

Day 10 Devotion

*My child, if your heart is wise, then my heart too will be happy.
My inner being will rejoice when your lips speak with integrity.
Don't let your heart envy sinners, but fear the LORD constantly;
then you will have a future, and your hope won't be cut off.*

Proverbs 23: 15-18

January 2021 a new dawn, a new beginning has given me pause to better understand the disparities which are so transparent in our society today. Questions abound in my mind with regard to economic poverty which produces homelessness, joblessness, poor quality of learning for our most precious gifts- our children-our future! How do they develop a moral compass when all around them is a breakdown of what is right from wrong? Are they being shown the ways of a loving God - loving neighbors - sharing an overall good will towards men? Would they be able to discern the meaning of Justice or only be concerned with 'just us'?

I had a dream in which I came out of retirement (after twenty years) and was back in the classroom teaching high school English, where one of my tasks was to teach and give guidance to the writing of a three to five paragraph essay. Students were to be given writing prompts to get them started. The prompts I chose were words that have consequences whether spoken or written. I introduced the list with "The I's Have It". The list included: ILLNESS - INCRIMINATE - INCITE - INTIMIDATE - INSURRECTION - INTERPRET - IMPEACH - IMPEDE - INNAUGURATION. They were to develop definitions and/or examples as I walked them through a two-to-three-day process. First, they would have to brainstorm; then they would have to begin the development, and for each step they would be monitored and given due credit for their progress- THEME and/ or TOPIC SENTENCES were chosen, and we would go from there. Critical thinking skills were to be put into play until the final project was complete! My students had an opportunity to express themselves realizing that words are easily spoken/written and hopefully realize that they must do work that God has called them to do.

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Words like the 'I' prompts above drive us into the desert of distractions and temptations to sinful thought. Incite in us a spirit to love as you love, Lord, to bring down mountains and exalt valleys overcoming disparities, to make straight the way of justice and so to rest in your smile. Amen

Prompt:

Enter my dream, choose one of the 'I' prompts, let thoughts come forward, center on the relevant themes and topics of your experience, with that word. In your essay consider disparities, listen to the brokenhearted, give good will and Smile!