



MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED!

MARCH, 15 2020 / 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Spiritual Ponderings:

Trust III

“Anyone who doesn't take truth seriously in small matters cannot be trusted in large ones either.” - Albert Einstein. As we continue our reflections on the idea of trust and how it can impact our relationships with others but also have an impact on our spiritual lives, I would like to remind you that quotes from Stephen M.R. Covey's book *The Speed of Trust: The One Thing that Changes Everything*. will be in bold my commentary in normal type.

In his book Stephen M.R. Covey has the following chart that helps his reader understand some of what he calls the myths surrounding the idea of trust.

Myth	Truth
Trust is soft	Trust is hard, real, and quantifiable. It measurably affects both speed and cost.
Trust is slow	Nothing is as fast as the speed of trust.
Trust is built solely on integrity.	Trust is a function of both character (which includes integrity) and competence.
You either have trust or you don't	Trust can be both created and destroyed
Once lost, trust cannot be restored	Though difficult, in most cases lost trust can be restored
You can't teach trust	Trust can be effectively taught and learned, and in can become a leverageable, strategic advantage.
Trusting people is too risky	Not trusting people is a greater risk
Trust can only be built face-to-face	Trust can be built on virtual teams and in digital environments
Trust is established one person at a time.	Establishing trust with one establishes trust with the many.

When reviewing the above chart from the book, I can see how I often believe the myths about trust when I am only a surface level of thinking. As I dig deeper, I begin to see the truth about trust. For example, I at first thought that you could not measure trust, but now I can see where I am more productive in environments where I feel trusted because I am not being slowed down by worry. It is almost like doing a self-fulfilling prophecy. Another example is I always thought learning to trust someone was a slow process, but with self-reflection, I discover that I often trust people quite easily.

If we have no one that we can trust in life, we will eventually go crazy from paranoia so it is a greater risk not to trust someone than it is to

Once again, I affirm that nothing is as fast as the speed of trust. Nothing is as fulfilling as a relationship of trust. Nothing is as inspiring as an offering of trust. Nothing is as profitable as the economics of trust. Nothing has more influence than a reputation of trust.

Pope John Paul II pointed out that the most used phrase in the Bible was “Be Not Afraid.” Scott Hahn in his writings talks about how the words “Lord be with you” are some of the scariest words in the Bible because it means God has a mission for you to accomplish. They are also some of the most comforting words in the Bible because God is not leaving us to do this alone. We can TRUST that He will be with us also.

When I am honest with myself, there are a lot of times that I slow down things I am doing because I do not trust God to complete them in a way that I find satisfying. I am also amazed at how quickly many of the saints responded to God's call. I think it is safe to say that they had a higher level of trust in God than I do at times.

Then my father said something very profound. He said, "Now you need to know that when you take this job, I don't do it anymore. It's your job. It's called a stewardship. Stewardship means "a job with a trust."

Maybe the reason the king was so mad in the parable of the story of talents is because the last one who buried his talent show know trust. He therefore did not only fail to make any sort of investment but He also broke the trust that the king had in him. The man with the ten talents and four talents at the end showed that they trustworthy in small matters so now the king could trust them in larger matters.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

March 15 2020 / Third Sunday of Lent / Lectionary: 28 / Gospel JN 4:5-42

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" —For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.— Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back." The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband." Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.' For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one speaking with you." At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, "What are you looking for?" or "Why are you talking with her?" The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?" They went out of the town and came to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'In four months the harvest will be here'? I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest. The reaper is already receiving payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work." Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I have done." When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

Spiritual Reflection: Examine closely how the woman is converted. It starts with Jesus taking time to care for her.

Spiritual Questions:

1. Does God respond when you pray for something?
 2. Does God answer quickly enough for you?
 3. How would you describe God's response to the thirsty Israelites groaning in the desert?
 4. How has your baptismal water animated your faith journey to date?
 5. What mission does Baptism impart on you?
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Thought of the Day

Sunday

May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears. - Nelson Mandela

Monday

Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all. - Dale Carnegie

Tuesday

The real hope is not in something we think we can do, but in God, who is making something good out of it in some way we cannot see. - Thomas Merton

Wednesday

Where there is discord may we bring harmony. Where there is error, may we bring truth. Where there is doubt, may we bring faith. Where there is despair, may we bring hope. - Francis of Assisi

Thursday

The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason for hope. - Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Friday

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning. - Albert Einstein

Saturday

Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope. - Maya Angelou

PRO-LIFE



March 2020

Prayer for People to Answer the Call to be People of Justice

God of life and love, you created us in your image and sent your Son to bring us life. Instill in us a respect for all life, from conception to natural death. Empower us to work for justice for the poor. Nourish us that we may bring food to the hungry. Inspire us to cherish the fragile life of the unborn. Strengthen us to bring comfort to the chronically ill. Teach us to treat the aging with dignity and respect. Bring us one day into the glory of everlasting life. We ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eternal and merciful Father, I give you thanks for the gift of Your Divine Son who suffered, died and rose from the dead for all people. I thank You also for my Catholic Faith and ask Your help that I may grow in fidelity by prayer, by works of charity, and by Penance and the Holy Eucharist.

Inspired by confidence in Your power to move hearts and by the success of prayer, I pray for (N) who no longer share(s) in the intimate life of your

Catholic family. Grant through my prayer and witness that (she/he/they) may be open to the promptings of the HOLY SPIRIT to return to the loving union with Your people. Grant also that my prayer be ever hopeful and that I may never



**St. Monica
Society**

Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith.

judge another, for You alone can read hearts. I ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Catholic Prayers

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

O ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Comfort to the Afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings. Deign to cast upon me a look of mercy. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favors; and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal.

I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the granting of my requests.

Through gratitude for favors, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues that I may one day share your glory. Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. Amen.

Conclude with 1 of each prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary, & Glory Be



Humor

Classic One-Liners

1. A clear conscience is the sign of a bad memory.
2. For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.
3. He who hesitate is probably right.
4. Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm
5. Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.