

Things the Poor Have Taught Me About God

When I first came to the breadline, I quietly believed I was bringing God to the poor.
I don't believe that anymore.
One afternoon in the shelter, a woman dropped her tray.
Food everywhere. Coffee on the floor.
The whole room went silent.
She froze. I saw the shame hit her like a wave. You could read it on her face: I'm a problem.
I'm in the way. I shouldn't be here.
Before I could move, another guest—coat torn, shoes held together with tape—stood up.
He didn't sigh. He didn't roll his eyes. He didn't lecture her about being careful.
He just knelt in the puddle of coffee and soup and started cleaning with his own napkins.
"It's okay," he told her. "We've all dropped something."
No halo. No hymn. Just a man on his knees in someone else's mess, acting like this was the most normal place in the world to show kindness.
That moment has done more to teach me about God than a shelf of books.
Because if God is anything like Jesus, then God doesn't wait for us to be neat and respectable.
God doesn't stand at a distance with folded arms.
God steps into the spill.
Onto the sticky floor.
Right beside the one who's sure they've ruined everything.
I thought I was bringing God to the poor.
Most days now, I just try to pay attention.
Because God is already here.

- RHYAN SCORPIO-RHYS

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

This book particularly deals with how God gave the mantel over to Moses servant and warrior Joshua. Moses was now deceased, God gave instructions to Joshua to claim the promised Land that He has promised to the Israelites. "Haven't I commanded you to be strong and courageous, I will be with you just as I was with my servant Moses". God is instructing us in the same way today. We are to walk by faith and claim the victory that His son JESUS has already accomplished for us on the cross. When Jesus died, we died with him. When he rose from the Dead, we rose with him. That same Spirit that was in Christ is also in us. So today "claim" the victory in Christ Jesus. Be strong and courageous.

-RODNEY WISE

"The Light Behind the Lens"

Eli Matthews was a rising Hollywood film producer chasing fame, but the higher he climbed, the emptier he felt. One night, after another red-carpet premiere, he broke down and prayed, "God, what am I doing with my life?" In that moment, he felt Jesus calling him back—not to success, but to surrender. Leaving the industry behind, Eli returned home and spent months rediscovering his faith. When a small church asked him to help produce a short film for their youth ministry, he agreed. The film was simple, but its message of redemption moved hearts, leading people to tears and prayer. That night, Eli realized his purpose wasn't to chase the spotlight but to carry God's light. He founded Crown & Cross Films, dedicated to telling faith-filled stories that glorify Jesus. When asked why he walked away from fame, he smiled and said, "True success isn't in the spotlight—it's at the foot of the Cross."

-CALEB THOMPSON

STREET VOICES

St. Francis Breadline
Franciscan Bread for the Poor
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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If you have any content to share for our newsletter please see one of the breadline staff. **We are in need of content such as a poem, lyrics, writing, thoughts, questions, image of your artwork or anything uplifting or informative.** Anyone who contributes content for our newsletter will receive a \$10 gift card.

The St. Francis Breadline and this publication is made possible by the Our Lady of Guadalupe.

FRANCISCAN 360 IS OPEN!

WHAT: Case Management, Computer Access, Mailing Address

WHERE: 144 W. 32nd Street

WHEN: Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 4pm
Scheduled appointments only on Friday from 9am - 4pm

WHO: All are welcome!

Good Morning! This week we have words of encouragement from Jane Farmer, a poem from SL, work from Kaleena A., writing from JF, a piece from Rhyan Scorpio-Rhys, reflection on scripture from Rodney Wise, a short story from Caleb Thompson, a short poem from Henry Yee, writing from Kay A., a piece from Kyle Lyford and art from Honesty and Carol S.

LUKE 1:52

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

Be the first person to correctly answer all three trivia questions and win a gift card.

What is the largest living structure on Earth that can be seen from space?

What is the only metal that is liquid at room temperature?

Which animal is the only known mammal capable of true sustained flight?

Answers to last weeks trivia questions.

The first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade didn't feature balloons. What animals were used instead? Answer: Live animals borrowed from the Central Park Zoo

What was the name of the Native American who taught the Pilgrims how to cultivate corn and survive the winter? Answer: Squanto

Which U.S. president received the first informal "turkey pardon"? Answer: John F. Kennedy



Drawing by Honesty

I sit back, calm and still, watching people pass by day after day. In those quiet moments, I reflect and ask myself: Who am I? Where do I fit in this big, but somehow small, world?

