



THE WAY

September 4th, 2022

THE KINGDOM DEMONSTRATED

Matthew 8:1-11,13

A Prayer for Seeking God

Teach me to seek you, and as I seek you, show yourself to me; for I cannot seek you unless you show me how, and I will never find you unless you show yourself to me. Let me seek you by desiring you, and desire you by seeking you; let me find you by loving you, and love you in finding you. Amen.

(Source: Book of Common Prayer 2019)

Weekly Prayer

Kingdom Time (Proper) - Week 18

O Lord God, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Source: Book of Common Prayer 2019)

AUTHORITY

The authority of Heaven rested with Jesus, then it was imparted to the twelve, then it was given to all who follow Christ through the coming of the Holy Spirit and His filling presence in the lives of all who receive him.

God, through Jesus, then through the Holy Spirit carries the authority to heal and restore, he is simply looking for those willing to join him in this work. Think of the biblical stories of Peter, Paul, Isaiah, others in which healing took place through folks just like you and I as the Holy Spirit worked through them.

In what circumstance or relationship would you invite the Holy Spirit to demonstrate power and authority?

COMPASSION

Jesus demonstrates that the compassion of heaven is not just a feeling of pity or concern, it takes action to bring justice and reconciliation.

Compassion is the key element that shakes us out of our monotony and calls us to join in something significant. It is our opportunity to join the heart of Jesus and protest against the injustice around us.

In what circumstance or relationship can you invite the Holy Spirit to help you to be more compassionate?

RESTORATION

The cast of characters in our two stories of healing today are notable — a Jewish leper and a Roman Centurion. To someone like Jesus, both of these individuals were untouchable and to be ignored. As a Jewish Rabbi, Jesus was expected to shun these unclean outcasts.

Who are the lepers or centurions in your life? Who represents the unclean or the threats to all that you hold dear? How can the example of Jesus and his willingness to participate in restoration work in you?

What circumstance or relationship can you invite the Holy Spirit to join you in seeking restoration?

FAITH

Faith: complete trust or confidence in someone or something.

Over and over in the accounts of scripture we see examples of faith leading people to either believe in or chase after the right thing.

Here are a couple of reminders

1. Faith is not a tool to be mustered and wielded in order to coerce God (or anyone else) into doing what we want. It is not a commodity which can be bought, sold, or traded for.
2. Faith is the byproduct of a heart fully transformed by God. It is knowing that God will accomplish his good purposes in our lives even when the timing and circumstances remain a mystery.

What circumstance or relationship is the Holy Spirit inspiring you to increase your faith?
