

Making Space for God



Opening Prayer

Lord, teach me to listen. The times are noisy and my ears are weary with the thousand raucous sounds which continuously assault them. Give me the spirit of the boy Samuel when he said to Thee, "Speak, for thy servant heareth." Let me hear Thee speaking in my heart. Let me get used to the sound of Thy Voice, that its tones may be familiar when the sounds of earth die away and the only sound will be the music of Thy speaking Voice. Amen.

From the Pursuit of God by A. W. Tozar

Scripture Reading

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. ² He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ³ "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

⁹ Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

Mark 4:1-9

Silent Reflection

Take a few minutes to silently sit with this passage. What one verse or word caught your attention? Hold that word or verse in your mind.

Reflective Reading

A listening heart, a quiet mind, a subdued imagination, stilled passions, a body at rest, and a non-intrusive environment- these form a continuum of silence that facilitates the soul's attention to God.

Michael Casey in Living in the Truth, page 162



The Sower by Vincent Van Gogh

Although speech is often good and serves as a means of helping one another, it is not a sacrament. There is sometimes a problem with people in positions of power who think their every word is golden. Occasionally one gets the impression that some suppose that all issues can be resolved by talking. Non stop talking can be a means of insulating oneself from the shock of the real... I think many of us would be much better off if we did not speak as much as we do.

Michael Casey in Living in the Truth, page 172

Our culture is a powerful narcotic, for good and for bad. It is important that we first underline that there's partly a good side to this. A narcotic soothes and protects against brute, raw pain. Our culture has within it every kind of thing (from medicine to entertainment) to shield us from suffering. That can be good, but a narcotic all can be bad when it becomes a way of escaping reality. Where our culture is particularly dangerous, I feel is in the way it can perpetually shield us from having to face the deeper issues of life: faith, forgiveness, morality, and mortality. It can constitute, as theologian Jan Walgrave has said, a "virtual conspiracy" against the interior life by keeping us so entertained, so busy, so preoccupied, and so distracted that we lose all focus on the deeper things.

From Prayer, Our Deepest Longing by Ronald Rolheiser

The few for whom the awareness of God is a deeply significant fact in their lives are called to be a sign to the many of the spiritual reality which they might otherwise overlook or ignore. For the majority of people, it would seem, do not have any conscious awareness of God, except perhaps for fleeting moments which are quickly forgotten or dismissed as illusory.

Christopher Bryant in The Heart in Pilgrimage

Today I Believe (Read Around)

Lord, you have always met me in stillness
And though my world be filled with noise
Today I believe.

Lord, You have embraced all the 7th graders
within
And though they fight to be heard
Today I believe.

Lord, You have always embraced me the way I
am
And though of broken heart
Today I believe.

Lord, You have made yourself known in all
seasons
And though I be weary from seeking
Today I believe.

Lord, You have always given me rest in Your
presence
And though my days be full of activity
Today I believe.

Lord, You have shown me that I am one found
in Christ
And though I may often feel lost
Today I believe.

Lord, You have always drawn me to remember
all that
You have done in my life,
And though I am forgetful of mind
Today I believe.

Lord, You have always accepted me fully
And though I forget to do the same
Today I believe.

*(Composed by members of the San Diego Staff Team
in 2014)*

Benediction

O heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray for you to so guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you but remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *Book of Common Prayer*