



Lent Reflection for Monday, March 6th

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Matthew 12:22-25

Then they brought to Jesus a demoniac who was blind and mute; and he cured him, so that the one who had been mute could speak and see. All the crowds were amazed and said, 'Can this be the Son of David?' But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, 'It is only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons, that this fellow casts out the demons.' He knew what they were thinking and said to them, 'Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.'

Today's reflection is by Keisha Lightbourne.

Negativity. Faithlessness. Why do we always go there first? The Pharisees spoke from a place of fear and doubt. Jesus had just performed a miracle. He made a blind, mute man able to see and speak. Instead of being joyful about this miracle, the Pharisees went straight to that negative place that we are all too often led to--fear. What were they so afraid of? Perhaps it was loss of power? Or loss of control? I cannot say, but I can totally empathize with the feeling.

So many times, in my life God has asked me to have faith and I have responded with fear. Fear of failure. Fear that I would lose control. Even, fear of others.

When I was in law school, I was half way across the country and knew no one in town. As an eager first year, I arrived early to get set up. Our first few days of orientation were spent getting to know our classmates and our professors. The first day I met a wonderful young lady, Connie, in passing. Within the first week of class I somehow got food poisoning so debilitating that I was whisked away to the hospital in an ambulance after passing out in class. Connie happened to be

nearby when the ambulance took me. She came to the hospital to visit me. She asked me what else I needed and I asked her to call my parents for me. She later took me home. This woman barely knew me, and when I asked her why she came to my rescue she simply said faith. We became the best of friends. We later won the negotiation competition our first year. I later served as maid of honor in her wedding.

Fear can be so paralyzing and blinding. It can block you from the all the goodness that God has in store for you. But when you open your heart and let faith guide you, good things happen.

God asks us to have faith. Faith is what casts out fear. Faith is rooted in love. The indomitable love that God has for us. So much so that he sent his only son into this world to be sacrificed and a beacon for us to find a path to God.

This Lenten season I plan to use love to bolster my faith and cast out fear. I want to have the faith to see all the good things that God has in store for my life and for those I love. I want to see the miracle that others doubt.

Keisha Lightbourne has been a member of Holy Apostles since 2017. She lives in Brooklyn and enjoys knitting, music, singing, and reading.

