



## The Grace of Beauty: Its Mystery, Power, and Delight in Daily Life by Melannie Svoboda, SND

### Week 5 - Chapters 19-22

**Check in Question:** Describe one of your experiences as a person who offered service to another or others.

### Opening Prayer

Jesus, your gaze and touch and word empowered people to love and do service.

At your gaze, the fisherman left their nets on the shore, and Matthew walked away from his customs post, all to follow you. At your glance, Peter was moved to profound sorrow for his threefold denial of you.

At your touch, Peter's mother-in-law got up and began to serve; the dead son of the widow of Nain sat up and began to speak; the woman, bent over like a candy cane, stood up straight and tall and began to sing her praises of thanksgiving to God.

At your word, Lazarus stumbled forth from the darkness of the tomb, and the Zacchaeus climbed down from the Sycamore tree and changed his whole way of living. And Mary Magdalene, recognized your voice in the garden, ran back to the disciples with the good news of your resurrection.

Jesus, gaze upon us. Touch us. Speak our names, so we too may be empowered to follow you in joyful love and service.

Amen.

*(adapted from page 104-5)*

### Reflection questions:

*The questions from Sr. Melannie are thoughtful and good. Here are some of hers, along with a few additional ones. Please pick one or two and share your thoughts aloud.*

### Chapter 19: The beauty of service

1. When you think of the word service, what images or individuals come to mind? Why?
2. Think of a time when you were on the receiving end of someone's joyful service. Recalls some of the details of that experience. How did the experience make you feel?

### **Chapter 20: Beauty and Grief**

1. What have been some of the losses you have had to face in life? Did you grieve these losses? If so, how?
2. What has helped you deal with your own grief?
3. Have you ever helped someone else to deal with his or her grief? If so, what did you do to help?

### **Chapter 21: The Beauty of Humor**

1. What role does humour play in your life?
2. Recall a few humorous things that happened to you recently.

### **Chapter 22: Creating beauty of our own**

1. What are some of the ways you are bringing beauty into the world?
2. Identify a place where there is little or no beauty. How might you and others help bring beauty to that place?
3. Do you know someone who is good at bringing beauty into the world? If so, how does he or she do this?

### **Closing Prayer**

For whom and what shall we pray...

*How can I keep from singing?* By Audrey Assad and Chris Tomlin