



CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY  
FOR THE INCARCERATED  
FROM THE ORDER OF MALTA

# The Serving Brother

FALL 2015

Pope Francis' words to the prisoners at Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

## “Bring your wounds to Jesus Christ”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Good morning! I could not leave Bolivia without seeing you, without sharing that faith and hope which are the fruit of the love revealed on the cross of Christ. Thank you for welcoming me; I know that you have prepared yourselves for this moment and that you have been praying for me. I am deeply grateful for this.

In the words of Archbishop Jesús Juárez and in the testimonies of our brothers who have spoken, I have seen how pain does not stifle the hope deep within the human heart, and how life goes on, finding new strength even in the midst of difficulties.

You may be asking yourselves: “Who is this man standing before us?”

I would like to reply to that question with something absolutely certain about my own life. The man standing before you is a man who has experienced forgiveness. A man who was, and is, saved from his many sins. That is who I am. I don't have much more to give you or to offer you, but I want to share with you what I do have and what I love. It is Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Father.

Jesus came to show the love which God has for us. For you, for each of you, and for me. It is a love which is powerful and real. It is a love which takes seriously the plight of those he loves. It is a love which heals, forgives, raises up and shows concern. It is a love which draws near and restores dignity. We can lose this dignity in so many ways. But Jesus is stubborn: he gave his very life in order to restore the identity we had lost, to clothe us with the power of his dignity.

Here is something which can help us to understand this. Peter and Paul, disciples of Jesus, were also prisoners. They too lost their freedom. But there was something that sustained them, something that did not let them yield to despair, which did not let them sink into darkness and meaninglessness. That something was prayer; it was prayer. Prayer, both individually and with others. They prayed, and they prayed for one another. These two forms of prayer became a network to maintain life and hope. And that network keeps us from yielding to despair. It encourages us to

CONTINUED INSIDE, ON MIDDLE PAGE



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A Spiritual Message from Father George

## God is the ultimate recycler

Did you ever notice that in nature, nothing goes to waste? Everything eventually returns to the earth and is re-used for something else – even our bodies are made from recycled star dust.

Unfortunately though, human nature has not been good to Mother Nature. Ever since Adam and Eve left the garden, we humans have been busy turning what should be a paradise into a big toxic dump.

This edition of *The Serving Brother* is dedicated to the vision in our Catholic tradition that sees God's world as blessed and holy (see Genesis 1:31).

Saint Francis captured that vision so beautifully in his *Canticle of the Sun*: "Be praised, my Lord, through all Your creatures" is the line that inspired the title of Pope Francis' new Encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*.

As a Jesuit, Pope Francis has also been inspired by the spiritual insight of St. Ignatius of Loyola who counsels us to "Find God in all things." Everything God has created he created for Good. Sin and evil are the result of human beings' forgetting that God is at the center of all creation, not ourselves.

We have so much to learn from our Native American brothers and sisters who have not forgotten that God's creation is sacred – and that we are not above creation, but are very much part of it. If we abuse or destroy nature, we destroy ourselves.

I think at some point in our lives, ALL of us make a mess of things. We all manage to mess something up: our relationships get broken, our health, our sense of purpose, our dreams. We take the material of our life and we end up with a garbage dump. Luckily for us, God is a recycler.

A soda can be redeemed for 5 cents – a small amount – but our lives, our brokenness have been redeemed at an infinite price: the blood of Christ! Jesus died on the Cross to redeem us, taking what our sinful choices have ruined and bound them up in God's infinite love. That means Jesus Christ fully paid the price for our sinful choices; his blood on the cross makes us whole again.

For us Catholic Christians, we could say that to be born again means God has taken our brokenness and has found a way to use it for good. We have been recycled!

