

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal
March 22-27, 2010

*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: Luke 19:28-40 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+19:28-40)

Theme: "When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer."

Sermon: "Passion's Pilgrimage"

Question: What can I do to deepen my love for Christ this Holy Week?

MONDAY 3-22-10

Read: John 12: 1-8 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+12:1-8)

Prayer: Jesus, You inspire people to love unconditionally. I want to love extravagantly, as You love. Partner with me so that my heart will be as open and free as was the woman who anointed You. So often I am stingy like Judas. Forgive my greed, Jesus. Teach me the joy of extravagant love. Amen

Journal Reflection: If you are honest in your heart of hearts with Jesus and yourself, who are you most like in this Scripture story? Are you standing around outside? Are you like Judas? Are you like the anointing woman? Where are you in this story? After figuring out who you most relate to in this story, ask yourself the question: "Who do you want to be?" If you want to know about extravagant love, then ask Christ to come into your life and fill you up with God's grace. The next step is to put "feet to your love" by sharing anonymously a gift of love with someone today.

Resolve: I will love with Christ-like love today.

TUESDAY 3-23-10

Read: Isaiah 43:16-21 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+43:16-21)

Prayer: Creator, You are making me to be one with the universe. You charge me to tend this earth and bring forth fruit. You hold me accountable for the way I care for Your garden. Teach me, O Lord, the joy of creative service in this Your lovely world. Teach me the importance of respecting and cherishing all life on this very special planet. Amen

Journal Reflection: A major theme of the Bible is the creative novelty of God. God is continually creating something new. Today's Scripture urges you to remember with love the past and then let it go! Look toward what God is doing that is new in your life. Appreciate a past relationship, cherish a loved one who is in heaven, but let them go. Look for what God is doing new today! Ask God to give you the joy of doing something new with God today.

Resolve: I am willing to grow with God toward a new and exciting future.

WEDNESDAY 3-24-10

Read: Philippians 3:4b-14 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=philippians+3:4b-14)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, thank You for accepting me, not because of what I am or what I can do, but just because I am alive. Thank You for helping me to grow in Christ's love to be the person God is creating me to be. I am so glad that I am not a finished creation. I do have so many ways that I can improve. Thank You for being my number one teacher! Amen

Journal Reflection: Notice that the Apostle Paul suggests that his accomplishments, heritage, and personal skills are rubbish. Your worth does not come from any of these transient things. Your worth comes from your identity as God's beloved child. All day today breathe a prayer of thanks that God accepts you just the way you are and provides the Spirit to grow you better!

Resolve: With God, all personal growth is possible!

THURSDAY 3-25-10

Read: Psalm 126 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+126)

Prayer: Loving Spirit of Compassion, move within my heart and heal the left over grief that is hidden there. In Your mercy heal me, Lord Jesus. Heal me from the inside out, Lord, so that I might grow in my love for You and for others. I desire Your presence in my life so that I may grow through my wounds and be an instrument of Your healing for others. Amen.

Journal Reflection: The streams flow in the Negev very quickly. Only once have I encountered rain in the Dead Sea area. When the rain came, so did the waterfalls and rushing streams. What was a dry and thirsty land became in a matter of a few minutes a green and flowering land because of the flowing water. God's love can be like a storm in the desert to your soul. The Psalmist reminds us of the creative and renewing power of God. Let God's touch heal the dry spots of your soul today.

Resolve: Heal me in my heart today, Jesus. Touch me and make me whole.

FRIDAY 3-26-10

Read: Luke 19:28-40 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+19:28-40)

Prayer: (Prayer from Metropolitan Philaret of Moscow, 1553-1633) "O, Lord, I know not what to ask of Thee. Thou alone know what my true needs are. Thou love me more than I myself know how to love. Help me to see my real needs which are concealed from me. I dare not ask either a cross or consolation. I can only wait on Thee. My heart is open to Thee. Visit and help me, for Thy great mercy's sake. Strike me and heal me, cast me down and raise me up. I worship in silence Thy holy will and Thine inscrutable ways. I offer myself as a sacrifice to Thee. I put all my trust in Thee. I have no other desire than to fulfill Thy will. Teach me how to pray. Pray Thou Thyself in me." Amen

Journal Reflection: It's in the little things that important decisions are made. Jesus chose to ride down the Palm Sunday Road in a royal procession. Jesus knew that his actions would evoke a reaction of the political and religious leaders. Jesus chose to announce God's redeeming Kingdom of God on Palm Sunday morning. This was a big choice that Jesus was ready to make. Jesus had 'set his face' toward Jerusalem from the his time on the Mountain of Transfiguration. All the little choices of his life lead him to be ready to make the big choice on Palm Sunday. Notice today the choices you have. Let Christ's Spirit pervade your life in such a way that the little decisions are filled and informed by Christ's love so that when the big choices of life come, you will be ready!

Resolve: No choice is too small for God's input!

SATURDAY 3-27-10

Read: Esther 3:1-2, 8-9, and 4:1-4, 13-17 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=esther+3:1-2:8-9)
(www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=esther+4:14:13-17)

Prayer: When I face difficult decisions, O Lord grant to me the courage of Esther. If I ever face a choice of life or death, let me be faithful to You like Esther. Hold out before me her example, O Lord, so that I may live with courage and faith each day. Amen

Journal Reflection: Esther chooses to place the life of her people above her own life. The protection of her people was more important than her personal status and comfort. Ester trusted her life in God's hands. She could have died from the choice she made. She lived within the center of God's extraordinary love and was ready to trust God completely. Open yourself today so that God's love might grow in your heart center. Breathe a prayer of openness. Let the hidden places of your heart be open to God's love. Be willing to set aside your agenda, comfort, and status so that you can share God's love with someone.

Resolve: I want to love like God loves: sacrificially and unconditionally.