



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee

August 2023

Formation for Discipleship

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

August in Ordinary Time brings four clear points in the formation of a disciple...so we listen up...! First, during this month, our Mother-Church puts before us a man and a woman who show us where it is all heading: Transfiguration of our humble humanness in Jesus, and its glorification when we set eyes on God. We will shine as does the assumed Mother of God.

This is what the Word tells us. It is no abstract pie-in-the-sky. It is God's promise and our hope. With this before us, the other three Sundays of the month have clear pointers to keep us maturing in our baptismal discipleship identity. The second Sunday instructs us where to keep our eyes. If we take our eyes off the Word, we sink into the troubles of our time. Next, we are reminded that our mission, like that of Jesus, is two-fold: to proclaim the Word, and to heal... always and everywhere, and to anyone and everyone. Finally, we are faced with our constant tendency to sin and be selfish in Peter. We are reminded that despite this denial, neither Peter's brokenness nor ours will destroy the Church. The texts might be familiar...but we are coming to know ourselves anew. We are not the same. We are slowly being transfigured...

*You shine on Jabor
and I am almost blinded.
Me? Me, too?
Is this what you are doing
in the Eucharistic kiss?
Help me to keep my eyes on You...
when I need to walk on water.
Help me to proclaim and heal...
until I have no voice left.
And when I find in me
the denial of Peter,
help me to remember
that no one, nothing,
will destroy the Church that is You...
the Church that is us...
although all hell tries.
Amen.*

Thank you to Associate Miles Vilski for this month's reflections.

Aug. 6, 2023 | Transfiguration of the Lord | Matthew 17:1-9

We often find it hard to sit still and listen to something even the Word of God. We feel we should be doing something. But the voice from the cloud didn't say "This is my Son, love Him." or "This is my Son, worship Him." Rather the voice said, "This is my Son, listen to Him." How much time do we spend each day sitting listening to God's Word?

Aug. 13, 2023 | 19th Sunday in OT | Matthew 14:22-33

In the days of whaling expeditions, seasoned sailors would warn inexperienced deck hands as they climbed the mast, "Don't look down!" Look only at the sky!" Peter didn't have someone to warn him. He took his eyes off his goal. He looked at the wind-whipped sea and began to sink. When our lives become stormy, do we fix our eyes on the storm or on Jesus?

Aug. 20, 2023 | 20th Sunday in OT | Matthew 15:21-28

Jews at the time of Jesus as well as today's Orthodox Jews believe that a dog is an unclean animal. Dogs are known to lap blood and eat carrion. In this passage read today Jesus quotes a belief common among Jews of His day that non-Jews were nothing but dogs, i.e. religiously unclean. Do our personal prejudices cause us to treat some people as "dogs" and not with love and dignity?

Aug. 27, 2023 | 21st Sunday in OT | Matthew 16:13-20

When missionaries first encountered the Songhai people of Africa, they learned that "to Believe" in the native language meant "to hear with the heart." Thus, God doesn't speak to us with a physical voice, but a spiritual voice. That is why Peter could say, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." He believed because he heard not with his ears, but with his heart. How attuned are we to God's voice?

