

# Build the language of faith!



## CatholicQuiz of the Week™ Part A 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time September 3, 2023

1. What brought derision and reproach to Jeremiah and made him an object of laughter?
  - a. his speech impediment
  - b. the word of the LORD
  - c. his prediction of the destruction of Jerusalem
2. For Jeremiah, what was like fire burning in his heart that he could not hold within?
  - a. his love for his wife
  - b. his realization of impending doom
  - c. the word of the LORD
3. According to the psalmist, which is better than life?
  - a. peace in Israel
  - b. Temple worship
  - c. God's love
4. According to the Letter to the Romans, St. Paul urged his readers to conform themselves to the present age and to do what is good and pleasing for all.
  - a. True
  - b. False
5. Which disciple did Jesus rebuke and say, "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."
  - a. Peter
  - b. James
  - c. Judas
6. According to Matthew, what is the way to follow Jesus?
  - a. by challenging the Mosaic law
  - b. by taking up his cross
  - c. by preaching to the Gentiles
7. According to Jesus, "What profit would there be for one to gain \_\_\_\_\_ and forfeit his life?"
  - a. the pearl of great price
  - b. fame and fortune
  - c. the whole world

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## CatholicQuiz of the Week™ Part B 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time September 3, 2023

### Reflection and Discussion

"Like a fire burning in my heart," such was the passion of Jeremiah for the word of God over 2,500 years ago. What a spiritual gift to yearn so deeply for God's word, his truth and purpose! Today many struggle with a lack of spiritual direction and a loss of purpose or passion. But, this spiritual emptiness itself can be the first step toward a renewal that would be such a gift for our times. The song of the psalmist provides a vivid description of a longing for spiritual renewal: "... for you [O God] my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water." When we sense loss, poverty of spirit, and lack of depth or purpose in our lives, we become aware of the need for something "more."

- How does your spiritual life show itself in your daily interactions and activities?
- How often do you think about God and what God may want for you and your life?
- Are you a person with a strong sense of conscience and conviction about things that are right or wrong?
- How high is your tolerance for living in the gray area without moral certitude?
- What is most important for you in your life? What do you care about the most?

The Gospel today offers a hint as to where we can find spiritual purpose and passion. It is not in the easy, comfortable and superficial pursuits celebrated by so many media images of our age. Instead, it is more likely found in that place where we are willing to sacrifice, give of ourselves and extend personal effort. When we discover what we care about the most, we are closer to what the prophet Jeremiah experienced when he felt "fire in his heart." Whatever leads us to extend ourselves because of love, whatever brings us beyond ourselves and makes us desire with all our heart to achieve at the price of laying down our very life because of love, that is likely the place where God resides in us. What a spiritual gift to experience that fire!

### Answers and References

1. b. the word of the LORD (Jeremiah 20:8)
2. c. the word of the LORD (Jeremiah 20:9)
3. c. God's love (Psalm 63:4)
4. b. False (Romans 12:2)
5. a. Peter (Matthew 16:24)
6. b. by taking up his cross (Matthew 16:24)
7. a. the whole world (Matthew 16:26)

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