Sometimes what we think is useless in our lives, is wasted, lost or ruined God can turn around and recycle

# Mass readings

WEEK	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
<b>Aug 31- Sep 6</b>	1 Thes 4:13-18 Lk 4:16-30	1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11 Lk 4:31-37	Col 1:1-8 Lk 4:38-44	Col 1:9-14 Lk 5:1-11 <b>St Gregory the Great</b>	Col 1:15-20 Lk 5:33-39	Col 1:21-23 Lk 6:1-5	Is 35:4-7a Jas 2:1-5 Mk 7:31-37
<b>Sept 7-13</b>	Col 1:24–2:3 Lk 6:6-11	Mi 5:1-4a Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 <b>Nativity of the Blessed Virgin</b>	Col 3:1-11 Lk 6:20-26 <b>St Peter Claver</b>	Col 3:12-17 Lk 6:27-38	1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14 Lk 6:39-42	1 Tm 1:15-17 Lk 6:43-49 <b>The Most Holy Name of Mary</b>	Is 50:5-9a Jas 2:14-18 Mk 8:27-35
<b>Sept 14-20</b>	Nm 21:4b-9 Phil 2:6-11 Jn 3:13-17 [1]	1 Tm 3:1-13 Jn 19:25-27 <b>Our Lady of Sorrows</b>	1 Tm 3:14-16 Lk 7:31-35 <b>Sts Cornelius &amp; Cyprian</b>	1 Tm 4:12-16 Lk 7:36-50 <b>St Robert Bellarmine</b>	1 Tm 6:2c-12 Lk 8:1-3	1 Tm 6:13-16 Lk 8:4-15 <b>St Januarius</b>	Wis 2:12, 17-20 Jas 3:16–4:3 Mk 9:30-37
<b>Sept 21-27</b>	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 Mt 9:9-13 <b>St Matthew</b>	Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20 Lk 8:19-21	Ezr 9:5-9 Lk 9:1-6 <b>St Pius of Pietrelcina</b>	Hg 1:1-8 Lk 9:7-9	Hg 2:1-9 Lk 9:18-22	Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a Lk 9:43b-45 <b>Sts Cosmas and Damian</b>	Nm 11:25-29 Jas 5:1-6 Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48
<b>Sept 28-Oct 4</b>	Zec 8:1-8 Lk 9:46-50 [2]	Rv 12:7-12a Jn 1:47-51 [3]	Neh 2:1-8 Lk 9:57-62 <b>St Jerome</b>	Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12 Lk 10:1-12 [4]	Bar 1:15-22 (45f) Mt 18:1-5, 10 <b>The Holy Guardian Angels</b>	Bar 4:5-12, 27-29 Lk 10:17-24	Gn 2:18-24 Heb 2:9-11 Mk 10:2-16
<b>Oct 5-11</b>	Jon 1:1–2:2, 11 Lk 10:25-37 <b>Bl Francis Xavier See-los</b>	Jon 3:1-10 Lk 10:38-42 <b>Bl Bruno, Bl Marie-Rose Durocher</b>	Jon 4:1-11 Lk 11:1-4 <b>Our Lady of the Rosary</b>	Mal 3:13-20b Lk 11:5-13	Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2 Mt 11:15-26 <b>St Denis &amp; Companions; St John Leonardi</b>	Jl 4:12-21 Lk 11:27-28	Wis 7:7-11 Heb 4:12-13 Mk 10:17-30
<b>Oct 12-18</b>	Rom 1:1-7 Lk 11:29-32	Rom 1:16-25 Lk 11:37-41	Rom 2:1-11 Lk 11:42-46 <b>St Callistus I</b>	Rom 3:21-30 Lk 11:47-54 <b>St Teresa of Jesus</b>	Rom 4:1-8 Lk 12:1-7 <b>St Hedwig; St Margaret Mary Alacoque</b>	Rom 4:13, 16-18 Lk 12:8-12 <b>St Ignatius of Antioch</b>	Is 53:10-11 Heb 5:1-6 Mk 10:46-52
