

“I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me.” Paul describes how Christ has taken over him completely in his mind, attitudes, heart and actions. Christ fills his total being.

Here’s a ruler of 14 inches. (HOLD VERTICALLY) If we were to mark a spot on this ruler of how much Christ lives in us, where would we place ourselves? At 2, 7 or 10 inch mark? In all likelihood, the spot will vary from day-to-day, from moment-to-moment. Some days we have more of Christ present in us than on other days.

Our Readings offer us 3 areas whereby the Christ in us might grow and increase.

In the first Reading we have the prophet Nathan confronting King David for coveting another man’s wife. Coveting is immoral desiring. We can covet a person or a person’s belongings and possessions. The remedy for covetousness is gratitude. When we are grateful for the blessings and gifts we have received, the Christ within us increases. When we covet, the Christ within us diminishes. When we grow in gratitude, we grow in Christ.

In the first reading and Gospel, we have the action of forgiving. Nathan announces to King David that God forgives him his sins. In the Gospel, Jesus shares with Simon, his host, that the woman who loved much, has her many sins forgiven her. When God forgives us and when we forgive others, the Christ in us increases.

Accepting, not judging is a third way whereby the Christ in us might increase and grow. Jesus doesn’t judge the woman in the Gospel who was known as a sinner. He accepts her. It doesn’t mean he approves of her sins. He accepts her as she loves him. When we accept and refuse to judge ourselves or an other, the Christ in us blossoms and flourishes.

This week, allow the Christ within us to prosper. How? Express our gratitude for gifts received; forgive; accept one another and reject judging. By next weekend, our mark on the ruler may be higher (HOLD VERTICALLY) because the Christ within us has grown.

My sisters and brothers: God’s blessings on our labors!