

Sunday, June 9, 2024

Scripture Reading: Psalm 138

*The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change;
the realist adjusts the sails. —William Arthur Ward*

It takes a disciplined and special kind of person to enter a monastery or a convent. Not everyone is suited for the contemplative life. This is why most religious orders require that novices stay with the order for a significant time before taking vows. Mother Superior wants the novice to be absolutely clear about what she is getting into.

One of the fundamental requirements of some orders is silence. Maybe the following story happened; maybe it didn't. But in a certain monastery of a certain order, it was required of the monks that silence must always be maintained. Opportunities to speak were scheduled *once every two years*, at which time they were allowed to speak only two words. Can you imagine?!

One young initiate who had completed his first two years of training was invited by his superior to make his first two-word presentation. "Food terrible," he said. Oh dear! But life in the monastery went on.

Two years later, the same invitation was once again extended. The young man used the opportunity to grumble, "Bed lumpy."

Arriving at his superior's office two years later, he announced, "I quit."

The abbot looked at this young monk and said, "You know, I am not at all surprised. All you've done since you arrived is complain, complain, complain."

This story might be exaggerated. But the point is well-taken. To complain is to waste one's energy. Complainers position themselves as victims, when, with a proper attitude and some creative responses, they could be victors.

The Israelites were notorious complainers as they journeyed to the Promised Land. They drove Moses and the Lord to distraction. And nary a one of them, save Joshua and Caleb, reached their objective.

Someone said that humans invented language to satisfy their deep need to complain. But with God's help, we can stop complaining and get to work and change what can be changed, and ask God for patience to endure what cannot be changed.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, I am going to be sensitive this week to my words. I want to speak the language of love, hope and faith, not the carping noise of complaint and despair. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Blessings,
Jim & Pas for Ben Merrill*

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** John 7-10
- Monday:** 2 Kings 11—14:20
- Tuesday:** Joel 1-3
- Wednesday:** 2 Kings 14:21-25;
Jonah 1-4
- Thursday:** 2 Kings 14:26-29;
Amos 1-3
- Friday:** Amos 4-6
- Saturday:** Psalms 58-60

Word Search: Life of Christ

This word search focuses on the life of Christ. Find the words listed below in the word search box. Words can be found horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backward and forward.



T R A N S F I G U R A T I O N
 K A M S O Q B E T H A N Y J O
 C D I S C I P L E S W I D O W
 I M R M E H T A B B A S G H K
 L A A Q M E L A S U R E J N J
 U R C G Y I S B T E M P L E Z
 Y T L N N M S I T P A B U H J
 G H E G J N P D R C M J P T J
 M A S J Q H A D R A Y E N I V
 U W L J N E R D L I H C T A M
 Q G N I T S A F R N C P X F R
 R E P E L T B K N O M I S M P
 H G O S P E L S J M J E S U S
 O V K R E T E P R E W O S R F
 N A G N I H S I F D W N F S L

WORD LIST

- baptism
- Bethany
- children
- demoniac
- disciples
- faith
- fasting
- fishing
- Galilee
- gospels
- healings
- Jerusalem
- Jesus
- John
- Jordan
- leper
- Martha
- Mary
- miracles
- parables
- Peter
- Pharisees
- Sabbath
- Simon
- sower
- temple
- temptation
- transfiguration
- vineyard
- widow

COMPOUND INTEREST!

Directions: Each of the two sets of letters has two compound words hidden. Can you find the compound words? Example: AEGTWAY: gateway, getaway

B F H I O S W

D O O O P R S T

Verse to Remember

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

—John 10:11

Solution:
 Top — fishbowl or
 blowfish;
 Bottom —
 doorpost or
 doorstop.