<b>Oct 19-25</b>	Rom 4:20-25 Lk 12:13-21 <b>Sts John de Brébeuf &amp; Isaac Jogues</b>	Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21 Lk 12:35-38 [5]	Rom 6:12-18 Lk 12:39-48	Rom 6:19-23 Lk 12:49-53 <b>St John Paul II</b>	Rom 7:18-25a Lk 12:54-59 <b>St John of Capistrano</b>	Rom 8:1-11 Lk 13:1-9 <b>St Anthony Mary Claret</b>	Jer 31:7-9 Heb 5:1-6 Mk 10:46-52
<b>Oct 26-Nov 1</b>	Rom 8:12-17 Lk 13:10-17	Rom 8:18-25 Lk 13:18-21	Eph 2:19-22 Lk 6:12-16 <b>Sts Simon and Jude</b>	Rom 8:31b-39 Lk 13:31-35	Rom 9:1-5 Lk 14:1-6	Rom 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29 Lk 14:1, 7-11	Rv 7:2-4, 9-14 1Jn 3:1-3 Mt 5:1-12a [6]
<b>Nov 2-8</b>	Wis 3:1-9 Rom 5:5-11 Jn 6:37-40 [7]	Rom 12:5-16b Lk 14:15-24 <b>St Martin de Porres</b>	Rom 13:8-10 Lk 14:25-33 <b>St Charles Borromeo</b>	Rom 14:7-12 Lk 15:1-10	Rom 15:14-21 Lk 16:1-8	Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27 Lk 16:9-15	1 Kgs 17:10-16 Heb 9:24-28 Mk 12:38-44
<b>Nov 9-15</b>	Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 1Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17 Jn 2:13-22 [8]	Wis 2:23–3:9 Lk 17:7-10 <b>St Leo the Great</b>	Wis 6:1-11 Lk 17:11-19 <b>St Martin of Tours</b>	Wis 7:22b–8:1 Lk 17:20-25 <b>St Josephat</b>	Wis 13:1-9 Lk 17:26-37 <b>St Frances Xavier Cabrini</b>	Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9 Lk 18:1-8	Dn 12:1-3 Heb 10:11-14, 18 Mk 13:24-32
<b>Nov 16-22</b>	1Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63 Lk 18:35-43 [9]	2 Mc 6:18-31 Lk 19:1-10 <b>St Elizabeth of Hungary</b>	Acts 28:11-16, 30-31 Mt 14:22-33 [10]	1 Mc 2:15-29 Lk 19:41-44	1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59 Lk 19:45-48	1 Mc 6:1-13 Lk 20:27-40 <b>Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	Dn 7:13-14 Rv 1:5-8 Jn 18:33b-37 [11]
<b>Nov 23-29</b>	Dn 1:1-6, 8-20 Lk 21:1-4 <b>St Columban</b>	Dn 2:31-45 Lk 21:5-11 <b>St Andrew Dũng-Lac &amp; Companions</b>	Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28 Lk 21:12-19 [12]	Dn 6:12-28 Lk 21:20-28	Dn 7:2-14 Lk 21:29-33	Dn 7:15-27 Lk 21:34-36	Jer 33:14-16 1Thes 3:12–4:2 Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Note: **Solemnities** in red, **Feast days** in gold and **Memorials** in green, in celebration of the saint/event shown. [1] **The Exaltation of the Holy Cross** [2] **Sts Wenceslaus, Lawrence Ruiz and Companions** [3] **Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels** [4] **Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus** [5] **St Paul of the Cross** [6] **All Saints' Day** [7] **All Souls' Day** [8] **The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica** [9] **St Margaret of Scotland; St Gertrude** [10] **Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts Peter & Paul** [11] **Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe** [12] **St Catherine of Alexandria**

