

Walking in Christ's Light

Daily Prayer Journal

March 29-April 3, 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: John 20:1-18 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+20:1-18)

Theme: Everything can change in the blink of an eye, but don't worry; God never blinks."

Sermon: "Let's Celebrate!"

Question: What difference does Jesus' resurrection make for me?

MONDAY 3-29-10

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

Prayer: (From James M. Bloom, *Ashes and Tears*, p.152) Almighty God, we give thanks for Jesus who rode in triumph into Jerusalem. We praise you that Jesus came as the conqueror, not of force and military might, but of love and peace. In the spirit of those who sang, 'Hosanna to the Son of David' so long ago, we join that great chorus of those who confess Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Journal Reflection: People were happy with Jesus on Palm Sunday. Little was required of them except joining in with a parade. Jesus interrupted their rather slow and boring day. He gave them something to do. Later on during this sacred week, the crowd turned against Jesus. They were not ready to move beyond entertained to participating in God's Jubilee Kingdom. To get from being entertained, they had to go through Good Friday and they weren't willing. This week examine your life and decide what God is asking you to do to faithfully follow Jesus all through this week.

Resolve: I am willing to walk with Jesus all the way to Easter!

TUESDAY 3-30-10

Read: Isaiah 50:4-9 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+50:4-9)

Prayer: Loving God, help me to see the best in other people. Help me to see their potential as You do. Help me to be such a believer in those around me that I will be an encourager to all I meet today. Lord God, especially help me to love those people who get under my skin, or perhaps just don't like me. I need your help to love my enemies. Amen

Journal Reflection: Jesus lived out this portion of Holy Scripture during this week. He was willing to endure the shame and the pain of public humiliation. His heart stayed focused upon God. As you meditate upon the love of God revealed in Jesus this week continually affirm this spiritual truth: "It is the Lord God who helps me, who will declare me guilty?" All day I challenge you to affirm over and over again, "God is my helper!"

Resolve: All my trust is in God who wakes me up each morning.

WEDNESDAY 3-31-10

Read: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+118:1-2;19-29)

Prayer: Jesus, You taught us to love others as we love ourselves. So teach me to build others up and to think of others more highly than I do myself. In light of what You have done for me, I want to be the kind of person who shares Your kind of love with others. Amen.

Journal Reflection: God's love abides! Everything else may be destroyed, but God's love will abide. Your money, health, family, and friends might all be gone, but God's love will abide! When human beings rejected Jesus, who is the "chief cornerstone", God set Him in a place for everyone to acknowledge his powerful love. God is God alone! God continues to be the rock of your life, the stone of upon which you can build your life. God's steadfast love will never end!

Resolve: I will praise God whose love will endure forever.

THURSDAY **4-1-10**

Read: **Philippians 2:5-11** (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=philippians+2:5-11)

Prayer: Good Morning, Abba, Thank You for this brand new day; for light that never fails; for causing the sun to rise each day; for winter to lose out to springtime; and for life anew to emerge within the world and within me. I feel so good and so happy because You are so merciful and gracious to me, Abba. I praise You! I praise Your wonderful name! Amen.

Journal Reflection: Jesus set aside heavenly glory in order to be identified with you. Jesus became fully human in every way. Jesus endured the pain and suffering of the cross. But, in one way Jesus was not like you and me. Jesus bore upon his shoulders the spiritual pain of the combined sin of the world. Imagine this burden placed upon one man! Imagine the great love that would be required to voluntarily pick up such a burden. On this day of the first Lord's Supper, let your heart be opened to the power of Jesus great love for you and for the world. Attend the Maundy Thursday service and participate with Jesus covenant of love.

Resolve: I confess with all my heart that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

FRIDAY **4-2-10**

Read: **Luke 23:1-49** (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+23:1-49)

Prayer: I thank You, Most Gracious God, for sending Jesus Christ to die for me personally, as well as for the world. Thank You for the way your beautiful Spirit is at work in my heart during this holy week. Help me to be alert and sensitive to Your voice and to then follow You. God thank You for the wonderful feeling of love inside of me because of Your blessed presence in my life. Amen

Journal Reflection: Good Friday is not good because of the great pain and suffering Jesus bore upon the Roman cross. It is good because of the result. When Jesus prayed, "Father, Into Thy hands I commit my spirit" he was declaring an end to the world as it once existed. After his declaration, the wall between heaven and earth was broken down. The Spirit of God was loosed upon the world. In every way God became like us so that we might have the opportunity to know and love God personally. Today is good because you have a chance through Jesus to live a good life. Give thanks to Jesus who loved you enough to die for you. Give thanks to Jesus who lived through death so that you will have a guide through death to eternal life.

Resolve: O, How I love Jesus, because He first loved me!

SATURDAY **4-3-10**

Read: **Matthew 6:7-15** (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+6:7-15)

Prayer: Thank You, Eternal God, for the beautiful, beautiful assurance that Christ loves us and that after every Good Friday there is always an Easter. Thank You for the gospel of salvation through Christ our Lord. Thank You for problems that turn us back to You. Thank You for tragedies that through Your love turn out to be spiritual stepping stones to the glory of our Lord. I praise You and magnify Your name, Jesus Christ, my Redeemer and my Lord. Amen

Journal Reflection: Jesus prayed to forgive the very people who wrongfully placed him upon the cruel Roman cross. Jesus taught forgiveness as a relational concept far earlier in Galilee. Notice that forgiveness is a major factor in whether God can dwell in your heart. When you are unforgiving, there is no room for God. Jesus demonstrated the importance of forgiveness from the cross. Will you follow him? Remember someone (or ones) with whom you experience brokenness. Perhaps a past hurt still stands between you. Ask for forgiveness and then ask Jesus for the power to forgive them as Jesus forgives you.

Resolve: I will follow Jesus, even if it means forgiving my enemies.