



MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED!

MARCH, 22 2020 / 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Spiritual Ponderings:

Trust IV

"If we do not fill our mind with prayer, it will fill itself with anxieties, worries, temptations, resentments, and unwelcome memories." - Scott Hahn. Prayer is building a relationship with God and all relationships need trust to grow and so let us continue to reflect on the idea of trust. 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.

"As my father so eloquently taught, "If you think the problem is out there, that very thought is the problem."

As we eventually taught the people on each level of this major corporation, your boss, your division leader, your CEO, your board, your spouse, your children, your friends, your associates may all have problems as far as trust (or anything else) is concerned. But that does not mean that you are powerless! In fact, you probably have no idea how powerful you can be in changing the level of trust in any relationship if you know how to work **"From the inside out."**

The only person that I can control in life is myself. All I can do is change the way I respond to the way people act toward me. Stephen talks about how we get to choose how we see the world, what we say, and how we behave.

Personal growth requires us to realize that we cannot control what people throw at us but we can control how we react toward someone. I cannot stop someone from throwing an insult at me but I can either take the insult to heart or dismiss it and not let it bother me. It takes time and practice but eventually you can learn to identify your thoughts and choose an appropriate to react instead of just reacting.

Leadership is getting results in a way that inspires trust... The means are as important as the ends. How you go about achieving results is as important as the results themselves, because when you establish trust, you increase your ability to get results the next time. And there's always a next time. To get things done in a way that destroy trust is not only shortsighted and counterproductive; it is ultimately unsustainable.

How one achieves his or her goal is just as important as what the goal is. In Church's morality the ends never justify the means. We are called to be a people of integrity.

"Trust is absolutely key to long-term success. – Jim Burke, Former Chairman and CEO, of Johnson and Johnson.

I would say that being trustworthy is absolutely key to ETERNAL success. In heaven, we will not be able to lie or exaggerate our accomplishments. We should therefore prepare ourselves for heaven by accepting who we are right now and try to be a trustworthy person and not someone who exaggerates his or her accomplishments.

Credibility is a leader's currency. With it, he or she is solvent; without it, he or she is bankrupt. – John Maxwell.

My first pastor always encouraged me to "earn" my blue chips. I have come to discover the more people get to know me the more they learn to trust me and so I try to take me time to allow people to get to know me and so I do a lot of listening sessions and not town hall meetings.

Stephen then lays out four core aspects of being a credible person:

First, that you are a person of integrity—that you are honest and congruent, that you have a reputation for being truthful and that you would not lie.

Second, that you have good intent—that you’re not trying to deceive or protect anyone, that you don’t have any hidden motive or agenda that would color your testimony.

Third, that your credentials are excellent, that you do, indeed, have expertise knowledge, skill, and capability in the area in which you are called to testify.

And fourth, that you have a good track record, that you have demonstrated your capabilities effectively in other situations in the past, that you produce results and that there is good reason to believe that you will do so now.

I cannot say one thing and do another. My actions and words have to line up otherwise I will be called a liar and no one will trust me or want to follow me.

When we tell someone, we want to help then but in reality, we are using them or distracting them it is called manipulation and no one likes to be manipulated.

We must be honest about our abilities otherwise we will overexaggerate them too much and destroy our credibility.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

March 22 2020 / Fourth Sunday of Lent / Lectionary: 31 / Gospel [JN 9:1-41](#)

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” —which means Sent—. So he went and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, “Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is,” but others said, “No, he just looks like him.” He said, “I am.” So they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?” He replied, “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went there and washed and was able to see.” And they said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I don’t know.” They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.” So some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a sinful man do such signs?” And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, “What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?” His parents answered and said, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, “He is of age; question him.” So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner.” He replied, “If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see.” So they said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?” They ridiculed him and said, “You are that man’s disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from.” The man answered and said to them, “This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything.” They answered and said to him, “You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?” Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered and said, “Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind.” Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not also blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains.

Spiritual Reflection: Do we allow God's to work on His time?

Spiritual Questions:

1. Have you experienced living in Christ's light?
 2. If you brother were picked as a future king, would you be happy for him?
 3. When in trouble, do you have the persistence of the blind man in seeking Christ's help?
 4. When life frustrates you, are you more apt to light a candle or curse the darkness?
 5. What risks are you willing to take?
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Thought of the Day

Sunday

Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do. - Pope John XXIII

Monday

You can do anything if you have enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is the yeast that makes your hopes rise to the stars. - Henry Ford

Tuesday

Hope means hoping when everything seems hopeless. - Gilbert K. Chesterton

Wednesday

Many believe - and I believe - that I have been designated for this work by God. In spite of my old age, I do not want to give it up; I work out of love for God and I put all my hope in Him. - Michelangelo

Thursday

Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up. - Thomas A. Edison

Friday

The saints must be honored as friends of Christ and children and heirs of God. Let us carefully observe the manner of life of all the apostles, martyrs, ascetics, and just men who announced the coming of the Lord. And let us emulate their faith, charity, hope, zeal, life, patience under suffering, and perseverance unto death so that we may also share their crowns of glory. - John of Damascus

Saturday

Jesus doesn't give an explanation for the pain and sorrow of the world. He comes where the pain is most acute and takes it upon himself. Jesus doesn't explain why there is suffering, illness, and death in the world. He brings healing and hope. He doesn't allow the problem of evil to be the subject of a seminar. He allows evil to do its worst to him. He exhausts it, drains its power, and emerges with new life. - N. T. Wright

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.



St. Monica Society

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

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

Catholic Prayers

Novena to Our Lady Of Hope

I am the mother of fair love, and of fear, and of knowledge, and of holy hope. In me is all grace of the way and of the truth; in me is all hope of life and of virtue. Come to me all that desire me and be filled with my fruits (Sirach 24:24-26).

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Grace, Hope of the world. Hear us, your children, who cry to you.

Let Us Pray.

O God, who by the marvelous protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary has strengthened us firmly in hope, grant we beseech You, that by persevering in prayer at her admonition, we may obtain the favors we devoutly implore. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to Our Lady of Hope

O Mary, my Mother, I kneel before you with heavy heart. The burden of my sins oppresses me. The knowledge of my weakness discourages me. I am beset by fears and temptations of every sort. Yet I am so attached to the things of this world that instead of longing for Heaven I am filled with dread at the thought of death.

O Mother of Mercy, have pity on me in my distress. You are all-powerful with your Divine Son. He can refuse no request of your Immaculate Heart. Show yourself a true Mother to me by being my advocate before His throne. O Refuge of Sinners and Hope of the Hopeless, to whom shall I turn if not you?

Obtain for me, then, O Mother of Hope, the grace of true sorrow for my sins, the gift of perfect resignation to God's Holy Will, and the courage to take up my cross and follow Jesus. Beg of His Sacred Heart the special favor that I ask in this novena.

(State your request here...)

But above all I pray, O dearest Mother, that through your most powerful intercession my heart may be filled with Holy Hope, so that in life's darkest hour I may never fail to trust in God my Savior, but by walking in the way of His commandments I may merit to be united with Him, and with you in the eternal joys of Heaven. Amen.

Mary, our Hope, have pity on us.

Hope of the Hopeless, pray for us.

Recite the following prayers... 3 Hail Marys...



Humor

Classic One-Liners

1. I went to buy some camouflage clothing, but I couldn't find it.
2. My wife went to a self-help group for compulsive talkers. It's called On and On Anon.
3. "Veni, Vidi, Velcro" – I came, I saw, I stuck around.
4. I'm reading a terrifically interesting book about antigravity—I just can't put it down.
5. If you are what you eat, I'm dead meat.