into something beautiful. For example, some of the best human beings I have ever met have been convicts or alcoholics and heroin addicts at some point in their lives. But God took their brokenness and turned it into something beautiful. Our society takes people and throws them away in prisons like they are no longer valued. But God values every human being. Nothing, I repeat, nothing goes to waste in Christ.

No matter how big a mess we have made of things, no matter how big the garbage dump of our lives – God has the power to transform all that into something beautiful beyond our imagination. ✝

Father George T. Williams SJ, Editor of The Serving Brother, is Chaplain of San Quentin State Prison. Opened in July 1852, San Quentin is the oldest prison in California, and houses over 4,200 men, including more than 650 on death row.

# Things to Know and Share

## About Pope Francis' Environmental Encyclical

by Jimmy Akin

Pope Francis recently published an eagerly awaited document that states the Church's position on current environmental issues. Here is some information about what he says in it.

### 1) What are the basic facts about this encyclical?

An encyclical is a teaching document issued by the pope. Encyclicals are important papal documents. This one is called *Laudato Si'* ("Praise be to you") – a line from the Canticle of the Sun by St. Francis of Assisi. The encyclical is devoted to ecology and related themes.

### 2) Why did Pope Francis write this encyclical?

Pope Francis believes that there are serious ecological problems today that need to be addressed. They include not only problems in the natural environment but also in human society, especially as our actions affect the poorest people.

### 3) What is unique about this encyclical?

*Laudato Si'* is the first encyclical addressed to every person on the planet, rather than just to Catholics. Because Catholics make up one billion of the Earth's seven billion people, for the first time ever they are a minority of its intended audience.

Encyclicals are usually centered on Catholic doctrine. While *Laudato Si'* does contain many elements of Catholic teaching, it is not focused on Church doctrine in the same way.

The encyclical does not simply propose views that all are expected to accept because of the pope's religious authority. Instead, he invites the people of the world to a dialogue on the subject of environmentalism, writing: "In this

encyclical, I would like to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home."

### 4) What does the encyclical contain?

Following a brief introduction, there are six chapters:

1. *What Is Happening to Our Common Home*
2. *The Gospel of Creation*
3. *The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis*
4. *Integral Ecology*
5. *Lines of Approach and Action*
6. *Ecological Education and Spirituality*

### 5) What does the pope mean by "integral ecology"?

For an ecology to be integral, or complete, it needs to include "human ecology" as well as natural ecology. In other words, talking about ecology has to include both nature and mankind's needs.

### 6) What ecological problems does the encyclical focus on?

1. Pollution and climate change
2. The issue of water
3. Loss of biodiversity (the extinction of plants and animals)
4. Decline in the quality of human life and the breakdown of society
5. Global inequality

### 7) Many in the media have been talking about what the encyclical has to say on global warming. How big a theme is this?

While global warming is one of the themes in the document, it would be a mistake to think of this as a "global-warming encyclical." The document goes into much more than that.

### 8) What does the encyclical say about global warming?

Concerning the idea that the climate

is getting warmer in general, the pope writes: “A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. In recent decades this warming has been accompanied by a constant rise in the sea level and, it would appear, by an increase of extreme weather events . . . Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it.”

The pope sees there is “a very solid scientific consensus” regarding the idea of global warming. He is more cautious on the question of whether it is due to human activity. He says only that “a number of scientific studies” indicate that “most” recent warming is due to greenhouse gasses, and he also cites deforestation as a contributing cause.

### **9) Does this mean that Catholics are obliged to believe in manmade global warming?**

No. This is in the scientific section of the encyclical, and the pope points to scientific studies – not religious sources – to back up the views he is proposing.

Whether the Earth is getting warmer and the degree to which we may be responsible for that are matters of science, not faith. They stand or fall by the scientific evidence, which is why the pope appeals to scientific studies.

This is a subject on which there can be a difference of opinion among Catholics and among people in general.

### **10) Why would the pope take up a scientific matter like this?**

Because there are practical and moral consequences. If the science of the day points to things that may cause immense suffering in the future, there is a moral and practical need to address that fact. Pope Francis feels that present science is strong enough to cause him to sound the alarm bell in this regard.

### **11) Can I just dismiss the encyclical if I don't believe in manmade global warming?**

If you are a Catholic, no. Even if it deals in part with matters of a scientific nature, it also talks about matters of faith and morals upon which the pope is speaking with his authority.

