



# Daily Reflections

**October 19, 2016**

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## Scripture

### **Ephesians 3:2-12**

Brothers and sisters:

You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly earlier.

When you read this

you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to human beings in other generations as it has now been revealed

to his holy Apostles and prophets by the Spirit, that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same Body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.

Of this I became a minister by the gift of God's grace that was granted me in accord with the exercise of his power.

To me, the very least of all the holy ones, this grace was given,

to preach to the Gentiles the inscrutable riches of Christ,  
and to bring to light for all what is the plan of the mystery  
hidden from ages past in God who created all things,  
so that the manifold wisdom of God  
might now be made known through the Church  
to the principalities and authorities in the heavens.  
This was according to the eternal purpose  
that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
in whom we have boldness of speech  
and confidence of access through faith in him.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Paul makes it very clear to us that his calling was not the result of any initiative or effort on his part. Rather, Christ Jesus called him and sent him to the Gentiles. Because of this, Paul has a "boldness of speech." He is inspired and motivated to speak on behalf of Jesus Christ by Jesus Christ Himself. Would that all of us who claim to be disciples manifested the same "boldness of speech" in witnessing to Our Lord!

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## **Food for your Journey**

It doesn't take a theological degree to witness to the faith. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, pioneer psychologist of death and dying, tells the story of one very ordinary person who sowed hope everywhere she went, just by telling her story.

The doctor was visiting terminally-ill patients in a hospital, interviewing them and noting their outlook on life. One ward in particular seemed filled with patients who were relentlessly sunny, upbeat, positive about their condition -- even though their medical prognoses were no better than anyone else's.

After much investigation, Kübler-Ross managed to identify the single common denominator, the one factor those hopeful patients shared in common. It was one particular cleaning woman.

"What are you doing with my patients?" Kübler-Ross demanded to know, once she'd caught up with her.

Initially the woman was hesitant to answer. She was sure she'd done something wrong. After the doctor reassured her, she revealed that she took extra time to sit with the patients and hold their hands. Often, she shared with them the story of how she had held her own dying child on her lap, and how death no longer held any fear for her. "But you see, doctor," she explained, "the dying patients are just like old acquaintances to me, and I'm not afraid to touch them, to talk with them, to offer them hope."

In all her years of medical school, Kübler-Ross had never learned this sort of therapy. Who could teach it in the classroom, anyway? Even if you taught medical students to memorize the cleaning woman's words and parrot them back, they wouldn't have the ring of authenticity. In pushing her broom in and out of those rooms and gently demonstrating how death is simply a part of life, this woman of faith made of her own story a therapeutic treatment.

--Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, *Life Lessons: Two Experts in Death and Dying Teach Us about the Mysteries of Death and Living* (Scribner, 2001), 54.

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## **Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, You courageously gave Your life for me on Calvary. Remove my fear and self-concern so that I may courageously witness to You in word and deed. Amen.