

Litanies and Reflections based on Bible Themes

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Mark 1:40-45 (2003)

When we grieve for what might have been and
lament our mistakes,
May we cry with the leper,
"You can make me clean!"

When we fall prey to the lure of believing that
all we need is ourselves,
May we pray with the leper,
"You can make me clean!"

When we forget the possibilities of God's
presence realized in our lives,
May we proclaim with the leper,
"You can make me clean!"

May we hear the good news proclaimed to the
leper,
promised to all who believe,
"You are clean!"
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Mark 2:1-12 (2003)

Empowering God,
when the road ahead looms endless,
**Empower us to be companions
for one another along the road.**

Inspiring God,
when the road forward is blocked,
**Inspire in us creative responses
that move us beyond the barriers.**

Enabling God,
when the road before us divides,
**Enable us to hear your voice
from beyond the divide.**

Mark 4:1ff - see Matthew 13:1ff

Mark 4:3-9 - see Genesis 19 - Parable of the Sower
meets Lot

Mark 4:31

Invocation and Call to Worship

We feel like mustard seeds,
tiny and insignificant.
Like unplanted seeds,
we forget that it is our calling
to be planted in the warmth of God's earth.
May the Great Spirit
carry our seeds to fertile ground
where the roots of our faith may grow deeply
and the branches of our love be broad.

Called to be branches in Christ's body,
We yearn to be connected to the vine.
Called to be mustard bushes offering shade to
God's creatures,
**We search for places to plant the seeds of
faith.**

Called to be growing with God in the midst of
this world's painful questions,
We seek God's nurturing presence.

Prayer of Dedication

**May the offerings brought this day be used
as seeds,
planted faithfully and nurtured lovingly
so that God's way may be realized anew in
this world.**

**Grant us the humility we need to plant and
tend your precious garden. Amen.**

Mark 4:35-41 - see 1 Samuel 17

Mark 6:30ff (2006) - Sabbath Rest

Weary God
you who crept into human skin
skin that was tired and weak
skin that needed Sabbath rest
skin that felt harried and pained...
Weary God
be gentle with us
as we gather in our neediness.

Come with your questions, come with your
awe!

**For the God who broods over the chaos
meets us in this place.**

Come with your energy, come with your
weariness!

**For the God who breathes new life into the
dust**

meets us in this place.

Come with your sadness, come with your joy!

**For the God who dared to become human
meets us in this place.**

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Mark 7:24-30 and Matthew 15:21-28 (2000)

Don't beg.
My mother told me.
Don't whine.
I tell my children.
Be polite.
The key to civil society.

The foreigner approached the rabbi.
Her need was great, her daughter ill,
Her desperation complete.

She begged.
She whined.
She was impolite.

Faith emboldened by need
Shouting.
Heard.
Healing.

Uppity faith and
Feisty women
Annoyance rewarded.
Challenge inspiring.

Mark 8:27-33, also Matthew 16:13-20 and Luke 9:18-22 (2002) - "Who do you say?"

Reflection

Jesus asked them,
Who do you say that I am?
Elijah, Prophet, Rabbi.
Son of God, Messiah, Christ.
The Way, The Truth, The Life.
Savior, Shepherd, Friend.
The last, the least, the lost.
Jesus asked Peter.
Jesus asked Pilate.
Jesus asks us.
Who do you say that I am?

Statement of Believing

We believe in God
who creates mystery
and revels in ambiguity.
We are inquisitive by nature.
We believe in Jesus
whose life and teachings
offered more questions than answers.
We are students of enigma.
We believe in the brooding Spirit
who leaves us discontent
offering possibilities.
We are a people on a quest.

Mark 9:1-8 - see Matthew 17:1-6- Transfiguration

Mark 9:30-37 (2003)

The first shall be last.
We come to worship as we are.
The last shall be first.
We come with confidence.
The first shall be last.
We come with questions.
The last shall be first.
We come burdened by failure.
The first shall be last.
We come celebrating success.
The last shall be first.
We come fearful of the future.
The first shall be last
and the last shall be first
and a little child shall lead them.

Mark 9:49-50 (1997)

God of the salt
God of the fire
God of anger
God of laughter
God of parables and riddles
God of story and proclamation
God of comfort
God of affliction
God of the salt
God of the fire
come now
be now
here now.
Amen.

Mark 9:49-50 (1997)

We offer salt.
We offer our questions.
We offer fire.
We offer our hunger.
Bless the gifts laid before you.
Bless the questions and the hunger.
Amen.

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Mark 10 (2000)

Treasure is...
Gold and silver,
Frankincense and myrrh.
Treasure is...
To have and to hold,
'Til death us do part.
Treasure is...
Family heirlooms
Offering precious memories.

Come...
bringing treasure, seeking treasure.
Come...
treasured, treasuring.

Mark 10:4-52 (2003)

The beggar cries out, "Jesus, Son of David,
have mercy on me!"
Grant us the vision to ask for help.
The one of God responds, "What do you want?"
Grant us the peace to hear you.
The beggar chooses healing, "Teacher, let me
see again."
Grant us the courage to choose health.
The choice collides with life itself, "Go, your
faith has made you well."
Grant us the wisdom to go.

Mark 12:28-34 - see Matthew 22:34-40

Mark 12:38 (2003)

two copper coins
echo beyond time
*abundance yielded drought,
poverty bloomed to generosity*
two copper coins
echo beyond time
*the need to protect
confronts the call to relinquish*
two copper coins
echo beyond time
*redefining worth
as a place in the heart*
two copper coins
echo beyond time

Mark 13:8 - see Isaiah 2:4 (2003)