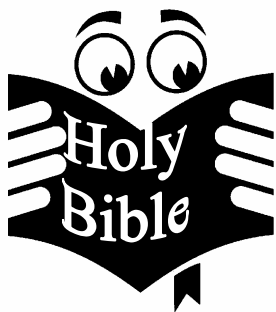


Bible Tidbits - July 2006: How is the Bible MY Story?



To help you discover more of the riches about Sacred Scripture.

Each month we'll offer you several new tidbits in print and on-line:

- *In print on a Bulletin Flyer*
- *On the web on OLV's Home Page--below the Question of the Week (ourladyofvictoryallmadge.parishesonline.com).*

Every time we pick up the Bible, we need to remember that although the Bible is filled with stories about people who lived several thousand years ago, but ultimately these stories are my story and your story. The reason these stories are considered sacred and inspired is that they express the experience of salvation for all people for all time. As we read and pray the Bible, the ultimate act of interpretation is when we ask the question, "How is this my story?" Unless we take this step, the Bible will remain something impersonal and remote. When we ask this question, we open up a whole new relationship in our lives. Now God is not only speaking to Moses, Abraham, Jonah, Martha and Mary, Peter or the woman at the well. God is also speaking to us.

How is this story my story?

The Exodus event was not just about the journey of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. It is also the story of our own personal journey from the slavery of sin to the freedom we find in the place where we encounter God.

The story of Jonah and the large fish is not just about a cowardly man turned prophet. It is the story of what happens to us whenever we try to run from the will of God – we find that God can outrun us.

The stories of Jesus healing the blind, deaf, paralyzed, and unclean are not just tales of wonder from long ago. They are stories of how Jesus has the power to heal us when we cannot see, when our ears are closed, when we are paralyzed by fear, greed, or anger, and when we are stained by sin. The song, "Amazing Grace" personalized the experience by proclaiming, "I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see."

The story of Jesus appearing to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus is not longer just a mysterious story of two disciples who could not recognize the risen Christ. It becomes the story of how we seem to be unable to recognize the risen Christ in our midst until we listen to his word and break bread. In fact, only one of the disciples is given a name--Cleopas. Could it be that the author left the other disciple unnamed in order to help us insert ourselves into the story. We are the other disciple. We are often without a sense of where we are going. We have experienced pain and loss. We are unable to recognize the presence of Christ even though he walks with us. It is only when the disciples share the scriptures and then gather around the table to break bread, that their eyes and hearts were opened, and they recognized the Lord in their midst.

- The story of the calming of the storm is about how Jesus either calms the storms in our lives or reminds us of our faith and that he is with us in the storm.
- The story of the man born blind is the story of how we need to see with Jesus' eyes.
- The story of the rising of Lazarus is the story of how each of us is dead, bound, buried and in need of being called forth to new life.
- The story of the passion, death and the resurrection of Jesus is the story of how we come to be born again only by dying to our old selves.
- The story of the Pentecost is the story of how we are gifted and sent forth by the Spirit to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to others.

How is this MY Story?