Because this document involves more of a mix of the religious and the scientific than most Church documents, believers may need to think more carefully than usual about these issues, but one cannot simply dismiss what the pope says when it comes to matters of Church teaching.

Indeed, believers should not adopt a hostile attitude toward this document. Even if they hold different views on some of the scientific matters the pope touches on, they should seek to find as much as possible in the document that is good and useful.

### **12) Does the pope say things that are critical of secular environmentalism that is popular in the media?**

Yes, he rejects approaches that:

- Treat mankind as if people are harmful to the environment,
- Fail to take into account human needs, especially those of the poor,
- Blame the world's environmental problems on population growth and seek to justify abortion on environmental grounds. ❌

Jimmy Akin is an internationally known author and speaker, and a convert to the Catholic Faith. As the senior apologist at Catholic Answers, he has more than twenty years of experiencing defending and explaining the Faith.



*St Francis Preaches to the Birds* by Giotto, Italian, 1299

**POPE FRANCIS**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1  
keep moving forward. It is a network which supports life, your own lives and those of your families. The prayer of mothers, the prayer of wives, the prayers of your sons and daughters, and your own prayers: this is a network of support which encourages you to move forward.

When Jesus becomes part of our lives, we can no longer remain imprisoned by our past. Instead, we begin look to the present, and we see it differently, with a different kind of hope. We begin to see ourselves and our lives in a different light.

We are no longer stuck in the past, but capable of shedding tears and finding in them the strength to make a new start. If there are times when we experience sadness, when we're in a bad way, when we're depressed or have negative feelings, I ask you to look at Christ crucified. Look at his face. He sees us; in his eyes there is a place for us.

We can all bring to Christ our wounds, our pain, our mistakes, our sins, and all those things which perhaps we got wrong. In the wounds of Jesus, there is a place for our own wounds. Because we are all wounded, in one way or another. And so we bring our

wounds to the wounds of Jesus.

Why? So that there they can be soothed, washed clean, changed and healed. He died for us, for me, so that he could stretch out us his hand and lift us up. Speak to the priests who come here, talk to them! Speak to the brothers and sisters who come, speak to them. Speak to everyone who comes here to talk to you about Jesus. Jesus wants to help you get up, always.

This certainty makes us work hard to preserve our dignity. Being imprisoned, "shut in," is not the same thing as being "shut out," and I want to be clear on this point: detention is part of a process of reintegration into society. I know that there are many things here that make it hard: overcrowding, delayed justice, a lack of training opportunities and rehabilitation policies, violence, the lack of adequate educational facilities. All these things point to the need for a speedy and efficient cooperation between institutions in order to come up with solutions.

And yet, while working for this, we should not think that everything is lost. There are things that we can do today.

Here, in this rehabilitation center, the way you live together depends to some extent on yourselves. Suffering

and deprivation can make us selfish of heart and lead to confrontation, but we also have the capacity to make these things an opportunity for genuine fraternity. Help one another. Do not be afraid to help one another. The devil wants quarrels, rivalry, division, gangs. Don't let him play with you. Keep working to make progress, together.

I would ask you also to convey my greetings to your families, some of whom are here. The presence and support of families are so important! Grandparents, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, couples, children: all of them remind us that life is worth living and that we should keep fighting for a better world.

Finally, I offer a word of encouragement to all who work at this center: to the administrators, the police officials and all the personnel. You carry out a vital public service. You have an important responsibility for facilitating the process of reintegration. It is your responsibility to raise up, not to put down, to restore dignity and not to

humiliate; to encourage and not to inflict hardship. This means putting aside a mentality which sees people as "good" or "bad," and instead trying to focus on helping others. And the mindset of wanting to help each person will also save you from every form of corruption and will improve conditions for everyone. In so doing, it will give us dignity, motivate us, and make us all better people.

I ask you, please, to keep praying for me, because I too make mistakes and I also must do penance. Thank you very much.

