



QUIET REFLECTION † Second Saturday, May 8, 2021

Beyond Our Story † Words That Call Us Forward

Prophetic Words of Vision and Call

Habakkuk 2:12-13; 3:17-19 • I Corinthians 2:12-13 • Isaiah 55:8-11

During these times of quiet reflection, we are asking two basic questions: What do I want to ask of the Lord, and what does He want to say to me at this time. We then wait, listening for His response. Let these questions guide your reflections and help you identify the things you want to process with the Lord. Take time to quiet your mind. Ask the Lord to help you hear what He is saying, and to give you freedom to pour out whatever is on your heart.

1. What is your response to the stories shared this morning? Was there a particular way in which God spoke to you through these testimonies?

2. Do you feel you have a vision or call from the Lord? Jesus spoke these words (John 15:13-16) to us, his followers. As His friend, called to bear fruit, what do you want to ask of the Lord concerning your vision? Tell Him what draws you to the work you want to do. Ask Him to speak to you about it.

¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

The Creativity of the Holy Spirit

Quiet reflection—also called journaling, is meant to extend beyond processing of feelings and thoughts. One of its main values is in giving God time to speak to us! For example:

☛ Listen

Is He asking questions of you?
Is He providing much needed counsel—His interpretation of your inner thoughts?

☛ Dialogue

Conversation with the Lord brings much understanding and draws us closer to Him.

~ Invite Him to speak to you. Wait in the quiet. Respond. Wait again, etc.

~ Write a letter, poem or psalm to express your heart.

☛ Images that Speak

~ Draw a picture or symbol of what is on your heart.

~ Ask Him for an image that depicts how He sees you or something you're concerned about at this time.

☛ Editing Your Story

Ask Him to bring to light any assumptions or perceptions embedded in your heart and story that are not true. What is true that He would write in place of what is written there?

☛ Quiet

Invite the Lord to minister to you in the quiet. Whether with words or in the simple awareness that He is present with you, let Him "restore your soul" in whatever way you need. • You may want to journal and reflect on this time later.

3. Both Kathy and Steve experienced major detours as they pursued what God had called them to do. As you pursue God's vision for you, are you experiencing changes that have confused or discouraged you?
- ✦ Ask the Lord for a word of guidance or encouragement? [It can be helpful to draw a picture of what you are experiencing. Then ask the Lord to give you a picture that represents His point of view.]

4. WORDS THAT CALL US FORWARD ~ As with Habakkuk, Abraham, and others in the Bible, the Lord may call us to a particular work—to carry and pray over a vision entrusted to us. We can miss His plan by looking at *our capacity* to answer His call. We disqualify ourselves when He is asking us to respond in faith and prayer that releases Him to work. Let the words of Jesus speak to you (Jn 15:7-8).
- ✦ Ask the Lord to help you recognize and remove any boundaries you have constructed so that you can respond willingly when He calls you forward—to bear much fruit?

“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask what-ever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples” (John 15:7-8).

5. Last month we talked about our relationship with the Lord, who speaks affirming words to us that help us know who we really are. He speaks about our stories, replacing negative messages with truths based on who He created us to be. Our history, with its weaknesses and failings, becomes fertile ground He will use. The “words that call us forward” are healing words that we will give to others.
- ✦ Ask the Lord if there are parts of your history that He would use in the lives of others. Express your feelings about painful places in your story and ask Him to show you how He sees them. Listen for anything else He wants to say to you, today and in the days to come.