

Parenting Pointers by Susan Vogt

Additional life skills your teen needs before leaving home: *Good Social Skills and Manners, Auto Maintenance, Essential Domestic Skills, Being a Good Judge of Character, and Work Skills and Basic Responsibility.* Any teen will flub these goals occasionally. That is what you are there for -- the training period. ~ Dana Hall McCain

~ *Reading Reflections* ~

Jeremiah 20:7-9
Romans 12:1-2
Matthew 16:21-27

Jeremiah 20 catches the prophet Jeremiah in a moment of weakness. His intimate lamentation contains some of the strongest language of doubt found in the Bible. Following God's call, he feels abandoned. Preaching His Word has brought him only derision and reproach, but God does not deceive - and Jeremiah knows this. He tests the just (v11-12), and disciplines His children through their sufferings and trials (Hebrews 12:5-7).

What Jeremiah learns Jesus states explicitly in the Gospel. To follow Him is to take up a cross, to deny yourself: your priorities, preferences, and comforts. It is to be willing to give it all up, even life itself, for the sake of His Gospel. As Paul says, we have to join ourselves to the passion of Christ, to offer our bodies - our whole beings - as living sacrifices to God. By His cross, Jesus has shown us what Israel's sacrifices of animals were meant to teach - that we owe to God all that we have.

The psalm proclaims God's kindness is a greater good than life itself. The only thanks we can offer is our spiritual worship - to give our lives to the service of His will.

Peter doesn't yet get this in Matthew 16. As it was for Jeremiah, the cross is a stumbling block for Peter (see 1 Corinthians 1:23). This too is our natural temptation - to refuse to believe that our sufferings play a necessary part in God's plan. That's how people think Jesus tells us, but we are called to the renewal of our minds - to think as God thinks, to will what He wills. In the Mass we once again offer ourselves as perfect and pleasing sacrifices of praise: we bless Him as we live, confident that we will find our lives in losing them, that with the riches of His banquet, our souls will be satisfied.

Dr. Scott Hahn

O Holy One,

Blessed be these hands that have touched life.

Blessed be these hands that have nurtured creativity.

Blessed be these hands that have held pain.

*Blessed be these hands that have embraced with
passion.*

Blessed be these hands that have tended gardens.

Blessed be these hands that have closed in anger.

Blessed be these hands that have planted new seeds.

*Blessed be these hands that have cleaned, washed,
mopped, scrubbed.*

Blessed be these hands that are knotty with age.

*Blessed be these hands that are wrinkled and scarred
from doing justice.*

*Blessed be these hands that have reached out and
been received.*

*Blessed be these hands that hold the promise of the
future.*

Blessed be the works of Your hands. Amen

Marriage Moments by Susan Vogt

Isn't it ironic that Labor Day is a holiday ... when many people get a break from their ordinary jobs ... still, someone has to cook, clean up, take care of kids, or work around the house. Perhaps make this Labor Day a day to do those chores t(w)gether as a team.

Faith Formation

Catechist Formation: Formation may be conveniently done at home online at:

mycatholicfaithdelivered.com/Albany

Catechists needed: Please consider helping -- training and teacher's guides are provided as well as personal support. Class assistants are always needed. Contact Father or call either office. *Pass your faith on!*