

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal
February 23-28, 2009

*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: John 13:1-17 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+13:1-17)

Theme: Service above Self

Sermon: "What Does It Mean To Be A Servant of Christ?"

Question: "What Does It Mean To Be A Servant of Christ?"

MONDAY **2-23-09**

Read: Mark 2:13-22 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=mark+2:13-22)

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, you have come to us, calling each of us by name, inviting us to participate in the outbreak of your kingdom. Now give us the grace, we pray, to be your ambassadors in the world. Give us the right words to say, the good deeds to perform whereby the world might look at us and see you in us and in our deeds. Forgive us when we fail to be your obedient disciples. Show us how we can better witness to you in the world in all that we do and say. Amen" (Prayer by William H. Willimon)

Journal Reflection: Jesus invites you to follow him. He is the Captain. You are Lieutenant. Christ is Teacher. You are the student. To follow Jesus with your actions and not just your mouth challenges every part of your lifestyle: language, values, and check book! Plan your life today and this week recognizing your role as a follower of Jesus. The student constantly learns from the teacher. Go to school this week with Jesus! The Lieutenant takes directions from the Captain. When are you going to be open to listen for your orders?

Resolve: Today, my life will be organized so that Jesus can guide and teach me!

TUESDAY **2-24-09**

Read: Psalm 103:1-13 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+103:1-13)

Prayer: Eternal God, I look around me in awe at the beauty of Your creation. In this last phase of winter as the birds return to sing morning praises to You, my heart joins them in song! As the winter sky brightens, I am reminded of Your glorious light and love. I praise You! I glorify You! You are an "Awesome Artist", a "Magnificent Composer", and a "Wonderful Creator" of all that is and will be. Amen.

Journal Reflection: God is within all, above all, and surrounding all that lives. When you see a sunset, God is present. When a bird sings, God is singing. When you experience a loving hug, it is from God. God was! God is! And, God will be! Celebrate God's presence in your life today by choosing to be aware of God as often as you breathe. Seek today to find as many ways as you can to keep God constantly in your mind. Then, celebrate God's presence by enjoying the life God gives to you today.

Resolve: I will be aware of God's presence all day.

WEDNESDAY **2-25-09**

Read: II Corinthians 3:1-6 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=11+corinthians+3:1-6)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, create in me today a willingness to relate to people with a Jesus kind of love. Throw out of me the binding spirit of fear so that I can live life with the power of Jesus' light energy. Holy Spirit help me to grow more committed to living a life within Your new covenant. Almighty God, continually create in me an awareness of Your Awesome Grace. Amen.

Journal Reflection: God is willing to make you a competent servant in God's new covenant family. That you feel unworthy to be in the family does not matter. What you feel does not matter. What God can do in and with you is what matters. God will teach you. God will be with you. God will guide you. Your choice is to accept God's gifts and live your life using those gifts! Today can be a wonderful day if you choose each hour to be a servant in the name of Christ Jesus sharing your spiritual gifts with someone else.

Resolve: I will be one of Your servants, Jesus. Thank You for calling me.

THURSDAY 2-26-09

Read: Hosea 2:14-20 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=hosea+2:14-20)

Prayer: Jesus said: "It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick. I came to call not the upright but sinners." You came for sinners, so you came to heal us, to call us, because all of us have sinned at one time or another. We have all suffered the humiliation of knowing that we have done wrong in your sight and in the sight of other people. To know that you came to heal us is blessed reassurance. Forgive our shortcomings; help us to follow your example. And just as, out of love you have mercy on us, may we, out of love, have mercy on one another. Amen" (Prayer from Carl Koch, *150 Openings and Closing Prayers*)

Journal Reflection: The prophet Hosea loved and married a prostitute. God showed the world through the prophet's dysfunctional family that life without God is a life of pain and suffering. Life with God brings restoration, forgiveness, and peace. Let us pray today for all those persons who are in families like Hosea's family. They live without God's presence. They live according to their feelings, not God's values. They are lost within a whirlpool of self-centeredness. They need the power of Christ in their lives and do not even know it. Let us pray for them and for us that we might know how to introduce them to the Risen and Alive Jesus Christ. As you pray, open your mind and heart to the nudging of the Holy Spirit so that you can listen and share with someone the power of Christ's healing presence.

Resolve: I will pray for my suffering friends today.

FRIDAY 2-27-09

Read: Matthew 5: 1-12 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+5:1-12)

Prayer: I give thanks today for all people who have responded to Your invitation, "O Caller of Souls." They have chosen to fulfill their spiritual vocation in selfless ways, whether within the church, in charities, or in the wide spectrum of the world's work. I thank You for Your presence with them in their times of loneliness and pain. I thank You for Your presence with them in their times of joy as well. Bless all that choose to live Your selfless life and thereby bless the world. Bless each and every servant who lives and shares under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Amen

Journal Reflection: This Scripture describes the blessed life you are called to follow. Take each blessing and rate yourself. Are you experiencing the blessing? If not, then what do you need to experience that blessing? For example, do you know the joy of God's Kingdom on earth today? If not, then ask yourself, "How can I be more spiritually poor today?" Take each of the blessings and use them to guide you into a greater friendship with Jesus.

Resolve: I will live with and for Jesus blessing, so that I may be a blessing to others.

SATURDAY 2-28-09

Read: Galatians 5:22-26 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=galatians+5:22-26)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, it is not an easy path, following You. The sparkle of new technological toys seems more fulfilling than feeding the poor. The warmth of my home seems more important than reaching out to the new and decidedly strange neighbor. I am aware of some of my friends whose heart for others has grown as cold as this midwinter day. They have lost the fire of Your love. At times, I know I could easily be in that same dark place. Fill me up, Lord Jesus, with the fire of Your presence so that Your fire and light may warm me and my cold friends. Amen

Journal Reflection: This portion of Holy Scripture reveals to us the spiritual standard by which we can evaluate our lives. When the Holy Spirit is burning within us, then we will be "fruitful" in the way this Scripture describes. Make a list of them today. Pray that God will grow within your heart a passion to live a spiritually fruitful life each and every day!

Resolve: I will be one of God's fruitful (and fruity) people!