

Heart ♥ to ♥ Heart



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Second Sunday of Lent 2022

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1st Reading: Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18

2nd Reading: Philippians: 3:17-4:1

Gospel: Luke: 28b-36

The journey continues, and during Lent we are gifted with these six weeks to more intensely scrutinize our choices - 40 days to ponder what can bring us closer to God, 40 days to cut through the interference and the doubts that obstruct our hearing so that we can truly listen to God and find our way.

The readings this week are all about simplicity and trust. Faith. So simple if we can resist the temptation to make it complicated. Yet it can be so hard to have the faith of Abram. There's no ambiguity here. The voice from the shining cloud says, "This is my own dear Son, whom I have chosen - listen to Him!" (Lk. 9:35). These readings remind me of Sr. Jeanne Brennan's counsel so many years ago. She taught me that no matter what corner your mind or your heart tells you that you are boxed into, you always have one more move to make. Whether it is a huge leap or the tiniest step, there's one move that can shift your perspective just enough to see things differently and gain new insight. Just enough to bring you closer to God. But first you must "listen"! Keep it simple, find the move, believe in the change it can bring, the doors it can open, the new paths that can be revealed. Rely on the advice of Angela Merici that has been an inspiration for centuries.

I recently read a quote from one of our U.S. bishops. "Don't let the sins of the church keep you from Christ." Amidst the many distractions, I am trying to keep it simple and listen carefully to these scriptures. They are chock full of instructions for finding our way to the dazzling light. I trust that if I take a wrong turn, the GPS voice I hear will be "recalculating" to put me back on track. I am deeply grateful that we walk this path together! Our bond is a treasured gift, and our collective support fortifies each of us.

—Eileen Niedzwiecki
Newport, RI (via New Rochelle, NY)

