

Spiritual Readings for the month of January 2023

Please choose a reading and questions for reflection.

“Good Gives To Us Without Cost”

Matthew 10: 7-13

As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

Reflection:

God gives to us without cost, without payment. Now we must not only give back to Him but also give to others. Everything we have is a gift from God. Our life, our family, home, food, possessions, health, faith. Everything that we have is a gift from God, freely given to us by His abundant love and mercy. In our journey to spread the Gospel to others, Our Lord calls us to be poor, taking with us nothing but our faith. While we are blessed with possessions, these are not necessary for our journey towards heaven, nor will they benefit us in leading others there too. Our Lord calls us to be poor as His disciples in order to give of ourselves totally to others.

We can all become poor by relying on God more than on our own abilities or possessions. We can become poor by poverty of time – giving all we can of our day to Christ and doing His works of charity. In our world we often expect those who are rich, and those who have power to create change in the world. But this is not how Christ intended it. He calls poor disciples to spread His Good News to all people, to bring about His peace in our world.

Reflection Questions:

- Do I appreciate that all that I have, and all that I am is a gift from God?
- When have I made myself poor, in order that I may fully give of myself to others?
- How can I make myself poor by giving more of my time to Christ?
- Do I pray to the Holy Spirit to work through me when I do charitable work?
- How can I spread the peace of Christ to those whom I serve?
- Do I pray for those whom I serve that they also may experience the joy and peace of Christ?

- Prepared by Seminarian Andy Yaremko, Submitted by Scarborough East PC

Christian Charity

In the Acts of the Apostles, we meet a Christian named Tabitha, a holy woman who made clothes for the poor. Moved by her charity, Peter prayed that Tabitha would be raised from the dead—and raised she was. Like Tabitha, let's strive to use our talents for others. In doing so, we open ourselves up to eternal life with Christ.

Reading I [Acts 9:31-42](#)

Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated is Dorcas).

She was completely occupied with good deeds and almsgiving.

Now during those days she fell sick and died,
so after washing her, they laid her out in a room upstairs.

Since Lydda was near Joppa,
the disciples, hearing that Peter was there,
sent two men to him with the request,

“Please come to us without delay.”

So Peter got up and went with them.

When he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs
where all the widows came to him weeping
and showing him the tunics and cloaks
that Dorcas had made while she was with them.

Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed.

Then he turned to her body and said, “Tabitha, rise up.”

She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up.

He gave her his hand and raised her up,
and when he had called the holy ones and the widows,
he presented her alive.

This became known all over Joppa,
and many came to believe in the Lord.

- The above is from FORMED Daily—made possible by the Augustine Institute Mission Circle

Discussion:

- How can we function as Peter to those we assist? Are we discouraged when “miracles” don’t occur?
- How important is personal and communal prayer to our apostolate? Do we see ourselves as offering God’s love to those in need?

Prayer:

Open our eyes to see our neighbours’ needs: warm our hearts that we may offer them our love.

– Lord, give us life through your Holy Spirit.

- Submitted by Vincentian Sr. Judy Cole, St. Bonaventure Conference, TNPC