
Somedays' Meditations

November 2025



Sunday November 2, 2025

“He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature.” Luke 19

We don’t usually get many descriptions of people in the Gospel stories. Sometimes we hear about a person’s status in society: they are a widow or a tax collector or a judge, for instance. Sometimes we hear their name: Lazarus, Zaccheus, Mary. Very rarely do we hear any physical description and when we do, it’s brief: old, blind, short. In this story, we learn so much about a character: his name, his job, his height.

There is a lot we can know about Zaccheus that isn’t directly stated. People didn’t like him because he was a tax collector. He probably cheated innocent people and is aware that what he did was unfair. But also, he was eager to know Jesus. He didn’t just stand on his toes to peer over a crowd, he didn’t peek out from a window. This man climbed a tree so that he could get a good view of Jesus. And Jesus saw him and knew him.

Activity:

What do you know about Jesus? We don’t have many physical descriptions of him. But what else can you figure out from context clues without being told? Make a list of “if..., then...” statements and explore ideas. For example, “If Jesus’ father was a carpenter, then....”

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

God, your hands have made me and fashioned me.

Psalm 119:73

Have you ever made bread? Bread from the store can be nice, but there's nothing like making your own. It takes a lot of work, of course: you mix together all the ingredients and then you knead and knead the dough. You form the dough into a loaf by putting it into a special pan, or maybe you just leave it to rise on its own and take its own shape. However you make it, the joy of making bread is that you are working with your hands, and the thing that you have made with your hands becomes something that you can eat and can share with others.

God has the same relationship with you as you have with bread when you bake it. God has taken all sorts of different things, from parts of your parents to parts that are special for just you, and has mixed them all together. God has taken care to measure everything out perfectly, putting in the right amount of hope, joy, and dreams to get you through difficult times (and good times, too). Then God has taken you and lovingly crafted you, formed you, made you into a full person with love and with care. God has spent a whole afternoon, a whole day, maybe even a whole century thinking about you, who you are, who you will be, and who God hopes you to be. God has lovingly made us with his own hands.

Never forget that you have been and are loved since the moment you were created. Always remember the care that God has taken in making you. Also remember the care and love that God has taken in making other people. It's not just us who have been lovingly fashioned, it's our friends and family, too. It's also our neighbors, people we don't know who live in other countries, and even people that we really don't like. God has lovingly made all people, no matter who they are.

A Prayer

God, thank you for making me.

Thank you for taking the time to create me with your own hands.

Send your Holy Spirit to me so that I can be all you hope me to be.

Amen.

Sunday November 9, 2025

“Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.”

Psalm 98

It's really nice to do something for someone else. I've baked and crafted things before, written and painted, all sorts of things. There is a difference when I make it for myself or when I make it with someone specific in mind. I'm not saying one is better than the other, but that there is a difference. It's nice to focus on what the other person might prefer, to try to make something to please them.

There's a different sense of timing, too, if you are creating something as a gift. You'll probably want to finish it before you give it. And then, as with any gift, it is a sort of bridge between yourself and the other person. A gift both reflects your relationship to the person and creates a new connection between you. That new connection becomes something else you can build on in the future. It goes on and on and on!

Activity: So, sing to the Lord a new song. Create something to celebrate your relationship with God. It can be a prayer, a collage, something out of clay, a poem, a dance, a journal entry, anything you can create! It doesn't have to be perfect, of course. Create it with focus and purpose and see what comes of it!

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon my path.

Psalm 119:105

Every once in a while the power goes out, and we remember how dark it can be at night. Normally, it's so easy to flick on a lightswitch and *poof!* your room is well-lit! But when the power is off, lightswitches don't work and you have to deal with the dark.

Sometimes the darkness can be scary. First of all, there are always a bunch of things lying around the room and without being able to see, it's very easy to bump into them or stub your toe. But our imaginations also create things in the darkness to be afraid of. I was always afraid of my closet, even when my lights were on, because I never knew just what was in there. Of course there was nothing much in there at all but some clothes hanging up and a few bags of toys from when I was a kid. My imagination filled in the blanks, though, with all sorts of things, and I couldn't persuade my brain that there was nothing at all inside.

In the Bible, God is constantly described as light. God is a light to our path; God is the light of the world, the sun, the moon, the stars in the sky; God is the light of wisdom. The one that gives me the most comfort is: the night is not dark to you, O God. It is as bright as the noonday.

God knows what is and what isn't in the dark. And God will protect us from the things that we should be afraid of and the things that our minds make up. Put your trust in God. Give your fears and your worries to him. You aren't alone.

Practice

If you're alone in the dark and you're scared (like I am sometimes), then try this: look into the dark and say, "God is bright and can see everything. You don't scare me!" You can also use this when you're worried about something. Say: "God is bright and knows all my worries. You don't scare me!"

Sunday November 16, 2025

“Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.”

Thessalonians 3:13

Paul makes that sound easy, doesn't he? Just keep doing what's right and don't get discouraged. We know right from wrong, so just do the right thing each time. Right?

Okay, maybe it's not so easy. Do we always know what's right in every situation? Of course not! Sometimes we have to break rules of etiquette in an emergency. Sometimes we have to act rudely in order to act safely. Deciding how to act requires discernment: you look at a situation and decide what is appropriate for that time.

