

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal

April 25-30, 2011

*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: Psalm 16 and John 20:19-31

(www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+16) (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+20:19-31)

Theme: Jesus is alive: then and now!

Sermon: "Reach Out and Touch Someone"

Question: Aren't all religions the same?

MONDAY **4-25-11**

Read: John 20:19-31 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+20:19-31)

Prayer: "You are cause for rejoicing, O God, and the source of our gladness. You know what afflicts us. You can sense our distress. You remove whatever net will ensnare us. You give our feet firm places to stand. In Christ, You have brought us deliverance. For all Your mercies, I praise Your name and worship You as my refuge and strength." Amen (James G Kirk, *When We Gather: A Book of Prayers for Worship*, p.74)

Journal Reflection: Have you wondered where you are going recently? Gotten lost while driving to a meeting? Wondered whether you have enough saved to retire? Invited to accept a job transfer, but unsure of all the implications? Questions about the future emerge regularly. Thomas lives in all of us! The good news is that Jesus is alive to answer your questions. With Thomas, you can reach out and touch Jesus through prayer. Spend time in prayer today asking Jesus to show you the way God wants you to go with your life. Then, listen for Jesus' answer.

Resolve: I will trust Jesus to be the way, truth, and life for me.

TUESDAY **4-26-11**

Read: Psalm 31:1-5,15-16 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+31:1-5;15-16)

Prayer: O Lord, Rock of Ages, Strong Deliverer, I place my trust in You and You alone. I confess that I at times forget You. I think that I can trust material possessions or other people. I put trust in my skills and intellect. Thank You for gently reminding me that You are the source of all that I have and all that I am. Thank You for trusting in me even when I temporarily forget You. Amen

Journal Reflection: What is the foundation of your life? From a different point of view, what do you value more than anything? Or, who do you trust completely with your life? Be sure to do a self evaluation based on your actions, not your wishes. If God is not the rock upon which your life is built take an inventory of what is your foundation and compare that with the Rock of Ages. You will find anything else but God is just sandy soil.

Resolve: I will build my life upon the Rock of Ages!

WEDNESDAY **4-27-11**

Read: Acts 7:55-60 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=acts+7:55-60)

Prayer: I will lift up my eyes every day, O Lord, and praise You. I know that You and You alone are worthy of praise. I celebrate Your presence in my life when things are going smooth. I am so thankful that You are present when things are going rough. I place my trust in You and You alone. Amen

Journal Reflection: At his death Stephen lifted his eyes and saw the Lord. When he saw the Lord, he had the power to forgive. Through his Christ-like actions the seeds of a new disciple were planted. Saul, who ultimately became Paul, witnessed the forgiveness. Ask Christ to help you forgive before your dying day. The witness of Christ-like forgiveness can transform the world.

Resolve: I determine to let Christ's forgiving power be within my life.

THURSDAY 4-28-11

Read: 1 Peter 2:2-11 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+peter+2:2-11)

Prayer: Christ Jesus, Cornerstone of the Universe, I build my life upon You. I know that I am often lacking in wisdom. Thank You for being willing to share with me the right way of building. I know that I am short sighted. Thank You for providing the long term plan. I am aware that I am often self absorbed. Thank You for providing me with a team of friends who are helping me to build a wholesome and healthy life. Amen

Journal Reflection: Jesus is the cornerstone of the universe. Whether we choose to acknowledge Jesus or not is immaterial to the reality of Christ's presence. A person can live in denial of this truth and suffer the consequences that always go with denial. Or, a person can link with the truth of Christ's power within the world and live an energized life. Where are you in relationship to the truth of Christ, the "precious cornerstone."?

Resolve: I am building my life upon the truth of the Risen Christ.

FRIDAY 4-29-11

Read: Matthew 7:24-27 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+7:24-27)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, come along side of me and help me to evaluate my life. Help me to clearly see the quicksand upon which I am building. Give me strength to change even the most fundamental aspects of my living so that I may be growing upon a firm foundation. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Rock and sand are the choices. In the Middle Eastern summers it is hard to tell the difference between the two. Sometimes people are fooled into making a poor choice. They move quickly upon their own knowledge and think they are doing ok. Then the storms of life come and what they thought was rock turns out to be sand. Pray today for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to the actual foundation of your life.

Resolve: I will build upon the sure and certain Rock of Christ Jesus!

SATURDAY 4-30-11

Read: Luke 8: 1-8 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+8:1-8)

Prayer: Almighty God, Creator of all that exists, Sustainer of life, Giver of Eternal life, I am thankful today for Your mercy and Your love. I am thankful that You are choosing me to be a partner in Your creative work. I am in awe of the task before me. I am weak. I am entwined in this culture. I am blind to so much. Indeed, I often feel like rock, not good soil. Yet, You see within me the possibility of being fruitful. Thank You for Your confidence in me. I will do my best today to be open to Your presence so that we can work Your creative miracles together. Amen

Journal Reflection: The Middle Eastern landscape is filled with rocks. Black volcanic rocks litter the fields of Galilee. Much of the land is useless. However, there are fields where the soil is rich and the harvest is great. Seek the Spirit's guidance in your life so that you are a fruitful field.

Resolve: Clear the rocks, Holy Spirit, so that I may celebrate life with You.