

## WEEKLY WORD

Renee Noseworthy

### Readings for the week of Feb. 4/24:

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

In Mark's gospel, we read that when Jesus went off to pray alone, some of His followers were looking for Him. In Mark 1:37, it says, *"when they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you.""*

Jesus is no longer with us physically, but we do need to search for Him. Jeremiah 29:13 says, *"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."*

We can be hesitant to think there is any point to our searching. Our thoughts may be that "Jesus wouldn't want me anyway." The enemy of our Souls, Satan, is the father of lies after all. (John 8:44)

*But, in 1 Cor. 9:22, Paul says, "I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some".* In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul talks about the importance of spreading the gospel. So much so, that he learns to relate to different people, exactly where they are.

From this we get a very important lesson about our heavenly Father. When we seek Him earnestly, He will come to us, right where we are. He accepts us exactly as we are.

We have reason to rejoice wholeheartedly because Jesus will not only meet us where we are, but He loves us enough that he will lift us up, out of our former unclean state. He will transform us into new creations, as only He can do for us.

After that, our lives won't necessarily be problem free, but Jesus reassures us that, *"... In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* (John 16: 33b)