Sometimes I feel like I'm losing who I am as a person. Maybe we all feel that way at times.

As I watch people go by, I think, I used to be like that. Then I realize, I allowed myself to fall away from that version of me.

But I am a fighter. I will not be silent, and I will not be alone in this. I have to fight for who I am and what I believe in.

I am who I am. My words. My body. My family. That is me.

I know I have to start small, take the baby steps before I can take the big ones. And it's okay not to be alone. For so long, I thought it wasn't.

Now, I look at everyone with hope and faith. I take a deep breath, because God always has me.

-SL

Truth

Truth is a little light,
Shining in the night.

Sometimes hard to see,
But always there for me.

Truth is a quiet sound,
Heard on sacred ground.

Honest, clear, and bright,
Guiding me daily life.

-HENRY YEE

I Believe

Jesus my supreme commander, lord of lords, king of kings, son of a man, the only one born without sin. Flesh of my flesh, kin of his kin, he can take one fish and grant your wish of feeding your starving village!! He shines like a diamond, doesn't make you wait or put your soul on consignment.

His mother Mary, the pure virgin, Queen of Peace. Joseph his carpenter mentor father had to believe the Holy Spirit that his wife was pregnant and did not cheat. What a feat and test of trust, of faith. It must of been to stand behind his wife and lead on in life, to not stress or strife or doubt even with others snickering, stammering and the devil sneering disbelief for relief.

- KYLE LYFORD



Painting by Carol

“Trophies in bloom”

Ornaments appear in the air yellow of circle radius tales project parade images gliding closer and closer to rhythm of music laughter and cheering as the crowd close to silence in memory of what event like “Trophies in bloom”

“In the evening of gratitude mass organization, dress in lavish cultural design feast large at sun down miles long cultural values state and happiness succeed the night confetti falls from high in the sky fancy hats with party horns salute with champagne toast cheers to the days on time the ball drops a blink of history to store away like trophies in Bloom.”

-KALEENA A.

The greatest successes are often followed by great failures because with every failure, you learn and you grow.

You become a stronger, more experienced person with a past of mistakes and learning lessons behind you that has manifested into wisdom. You take this newfound knowledge of life and the ways of the world and use it to guide you through every challenge presented to you. It's easy to doubt yourself when it feels like life isn't going your way and nothing is working out in your favor, but you have to remember that there is someone high above us with our best interests in mind. There is someone out there ensuring our protection and would never throw anything our way without purpose. You are in the process of learning all that you were meant to in this lifetime. You are becoming the person God intended you to be. Day-by-day you are slowly growing, gaining experience, and pushing through the storm you're in the middle of. Never lose faith in God and never lose hope that things will get better. Always keep in mind that some of the greatest minds humanity has ever seen struggled and fought and won. Through faith and perseverance, anything is possible.

-JF

INSPIRE

“Life small of favor from seed to sprout each branch full of love and care.”

“Tokens in place building friendships between companions each petal holding the key.”

“Success measures growth the stage by levels of responsibility equal development.”

“Honor granting those who extend to win values bonds so great.”

“From seed to sprout trusting life small of favor beauty relies on a grand source.”

“Rewarding self pride independence at peace an expression.”

“Advancement of opportunity more is expected with achievements.”

“Brave encouraging open arms to the world with an ego mastering its spark shows significant true importance.

Life small of favor from seed to sprout.” - KAY A.

There's no time like the present; the future is now. All you've ever dreamed of being and all you've ever wanted can be yours. With faith, hard work, and perseverance anything is possible. The new year is less than a month away at this point and it's time to start preparing our resolutions and working on getting a head start on fulfilling them. While we're capable of change at any point in time, what a great motivator the new year is to get our lives in order. The idea of a whole new 12 months ahead of us; a new chapter of our lives; a fresh start; another trip around the sun. We've agreed on January 1st being a new beginning with another 365 days of wonder and adventure awaiting us. The new year is particularly meaningful because our subconscious has been conditioned to believe in its importance, no matter how insignificant it truly is. We are therefore motivated to get up and make the most of the new journey to come. So it's time to start getting ready now. Make a list of what you hope to accomplish in 2026. Create bullet points detailing how you can go about achieving each goal. Start setting the foundation for what you plan to build in 2026 so by the time the new year rolls around you've already broken some ground and have a nice head start on your progress. This will help to keep you motivated in persisting and maintaining momentum long after the excitement of the new year passes. Wishing you a prosperous new year!

-JANE FARMER