

Friday 7/6 Noon

Slide 5: Joshua 24:15 as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

This is a reminder that we will begin every day (tomorrow, Monday and Tuesday) at 9 a.m. with music and meditations. Our mornings will end just before lunch with shorter mini-meditations. My meditations will follow the path of the Heroine's journey. We will hear the stories of some of the spiritual heroines in our tradition, women who have gone before us and on whose shoulders we stand. These women will serve as our guideposts along the way. I hope you will join us at 9 each of these mornings.

This morning we remembered Queen Emma of Hawai'i, whose sense of place and commitment to her home reminds us to know who we are and to whom we belong. At this time, I invite you to close your eyes and picture Home. It may be the house you grew up in, or the house or apartment you currently live in. Or maybe the place you envision as "home" is not your home at all...maybe it is your church, or your grandmother's farm, or maybe it is some other safe place. Let us take a few minutes of silence to invite the Holy Spirit into these questions. Listen to your breathing, deepen your breath. I will ring the bowl when it's time to open your eyes. *Ring singing bowl (app)*

When we are called to "Go" in the name of God, first we must be aware of our starting place. Where are we starting out from? To whom do we belong? Who am I? Our scriptures are full of going. Abraham and Sarah went from their land as God commanded them to. Jacob's father sent him to find a wife for himself. The Hebrew people were told to escape Egypt, to be freed from their slavery. When the women came to the tomb of Jesus and found not a dead body but their living Lord, he told them to go and give the news to the disciples. The apostle Peter was told in a dream to go to the home a Gentile. Here is the thing: they all said yes. And so must we.

Life is a quest, a journey. God does not call us and intend for us to stay in one place spiritually. God always calls us onward, on the quest. But of course that's hard, isn't it? It is easier to stay home, so many obstacles to getting up and going. The same goes for a heroine's relationship with God. Maybe it's been a while since her faith felt new. She may remember the very day she found the Lord, or maybe she looks longingly back to a season of life when God felt particularly alive to her. She may have had special, mountain-top experiences like Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, a retreat at a camp or a monastery. But now: meh. Easier just to sit here.

At first the heroine is fine at home. She may be restless, but pretty much things are okay. She may sing a song that someday her prince will come or bemoan the fact that nothing ever happens in her little town. Life has settled into familiar patterns, nothing much is new under the sun. And then, something causes her to leave home: a call, a crisis, a catalyst. She gets hurt, is betrayed, or receives news of injury or illness, or someone dies. This kind of crisis is life-changing, and our heroine is hurt and disillusioned. There comes a moment of decision. She has the urge to run away or deny the reality. She feels fear and anger. The movement of the Holy Spirit may well be interpreted as an annoyance.

We must move from status quo to renewed union with God. We are on a journey home to the heart of God. The journey to God is an ongoing, eternal spiral with no end. The path not only has no end, it gets higher as we come to know God and ourselves better and better. The choice facing our heroine is whether to go, or not. To go higher, or not. Will our heroine choose to maintain the status quo, or will she respond to the voice she may be hearing? Will she be brave enough to head off on an adventure toward new life in Christ? Tune in tomorrow.

Let us pray.

The grace of God be with you, the grace of Christ be with you, the grace of Spirit be with you and with your children, for an hour, forever, for eternity. God's blessing be yours, and well may it befall you; Christ's blessing be yours, and well be you entreated; Spirit's blessing be yours, and well spend you your lives, each day that you rise up, each night that you lie down. Amen. (*Source: The Celtic Vision: Prayers, Blessings, Songs and Invocations from the Gaelic Tradition, Esther de Waal, editor. Liguori Press 1988*)