

Daily Reflection on Scripture Week of December 11 We Are All the Innkeeper



While they were there (Bethlehem) the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:6-7

If you would like to receive the Sacred Pause on your phone, text “crossroads” to 41411.

Sunday, December 11, 2016

Luke 2:6,7 While they were there (Bethlehem) the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Reflection: In church on Sunday we talked about the so-called ‘nonexistent innkeeper’ who nevertheless must have existed because after all there was an inn so somebody had to run it. Our innkeeper was in a difficult position when Mary and Joseph showed up at their door because there literally was no room, no place for them to stay. The census meant everyone was traveling and others had already secured the rooms. But the innkeeper did find room in perhaps the warmest and safest place he owned - the stable where the animals would keep the baby warm and they would be separated for this very personal act of childbirth. The Innkeeper responded to God’s invitation by finding room in his buildings and his heart for Jesus.

Sacred Pause: Lord, help me to accept your invitation to welcome Jesus into my heart and life even when it’s difficult. Remind me, there is enough room.

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mark 9:37- Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me.

Reflection: We find room for Jesus when we find room for ‘one child like this’ meaning someone who is in need, who might be helpless. Jesus reminds us that in so doing we receive not only Jesus but the One who sent Jesus to love everybody. As we find ways to respond to God’s invitation to take care of people, including ourselves, we “receive a child like this”. And that is how we respond to Jesus’ invitation to receive him.

Sacred Pause: Jesus invites you to see him in the people you meet. Pay attention to the needs around you. That is your invitation to find room for Jesus.

Tuesday December 13, 2016

Luke 8:40 As Jesus returned, the people welcomed Him, for they had all been waiting for Him.

Reflection: Sometimes we are proactive and initiate an invitation from God. This happens when we seek out service opportunities like giving a gift to Bells and Lights or School Break bundles. To learn more please go to our website at www.everydaylifewithgod.org/Bells-Lights and www.everydaylifewithgod.org/school-break-bundles . We don’t always have to wait for God to invite us for sometimes the Jesus we see in others invites us. And so doing we welcome him.

Sacred Pause: Instead of waiting for the voice of God to invite you to serve, look around you and hear the invitation of God in the voices of people.

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

Luke 10:38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.

Reflection: In this story Martha misreads the invitation from Jesus to be with him. She complains that she is doing all the work. We can imagine her running around the house preparing food, getting Jesus something to drink while her sister Mary is sitting at his feet just in his presence. Martha wants her sister to help with the chores. Jesus reminds Martha and us that sometimes the invitation isn't to action rather it's to reflection, to silence, to being in his presence quietly.

Sacred Pause: Stop to just be quiet for a while. In this pause you are inviting Jesus into your heart and mind, which for today may be the best thing.

Thursday, December 15, 2016

Matthew 18:21 Then Peter came and said to him 'Lord, if another sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him 'not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

Reflection: When we seek forgiveness or forgive another we absolutely are responding to Christ's invitation to live most fully alive. He not only invites us to forgive he expects us to forgive, and to seek forgiveness. Forgiving or being forgiven is never easy. But when we look at it as a response to Jesus' invitation to a fuller and healthier life, then it is at least a bit easier.

Sacred Pause: Christmas is the season when we see the word "Peace" most often. Forgiveness is the pathway to peace. Who are you being invited to forgive?

Friday, December 16, 2016

Isaiah 61:1-3 The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me as a herald of joy to the humble, to bind up the wounded of heart, to proclaim release to the captives, liberation to the imprisoned. To proclaim a year of the Lord's favor and a day of vindication by our God. (Jewish Bible)

Reflection: Jesus quotes this passage from Isaiah when he is sitting in the temple spelling out what his life mission was going to be about. The people didn't respond well to him. But all Jesus was doing was describing the invitation God extended to him to bring joy to all people, to bind the wounded, to proclaim release to the captives. That's the kind of invitation that can command our everyday lives. One might call it God's command performance in us.

Sacred Pause: Jesus invites us to hear God's greatest command – love God, love others and love yourself. How might you welcome this command today?

Saturday, December 17, 2016

Psalms 92:1-2 It is good to praise the Lord, to sing hymns to Your name, O most high.

Reflection: Often we think of prayer as only asking for something, imploring God to make something better or help someone. But God invites us to praise and adoration too. Jesus was always going away to pray in thanksgiving to God even though he knew his fate. He responded to the invitation of offering majesty and glory to God.

Sacred Pause: In this moment pause and hear an invitation to offer praise and thanksgiving to God. Name three things for which you are thankful.