Paul admits that it can be tiring, that you might get weary from doing the right thing. It can be extra difficult when not everyone is acting the way you think they should be acting. Maybe most people act one way but you think they are wrong. What you are doing might be counter-cultural, and that can be difficult to keep doing when everyone else does something else.

When it comes to deciding what to do, we can trust in a few things no matter what: God is love, Creation is good, We are to love one another as Jesus loves us. Everything else falls into place after that.

Fun activity: In a world that can be grim, having hope is counter-cultural. Tear down barriers and spread love all over the place.

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Jesus said, “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is God’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

Luke 12:32

Normally, when we think of princesses, we think of beautiful clothes and fancy balls. Saint Elizabeth, the princess of Hungary in the 13th century, definitely had a lot of jewels and gold, but she sold most of it so that she could build hospitals for the poor. When there wasn’t enough food to feed everyone in her country (this is called “famine”), she took all the food that was supposed to be for the rich and powerful and gave it out to anyone who asked for it. She was so open-handed that her relatives got mad at her! But Saint Elizabeth just kept on giving, because it’s what Jesus did, and she was a follower of Jesus.

Saints are people who do really amazing things, but doing God’s work isn’t just for saints! We all follow Jesus. That’s what it means to be a Christian: to do what Jesus did and live like he lived.

Saint Elizabeth gave away things that many people thought were important. And they were important. Food is necessary to live, and money is often important, too. Giving people food during a famine may have scared people, and it may have scared Saint Elizabeth, too. That’s probably why her family was so angry with her: they were scared that, maybe, if she gave away all the food, then *they* wouldn’t have anything to eat either. But Saint Elizabeth knew that we only receive things, really, when we give them away. Food and riches and jewelry don’t mean much at all except when we share them.

What do you keep close to yourself that you could share? What is so important to you that you are scared that you’ll lose it? You don’t have to share everything, of course, but what things that you own could help people if you share them?

A Collect for Saint Elizabeth (a collect is a type of prayer)

Beloved God, thank you for giving us such a wonderful example of Jesus’ love in Saint Elizabeth. Thank you for giving her ways to help the poor around her, and please help us remember the poor as well. May we serve, with love and gladness, anyone who is in need or trouble. We do all this because Jesus did it, too, and we do it because we love him. We pray this in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sunday November 23, 2025

“Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.” Collect of the day

I really love Christ the King Sunday. It's a good chance to remind ourselves that, at the base of it all, Jesus is King. Sometimes I forget and it's like I'm living two lives: my life when I pray, and my life every other moment of the day. They don't always overlap and sometimes it's easy for me to get swept up in my emotions and forget that life is more than what's immediately in front of me.

So, how do I live knowing that Christ is King? How can I approach conflict differently if I know we are all equally beloved by God? Take another look at the collect, especially the part about people being divided by sin. How can we, through prayer or act or change in attitude, become reunited with our neighbors?

Take Note: Here's a logic puzzle I like to think of sometimes:
God = Love, Jesus = God, Jesus = King. So then, Love = King
That's easy enough to say, but what does that mean?

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

Jesus said, “Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

Luke 19:30

Usually, when it’s your birthday, and the time for cake rolls around, you’re the first person to get a slice. What if you changed things around, and you handed out slices of cake to everyone else and only got a piece last? Well, you might not get the best piece, but maybe that’s okay.

We often think that being first means that a person is special. Maybe someone has done something great, like running the fastest in a race or answering all the questions right on a test. Usually it’s okay to celebrate these achievements, especially if someone has put in a lot of hard work. It’s hard to run fast, and it’s difficult to get all the answers right on a test. Telling someone that they did a good job and celebrating with them is a good thing to do, and it can be a lot of fun to share in a person’s enjoyment.

Jesus isn’t talking about this kind of “first place,” though. Jesus is talking about the types of people who think that, because they have a lot of money or everything thinks well of them, they should get more attention. In Jesus’ time, the important people like politicians and priests got to sit closest to the host at parties, which meant that they would be served first and probably get the best cut of meat. Jesus says, though, that this is backwards. The people who are poor and forgotten are the ones who should be served first, and the people who are important should be served last. This confused a lot of people in Jesus’ time, because the whole point of doing good things was to get good things. But is it? Good things are for everyone, not just one person who says they’re more important than other people. Maybe getting something last means that you’re helping a person who is really in need.

A prayer

God, thank you for all that you give to me. People help people who are forgotten and alone. Help me when I myself am alone and lost, and may I help those who everyone else doesn’t pay attention to.

Sunday November 30, 2025

“You must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Matthew 24:44

It's Advent! Today we light the first candle: Hope.

So, what are we hoping for? In general, people tend to hope for things that are possible but uncertain. We hope to get a good night's sleep. We hope to hear from a family member soon. We hope we'll get a certain present on Christmas. We can try our best to set up the situations as best we can so that our hopes might come true. Each of these examples is possible, though there are a lot of variables which are out of our control. You might be tired enough to get a good night's sleep, but a noise outside might disrupt your rest. You might text a family member frequently, but you don't know for certain if they will reply. You can leave hints and requests for Christmas gifts, but you just never know if you'll get the one you really want. That's where hope comes in. Hope is the extra little thing that can tip the scale into a favorable outcome.

But, have you ever hoped for something that is impossible? What is it like to hope for something that doesn't make logical sense? Maybe being hopeful is the same as being ready.

Activity: Challenge yourself to be impossibly hopeful. Be ready to be amazed.

Somedays' Meditations

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