

09-01-24 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“At the heart of this passage from Mark is the reality that we can so easily get lost in human-made rules and rituals that we lose sight of following God from a faithful heart steeped in the word of God.”

Enuma Okoro



Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Questions for Reflection —

- What is the present condition of your heart? Of what does your heart need to be cleansed in order to make more room for God's love? What will help the word of God take root in your heart? What does it mean for you to follow God in your heart? How does the love of God that you hold in your heart manifest in your words and actions? Are there any discrepancies?

- What rules and priorities govern your life presently? What holy habits encourage you in faithful living? How do those holy habits deepen your sense of God's presence with you? How do they impact your relationships with loved ones as well as with strangers? What additional practices might help you develop more meaningful relationships with God and with your neighbors?

- What role have religious traditions and rituals played in your faith development? What do you view as some of the most significant traditions and practices of our faith community? How do those rituals and customs help to form our identity as a congregation? What do our traditions and practices reveal about our values? Do you think there are some traditions and customs that no longer serve us well? How can we best discern when/how to let go so we can be more open to all that God has for us as God's people?

Daily Household Prayer

O God, you have bound us together in this life. Give us grace to understand how our lives depend on the courage, the industry, the honesty, and the integrity of all who labor. May we be mindful of their needs, grateful for their faithfulness, and faithful in our responsibilities to them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.