



Tuesday Praying Scripture with the Imagination

John 8:12-16 New International Version (NIV)

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." ¹³ The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid." ¹⁴ Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. ¹⁶ But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me.

God has given the gift of imagination to us and it can draw us closer to Him. This type of prayer experience works well where there action is taking place in scripture. It is a way of helping us to enter into the scene that scripture describes. We can use all our senses and imagination as we read the scripture to help us to understand more deeply.

The context for the scripture passage today is set at the beginning of the chapter as *"He (Jesus) appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them."* And again after the passage: *²⁰ He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put.*

Use this context to help you with today's prayer experience:

1. Begin by being aware of yourself in the loving presence of God.
2. Read through the passage two or three times until you are familiar with the story.
3. Take your time to imagine the scene, see everything that is around, hear, feel, smell and taste.
4. Place yourself into the picture and become one of the characters. You might be a bystander; or one of the central characters or simply enter into the action as yourself. Imagine the atmosphere and what people might be feeling.
5. Let yourself be drawn naturally into conversation with Jesus or another participant.
6. Stay in the scene for as long as you have chosen to, and then draw the prayer to a close.