

Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent: Leader (readers last week: Mike, Molly, Deon)

Opening Prayer: We ask you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to join us and lead us in this scripture meditation. May Jesus, through His Word, lead us to Our Father. May we rest in Our Father's presence and be inspired by the Holy Spirit as we read, reflect, respond, and rest.

Introduction to the Text (John 8: 21-30): Jesus, the Father's Ambassador: He whose ambassador I am is with me. Jesus' origin is from God; he can reveal God. 21: You will die in your sin: i.e., of disbelief; 22: The Jews suspect that he is referring to his death. Jesus' death will not be self-inflicted but destined by God; 24: Where I am going you cannot come: except through faith in Jesus' passion-resurrection; 24, 28: I AM: an expression that late Jewish tradition understood as Yahweh's own self-designation. Jesus is here placed on a par with Yahweh.

1. First Reading: We begin as we read (*Lectio*) John 8:21-30. During the reading, focus on question #1 below. We will pause for 2 to 3 minutes after the reading for you to reflect (*Meditatio*) and share a word or phrase from the reading. You may write the word or phrase in the space below the question. In the quiet, it will help to repeat it in your mind and to reflect on it.

2. Question 1: What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? In silence meditate on that.

**28: "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM
(circle other group members' responses)**

3. First Response: You are now invited to share your word or phrase. We will reflect on the shared word or phrase without explanation or commentary. It may help to circle the words or phrases shared to see the group's focus.

4. Second Reading: We will now read (*Lectio*) our scripture passage a second time. As we read the scripture, focus on question #2 below. Imagine yourself there in the scripture. We will pause for 2 to 3 minutes of silence, then you will be invited to share your feelings and/or a short personal prayer (*Oratio*), your response to the Word. You may write your response in the space provided.

5. Question 2: What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates to the scripture or to the word or phrase you have chosen.? Write down your feelings, how the scripture relates to you and/or a prayer.

Feel: I feel Jesus' frustration that that still don't get it.

Specific Situation: I realize that in my own life that I get it especially during Holy Week on Good Friday and Easter Sunday; My belief lacks intensity other times during the rest of the year.

Prayer: Lord that I may believe and follow you with intensity throughout my life.

6. Second Response: You are now invited to share your response to question #2. Group members may express words of support without judgment. Advice and reassurance are left to God in silence.

Responses _____

7. Third Reading: We will now read (*Lectio*) our scripture passage a third time. During the reading, we focus on question #3 below. In 2 to 3 minutes of silent rest and quiet (*Contemplatio*) after the reading, you can write down what you sense God may be saying to you and/or offer a prayer of thanks for what God is showing you. Imagine resting in God's presence and repeating your word or phrase seeking meaning. Ending the silence: *In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*

8. Question 3: What is God's personal invitation to you from the Scripture? You can write down what the Lord may be saying to you and/or a prayer of thanks. Or simply rest quietly in the Spirit's presence.

What the Lord may be saying: I'm counting on you to help others to know and to love me, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. Follow me with intensity.

Prayer of Thanks: Thank you, Jesus, for revealing yourself in sacrificial love for me and for the whole world. Thank you for giving totally of yourself so that we might join you in your Kingdom on earth and in Heaven

9. Third Response: You are now invited to share your response to question #3. We listen with prayerful empathy without needing to give judgment, advice, or assurance.

Responses _____

10. **Closing Prayer and Announcements: We thank you, Lord Jesus, for being the great God that you are. We thank you for being the ambassador of our heavenly Father and for revealing the mystery of the Trinity to us. Thanks for dying on the cross to save us and rising from the dead to give us hope of rising with you to eternal life.**

Today we lift up our prayer intentions to you. For Molly's dad, Martin; for Lou and Lois Gervais who are recovering from the Corona Virus, For Leo Lemmus' recovery from brain surgery; for the happy repose of the souls of Lillian and Mark DiDucca, that more babies will be spared abortion through the efforts of the 40 Days for life; for the homeless, destitute and those in most need of your mercy, and for the prayer intentions of those gathered here this morning:

_____ **For these intentions and all the prayer intentions in our hearts we pray, Our Father.**

Announcements: Final Lectio next Tuesday. I will be considering other adult education offerings and other time slots. Your recommendations are welcome. Have a great week.

Gospel: John 8: 21-30 Jesus, the Father's Ambassador:

21 He said to them again, "I am going away and you will look for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going you cannot come."

22 So the Jews said, "He is not going to kill himself, is he, because he said, 'Where I am going you cannot come'?"

23 He said to them, "You belong to what is below, I belong to what is above. You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world.

24 That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins."

25 So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "What I told you from the beginning.

26 I have much to say about you in condemnation. But the one who sent me is true, and what I heard from him I tell the world."

27 They did not realize that he was speaking to them of the Father.

28 So Jesus said (to them), "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own, but I say only what the Father taught me.

29 The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to him."

30 Because he spoke this way, many came to believe in him.

From: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/john/8>

This approach to *Lectio Divina* is based on <https://www.soulshpherd.org/lectio-divina-groups/>