

“REMEMBER???”

By Judy Nielsen
Sunday, May 31, 2020

Please pray with me.

Lord, please open our minds and hearts to what you would have each of us remember from this message. Amen

How is your memory? Mine--- not so good!!! Hardly a day goes by when I am not searching for something --- because I forgot where I put it. Or I ask someone something and they remind me I asked that before, and they already gave me the answer---sometimes more than once.

Today's Gospel lesson from John made me feel a little better when I read that Philip's (one of the disciples) memory was not so good either. Even the fact that Jesus seemed a bit exasperated when Philip asked him to show them the Father, was reassuring to me.

Philip had been with Jesus for many months and he STILL did not seem to know the answer. Or he didn't remember.

Philip's memory had become dull. Maybe he had heard what Jesus said, but didn't REALLY HEAR!!

Or as my parents used to say ---- "it went in one ear and out the other".

The rest of the disciples were in despair after the crucifixion because their spiritual leader and friend had been killed. They had trouble remembering Jesus' words that He would be resurrected. Therefore Jesus appearances after the crucifixion came as quite a surprise, and especially the empty tomb. Their lives were changed and they were afraid because they did not know what the future held.

Lately, all of our lives have been changed. We have been experiencing something we have never experienced before. The WORLD has changed. And we don't know when or if this this will end and we will get back to a "normal" life, or even a "new normal".

I think many of us have experienced some isolation, some apprehension, and many some fear; I admit I have.

Then I began to remember something ---- something I realized that the Holy Spirit brought to mind. I remembered hearing or reading that the Bible says "do not fear" or a similar phrase 365 times, one time for each day of the year. That's a lot! THAT REALLY A LOT!

I usually check facts, but I did not count to verify this time. If any of you decide to do this, please let me know how many you find.

Jesus promised in today's New Testament Scripture that God would send the Holy Spirit in Jesus name, to REMIND us of all He had taught, and then in the end He said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and DO NOT be afraid!"

This is comforting to hear, but it is not always easy to follow those instructions.

In some translations, the Holy Spirit is referred to as The *Paraclete*. This word in Greek comes from the root word meaning "to call by to render aid." The Holy Spirit is also referred to as the comforter.

In our opening hymn today we plead with the Holy Spirit to mold our hearts, to fill us with love, to remember that we always have the Holy Spirit with us, to make us more attached to heavenly ways and less clinging to doubt and fear.

In our closing hymn we ask for grace to REMEMBER what we cannot always see or feel such as the presence of a God who will never leave us or forsake us, and the breath of the Holy Spirit breathing gently on us, comforting, teaching and reminding us of what we have heard. Help us, God, to REMEMBER!!

AMEN