

Memorize & Ponder

Oct 23, 2016

Memorize & Ponder Text – Luke 18:9
(Full Readings – Ps 84:1-7 & Luke 18:9-14)
Week of Oct 16-23, 2016

A Humble Faith

Luke 18:9 (NRSV)

He also told this parable
to some who trusted that they were righteous
and regarded others with contempt.

*Throughout the Christian year of 2016, until Advent, we will be focusing on the theme of 'Following Jesus in a Fearful and Divided World.' Our Scripture readings and Memorize & Ponder texts will be taken from the Gospels of Luke and John. We invite you to **listen** for what the Spirit is saying in the text, then **question** how those insights might change the ways you see things and act in the world. Share your thoughts during the week on the meaning the Spirit creates for you in this text by posting a comment on our website – www.brentwoodpc.ca.*

Ponderings for the Friends of Jesus

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us provoke one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together ... (Hebrews 10:23-25a)

A Word for the Friends of Jesus to Ponder = Humility

Prayer – those conversations with God
that flow from call, to challenge, to curiosity,
to counsel, to contribution, to calm – nourishes humility.

Humility is a recognition that we are earthy,
made of *humus* – the dark organic material in soil,
essential to the earth's fertility –
yet, at the same time, beloved friends of God
who have an essential role to play
in the full realization of his vision of mutual respect and love.
We are the fertile element in the soil
into which the Spirit sows the seeds of *Shalom*.
As the parable of the sower suggests,
the Spirit scatters the seeds far and wide,
without any concern for
our perceptions of who is a sinner and who is a saint.

Humility flourishes when we accept the fact
that God takes the initiative in planting *Shalom*
and that God cultivates the desired results.
God's desired response from us for this grace
recognizes the paradox of our humanity –
earthy in our failures but fertile in our possibilities.

Gratitude for Grace Noticed this Week

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