought

“They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets.” Luke 9:17

The story of the Loaves and Fishes shows us that when we share what we have, even if it doesn't seem like that much, miracles can happen!
Do not think that your gift is too small or insignificant!
God blesses all the gifts we offer and makes them wondrous.

One in Christ Moment

“More fully accept and embody your oneness and equality in Jesus Christ, who dwells in oneness with God” (words of counsel, 2013).

Living into continuing revelation is a holy task for a community that has been called to be a prophetic people. Each week we dwell in a section of the words of counsel presented to the church at World Conference 2013. As you hear these words, engage your whole self—heart, body, and mind—to be attentive to God's invitation. Let us join with disciples across the globe as we pray for deepened awareness of how our oneness in Christ calls us to live.

And, always remember, the way of suffering love that leads to the cross also leads to resurrection and everlasting life in Christ's eternal community of oneness and peace. Trust in this promise.

What is God's invitation to me in this passage?
What is God's invitation to Community of Christ in this passage?