

# Community of Grace

## Daily Walk for the week of September 27, 2021

**Give us a Clean Heart:  
For Removing Road Blocks  
with Healing Speech  
Written By Mary Anderson**

**Monday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> Working for Jesus**

“John said to him, ‘Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.’ But Jesus said, ‘Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us.’” John 9:38-40. These verses are not the easiest for me, and maybe you, to understand. Jesus had a group of followers who were given powers to do good things in his name. They couldn’t understand, however, that someone else could “cast out demons” if they weren’t in that inner circle. Jesus was glad for others who did good things in his name and knew they would come to know him better. We may feel at times that those not of our same faith or a part of our church don’t have authority to speak in Christ’s name, but if they know Jesus and study his word, they are his followers and teachers as well. May we be open to Jesus working in our world in many ways and through many people. Prayer: Lord God, you have been a blessing in our lives even before we were born. Help us to look to you for ways to speak your truth and to accept the healing you offer through all your servants. Amen

**Tuesday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Don’t Be a Stumbling Block**

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it

would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.” John 9:42-43. Jesus gives both a promise and warning to those of us who want to bear his name. Jesus loved his children, young and old, and wanted to be sure no one hurt them or caused them to stumble. He cares for all of his sheep. He gives extreme examples here but wants to show us that whether we cause others to stumble or put ourselves in jeopardy, he wants and expects us to be totally committed to participating in his kingdom. We’ve heard the phrase “all or nothing” used in many ways. If we totally commit our lives to serving our Lord, loving our neighbor, helping and sharing His word with all, we will have peace and life everlasting with Him. Prayer: Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

**Give us a Clean Heart:  
For Living in Relationships  
Written By Kerri Lawton**

**Wednesday, September 29, 2021**

Genesis 2:18, 21-22: “Go on the Lord God said, “<sup>18</sup>It is not good that the man should be alone, I will make him a helper as his partner. <sup>21</sup>So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept, then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with the flesh. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that

the Lord God has taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.” God observes that man is not meant to be solitary beings. Man thrives on close and intimate relationships with others. Observing this, God creates the woman as a helper, partner, and companion. A “helper”, called in the Old Testament, is not a subordinate but one who may be an equal or sometimes even a superior to the one who is being helped. In fact, God is often called a “helper” to humans in need. God removed a rib from Adam. I believe the rib, a strong bone used to keep human form, protecting human internal organs and especially the heart, represents what a partner is created for. A protective, stable bond between two people in a relationship of love and commitment to become as one. Prayer: Loving Lord, the miracle of creation by your hands should inspire us. We thrive on good relationships to honor the relationship we have with you. Amen

**Thursday, September 30, 2021**

Psalms 8:3-6: “When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, models that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet.” Are we not amazed at God’s creations? We see the beauty and magnificence of the heavens above, the moon and the stars. We are in wonder of the beauty of his creations around us daily. He has placed mortal man in care, in “dominion”, over “the works of his hands.” We are bound to

him through all of this and we should celebrate the trust he places in us. He has established a relationship with mankind by placing man with such responsibilities and we should respect this. We share the wonders of God’s world, establishing our own shared relationships with others in his name. “Oh Lord, our sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth.” Prayer: Our sovereign Lord, we praise you for the world you created, we see your purpose in establishing a relationship with you, showing love and grace for all. Amen

**Friday, October 1, 2021**

Hebrews 1:1-3: “Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets but in these last days he spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.” For as long as time has existed, God has been in contact with mankind. Prophets received and translated messages from God “in many and various” ways. In Hebrews they recognize that God speaks through his Son; God had established his relationship with mankind, knowing that Christ would be recognized as his Son through words and actions. Mankind’s relationship with God strengthened, trusting that God had a plan in place. We also trust in our own relationships with our father above. Our love for his compassion and presence strengthens our trust that he only has goodness in store for the faithful. Prayer: God on high, we receive Christ’s powerful words to sustain us. We give praise and thanks to you for the glory of your very being present in our lives. Amen

**Saturday, October 2, 2021**

Hebrews 2:10-12: “It was fitting that God,

for whom and through all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'" Christ came into this world in order to serve as an example. He had to experience human suffering and temptation. God, in the form of Jesus countered Satan's power of death and sin. Because of sin, people were in fear of death, being told they will pay for their sins by damnation. Jesus, as a true brother and by the grace of God, died for sins to be forgiven. He purified our souls by defeating the fear of death and making a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. I have brothers whom I love dearly. We are close, not just because that's how we are, but because of our past lives together. We understand each other by our own shared experiences and by being in touch. Jesus reaches us through such understanding and always being present. Prayer: Merciful God, we hear your words and cherish our relationships. May we grow in strength and faith in brotherly love. Amen

**Sunday, October 3, 2021**

Mark 10:13-14: "People were bringing little children to him in order that he may touch them, and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.'" In understanding versus I will use

the dictionary often for specific words used: Indignant means "feeling or showing anger or annoyance at what is perceived as unfair treatment." The disciples were annoyed by the families requesting Jesus' time and blessings. Jesus was stern when correcting them. They were oblivious to one of the most loved scenes we envision today: Jesus surrounding himself with children accepting His blessings. Jesus stresses the importance of bringing children into his fold. The simplicity of a child, eagerness to ask questions and to learn, makes them desirable to Christ. They come feeling love and compassion as their first impressions and allowing divine grace to take possession of their hearts. For future generations we strive to improve our world for their sake and what better way than to bring them to Christ, for continued blessings. Prayer: Dear Lord, encourage us to continue sharing the light of your faithful. Let us live as prime examples of love, grace, and forgiveness. Amen