

**Walking in Christ's Light  
Daily Prayer Journal  
November 17-22, 2008**

*Growing our souls is a partnership with Christ.  
To enable your soul's growth, use this material with Christ as your guide.*

**Next Week's Sermon**

**Scripture:** Matthew 25:31-46  
**Theme:** Choosing Christ leads into serving God's family  
**Sermon:** "A Biblical Family"  
**Question:** How can I know that I am in God's family?

**MONDAY                      11-17-08**

**Read:** Matthew 25:31-46

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, my Judge and my Redeemer, I stand before You today and every day. You judge me by my words and deeds. In the light of Your love, Your sacrifice, and Your mercy, my life looks very small. Yet, I know that You count my every good action as important. As amazing as it sounds, You actually notice my relationship with you and my life choices for You. Encourage and strengthen me, Jesus, so that I can see and respond to You in the faces of people in need that I meet every day. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** "The least of these" can be anyone. Certainly there are hungry and homeless people who need our compassion. There are also spiritually hungry people who need to find their true home with God. Christ is within everyone you meet. Every person you meet is burdened with: unforgiven sin, unresolved conflict, painful relationships, physical disabilities, psychological traumas, etc. Look for the face of Christ within each person you meet today. Then, respond as you would respond to Jesus. Allow the Christ who is within you to respond to the Christ in the other!

**Resolve:** Jesus is in my heart and mind today.

**TUESDAY                      11-18-08**

**Read:** Psalm 100

**Prayer:** Almighty God, I praise You for Your creative genius. I love all the diversity You are creating in the world. There are so many personality types, ethnic origins, and national identities. Wow, God, what a complex world You are creating! I must admit that people who are different from me also frustrate me. Diversity in theory is OK, Lord, but in real life, it's not easy. Thank You for continuing to create in me the vision, patience, and grace to appreciate all of Your creation (even the hard to like ones). And, Lord Jesus grow in me the mercy to love my enemies. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** In your mind's eye imagine what worship will look like following this Psalm's directions. Wow! Joyful noise will be coming from all kinds of instruments—even people's voices! Thankful hearts will be praising a wonderful God. Gladness will be the hallmark of the singing! Affirming God's ever present goodness is first and foremost. Pray today that the Creative God of the Universe will ignite a passionate fire of joy within Christ's worldwide Church so that we all worship God with our whole heart, mind, soul, and body.

**Resolve:** With God's help, joy will be in my living today!

**WEDNESDAY                      11-19-08**

**Read:** Ephesians 1:15-23

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, grow a passion within my heart and for actively loving You. Teach me to unite my faith talk with faith action. Build me up into a good news messenger. Let Your joy flow through me today. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** Reread the Scripture today as if the Apostle Paul were writing to you. Make it a personal so that you can accept the blessings of wisdom and revelation, of the hope in the riches of your inheritance, of Christ incomparable power for living, and the strength of the Risen Christ who is the head of the worldwide church. These blessings and more are yours through Christ your Lord.

**Resolve:** Today, I will celebrate the power and glory of Christ Jesus my Lord.

**THURSDAY            11-20-08**

**Read:** Ezekiel 34:11-16 and 20-24

**Prayer:** Thank You God, for being You and letting me know who You are. Thank You for loving me and all human beings with an unconditional love. Thank You for being my Shepherd. When I am honest, I know I need both Your rod and staff because the walk is at times dark and the way is dreary. Thank You for being with me and for me no matter what I do. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** The Prophet Ezekiel assures you that God is Your Good Shepherd. God will feed and water God's flock. Even if one of the sheep wanders off, God will search and find the lost one. Give thanks today for God's tender mercy, loving kindness, and unconditional compassion. These words written over 500 years from the time of Jesus clearly outline the ministry of Jesus as our Good Shepherd. For Ezekiel these words were words of a promise to be fulfilled. For us, these words are already fulfilled in Jesus Christ who is today and every day the Good Shepherd of our lives.

**Resolve:** Thank You, God of the Universe, for being my Good Shephard!

**FRIDAY                11-21-08**

**Read:** Mark 10:46-52

**Prayer:** Gracious God, I need Your healing at the core of my being. There are wounds that I cannot heal by myself. There is old pain that I cannot ignore anymore. Some of it I brought upon myself and I cannot forgive myself. Some of the pain is from others. Some of it is just from living in this world. Gracious and loving God, I need Your healing touch within my heart of hearts. Forgive my self-centered anxiety and liberate me from my fears. Open my eyes that I might see the glimpses are Your truth that are all around me. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** Handicapped people are often looked at with pity. Unfortunately, they sometimes get caught in a pity trap themselves. The way to live a joyous life above and beyond the handicap (which we all have) is to accept the healing power of Jesus into your life, then act upon it. Honestly identify your handicap (physical, spiritual, emotional). Ask Jesus for His healing touch in your life. You might, like Bartimaeus have to yell out for awhile! Then, when Jesus does come, listen to His directions, accept Christ's forgiveness that is an integral part of the healing, and trust in Christ to be able to live beyond your handicap.

**Resolve:** I am willing for Christ to heal and empower me for New Jerusalem living.

**SATURDAY            11-22-08**

**Read:** Psalm 95:1-7

**Prayer:** Loving God, every once in awhile I hear Your creation music. I hear the joyous sound of Your creative love being acknowledged. I am aware of Your presence in a whisper or perhaps a shout. Whenever I catch a glimpse of You at work, I am thrilled by Your joy and love. Your song, O God, is sung by the birds, the wind, the trees, the flowers, the insects, and yes, even your people some time! Thank You for including me in Your song. Thank You for inviting me to sing with You! I will sing with all my heart my thanksgiving song to You, Gracious and Loving God. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** The essence of God's presence in the world is love, joy, peace, mercy, compassion, goodness, justice, and righteousness. The Psalm for today tells you that God is everywhere. God is a part of all creation. God is outside of all creation. The metaphor the psalmist uses is God's music. The song of God is sung everywhere in the universe and beyond the universe. God is, so that you can be. Reflect upon the greatness of God today. In everything you do and say, give praise to God.

**Resolve:** My life will be a joyful song to the Lord today!