

Lenten Reflection

Thursday, February 18, 2016

By Associate Judi Boone



"Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find."

The Scripture of Matthew 7:7-12 has such a special meaning to me. It is a truly providential Scripture. So many times in my life I have been at the door knocking. I have been afraid or upset and I have gone to the door. I learned over the years the power of asking for the things of this world that I need or desire. I have learned that my prayers are heard. That was an amazing realization to me. My prayers are heard !!!

Then I learned that they are answered according to the Holy Will of the Lord. When a prayer is not answered it is because the answer is not something that would be to the good of me. I learned to come to the Lord boldly asking through praying. Not to be afraid to ask or to feel as though I am bothering the Lord and not to give up when a prayer goes unanswered, or so it seems. The Lord truly does work in mysterious ways. Those of us who are strong believers know that there are no coincidences. Everything is guided by. Everything is planned.

The love and guidance of the Lord and of His teachings are there for all of us. Walking in the way of the Lord is much different than walking in the ways of the world. The Lord knows our hearts, our shortcomings and our weaknesses. It is so easy to judge others, to say "Oh, I know them," or "I know what they would do." No, you do not. Only the Lord knows us that well. The rest is our own projections onto that other person. Focus on yourself -- you are the person you know. Ask the Lord to help you to be a more tolerant and open person. The door is there for all of us. We are human and we all have times of strife and many other things that we do not like. The Hand of the Lord is there for us. The Law of God is there and it will guide us.

No one has a monopoly - there are no favorites with the Lord - we are equal in His eyes. Walking in the way of the Lord is there and He will guide us.

We have to be open to see the blessings all around us. We have to be less self-focused and more aware of the people, gifts and blessings that are present in our daily lives. We also need to live by the law of the Lord. Being cheerful givers, concerned neighbors and positive stewards of each other is what we are called to do. Help each other and care about each other. There are many ways to have the door open to us and kindness is one of these.

"...knock and the door shall be open unto you, hallelu, hallelujah!"