May God our Father look upon our hearts, may God our Father who loves us give us his strength, his patience, his fatherly tenderness, and may he bless us. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Please do not forget to pray for me.

Thank you. ✝

Pope Francis made this address to the prisoners of the Santa Cruz-Palmasola Rehabilitation Center in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia on Friday, 10 July 2015 during a visit to South America.

## Give your brain a workout!

### Sudoku Puzzle

			9					2
						9		1
6			8		7			
4			1	9				
7	5							
	8				5	4	3	
		1		7				
		4					8	

Sudoku Directions – Fill each square with the numbers 1-9. No number can appear twice within the same row, the same column, or within the same frame of nine squares. ANSWERS ON BACK PAGE

### Brain Teaser

Cryptogram: Can you uncode the saying below, by figuring out how the letters have been swapped? Hint: every R in the puzzle represents the letter E.

QDOR DA QDZR PE DIR-IFRPH

IWER, NWK BPXR JW QDIZ DJ WER

UPN PJ P JDHR.

- IBPFQNA H. AIBKQM

# Canticle of the Sun

*Most high, all powerful, all good Lord!  
All praise is Yours, all glory, all honor, and all blessing.  
To You, alone, Most High, do they belong.  
No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your name.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through all Your creatures,  
especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings  
the day; and You give light through him.*

*And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor!  
Of You, Most High, he bears the likeness.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and  
the stars; in the heavens You have made them bright,  
precious and beautiful.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,  
and clouds and storms, and all the weather, through  
which You give Your creatures sustenance.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Water; she is  
very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through Brother Fire,  
through whom You brighten the night.*

*He is beautiful and cheerful, and powerful and strong.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth,  
who feeds us and rules us, and produces various  
fruits with colored flowers and herbs.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through those who forgive for  
love of You; through those who endure sickness and  
trial.*

*Happy those who endure in peace, for by You,  
Most High, they will be crowned.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Bodily Death,  
from whose embrace no living person can escape.*

*Woe to those who die in mortal sin!  
Happy those she finds doing Your most holy will.  
The second death can do no harm to them.*

*Praise and bless my Lord, and give thanks, and serve  
Him with great humility. ✖*

Canticle of the Sun is a hymn written by St. Francis of Assisi. According to tradition, it was first sung at Francis' deathbed in 1266, the final verse praising "Sister Death" having been added only a few minutes before.

# Out of Slavery

by Gus Lloyd

In Chapter 12 of the Book of Exodus, we pick up the story of the children of Israel after the Passover. They have now been led out of slavery.

Think of the magnitude of the task that Moses undertook for his people. About six hundred thousand men, not counting the little ones, left Egypt for their trip in the desert. With women and children, I think we can safely assume well over a million people. That's a big crowd! And what with hauling all of their possessions, livestock, etc., it was probably a very daunting task.

As Moses led his people out of slavery, so too did Jesus. By His death and resurrection, we have been led out of our slavery to sin. And even though Jesus is God, it is still a daunting task.

Why? Because God has given us free will. We don't have to follow Jesus out of slavery. We must choose to do so. But here's the great thing: we can choose to do just that.

Father, as Jesus leads us out of slavery, may we always choose to follow Him. ✖

Gus Lloyd has since 2006 hosted "Seize the Day," a weekday morning program on the Catholic Channel of Sirius Satellite Radio (XM 129), which is sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York.

## Puzzle solutions

Answer to cryptquote:  
Life is like an ice-cream cone, you have to lick it  
one day at a time. Charles M. Schulz

2	7	4	6	3	9	1	8	5
5	3	1	4	7	8	2	9	6
9	8	6	2	1	5	4	3	7
7	5	2	3	8	4	6	1	9
4	6	3	1	9	2	7	5	8
1	9	8	7	5	6	3	2	4
6	1	9	8	2	7	5	4	3
8	2	7	5	4	3	9	6	1
3	4	5	9	6	1	8	7	2