

# *Making Space for God*

*November 5, 2002*

Take some time to settle yourself and invite the Lord to give you ears to be attentive to his voice for the day.

## **Scripture Reading and Reflection**

### **Matthew 5:1-2**

When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions.

### **Matthew 11:28-30**

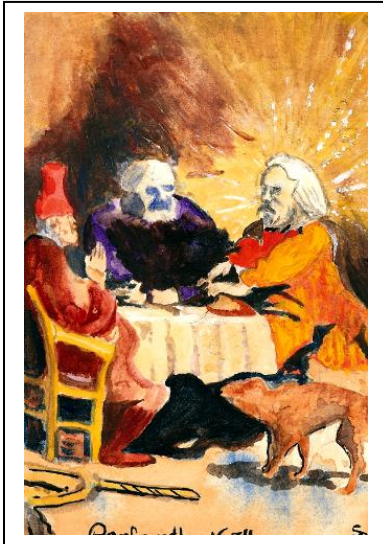
“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll live freely and lightly.”

*The Message: New Testament Paraphrase* by Eugene Peterson

Come to me, all you that are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

*New Revised Standard Version*

Silent reflection.



Road to Emmaus- Rembrandt 1634  
Etching, Steve Stuckey painting

**RECALL THE RECENT PAST:** Spend the majority of your time prayerfully journaling, or thinking through, the events of the last few days, weeks, months. Seek the answer to this one question:

### **HOW HAS GOD BEEN PRESENT IN YOUR WALKING AND LYING DOWN AND WHAT IS HE SAYING TO YOU?**

--In the events of your life...

--In the fears, joys or doubts that have preoccupied your heart  
and mind...

--In attitudes that have been present...

--In hunches or curiosities you have had...

--In the things that have occupied or pre-occupied your  
imagination...

--Maybe even in a dream that stands out to you for some  
reason...

Take some time to journal your reflections and offer these to the Lord in prayer.

**Scripture Study:** *As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the road side begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, ‘Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.’ He called out, Jesus Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Those who led the way rebuked him*

and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied. Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight, your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus praising God. When all the people saw it they also praised God.\*

**Reflections Questions:** How do you identify with the blind man? How are you blind and poor? What obstacles keep you from getting to Jesus? What voices tell you to be silent? Who is Jesus for you? What might he offer? How do you get yourself into Jesus pathway so he can see you and you him? What do you want him to do for you? What does he promise you?

**A Beggar's Prayer** by Thomas a Kempis

**O Lord of Love, you know my many weaknesses and needs, and how often I am discouraged, tempted, troubled, and stained by sin. I come to you for healing, and I pray for your strength and comfort. Lord, you know all things, to you my inward thoughts are open, and you alone can perfectly guide and help me. You know what I need, and you understand all my shortcomings. Lord, I come to you like a poor beggar, asking for your help. Feed me, for I am hungry. Warm my coldness by the fires of your love. Illumine my blindness by the light of your presence. Turn all irritating and frustrating things into patience, and help me to turn away from everything harmful. Lift up my heart to you in heaven, and let me not wander aimlessly on the earth. You alone are my food and drink, my love and my joy, and my highest good.**

*Reading for Reflection*

The Christian journey is a life lived from inside out, a life in which the things we experience within-dreams, memories, images, and symbols, and the presence of him whom we encounter in the deep silence- are in constant tension and dialogue with all that we experience without-people, events, joys, sorrows, and the presence of him whom we encounter in others. Thomas Merton repeats a suggestion of Douglas Steele that the absence of this tension might well produce the most pervasive form of violence present in contemporary society. "To allow one's self to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns," Merton writes, "to surrender to too many demands, to commit one's self to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything is to succumb to violence. Frenzy destroys our inner capacity for peace. It destroys the fruitfulness of our work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful." *From the Mutual Ministry by James C. Fenhagen*

**Benediction:**

*I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

*Ephesians 3:18-19*

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