

**Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal
March 30-April 4, 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 12:12-16 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+12:12-16)

Theme: Sacrifice is a necessary part of life

Sermon: "The Sacrificial Servant"

Question: What does Jesus Sacrifice mean to me?

MONDAY 3-30-09

Read: John 3:14-21 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+3:14-21)

Prayer: O God, whose truth extends beyond the range of my questions, and whose mercy reaches farther than my gravest sin, hear today my cry for help. Have compassion on me and meet me on each step of my journey. I need your guidance to keep me from being lead astray by my fears, fatalistic schemes, and false gods. Reveal to me once more the light you sent in Jesus, that it may illuminate my earthly journey and help me to see and appreciate the life you intend for me to live. Amen (adapted from a prayer by Lavon Baylor)

Journal Reflection: Put yourself in Nicodemus' place talking with Jesus. Let yourself hear Jesus' words for the first time. Jesus is talking about your life and your priorities in life. What do you hear Jesus telling you about yourself? What is Jesus telling you about God? Reflect upon God's great love for you and all humankind. Imagine for a moment what our world would be like if God's love was acknowledged by all people. Then, ask God what you can do to help the reality of God's love be better known among your friends and family.

Resolve: All day I will give thanks to God for God's great love!

TUESDAY 3-31-09

Read: Numbers 21:4-9 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=numbers+21:4-9)

Prayer: Loving God, I just don't like snakes. I cannot figure out why You created them. But, they are Your creatures and You love them too. Maybe, God, snakes are in our world to help us learn to love the unlovable. Help me to learn how to love the unlovable creatures of Your world, whether reptile or human. With snakes, Lord, I need a lot of help! Amen

Journal Reflection: God did not remove the snakes. God provided for the people a way of salvation and healing. The cross hangs in the midst of your life as a sign of God's great love for you. The snakes that surround you will not go away, but the cross of Jesus Christ can bring you hope, comfort, and ultimately healing. The snakes that attack you are venomless when you have the blood of Christ flowing in your veins! Celebrate Christ's presence in your life. Today, when the snakes come after you, look up to Jesus and remember God's great and saving love for you. Through Christ you have a victory over the snakes! Celebrate it!

Resolve: Today, I will look up to Jesus and not down into my fear.

WEDNESDAY 4-1-09

Read: Ephesians 2:1-10 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=ephesians+2:1-10)

Prayer: "God of light and love, we give you thanks for revealing yourself in Jesus Christ. By his death and resurrection, you delivered us from the law of sin and death. By his teaching and example, you show us the path of life. By your Spirit, your word promises we may be born anew. Teach us to look to him, our redeemer and Lord, and be saved." Amen (Carol Noren, *Pulpit Resource*, Vol. 28, no.2, p. 3)

Journal Reflection: Verse 8 is a great one to memorize. You are saved by God's grace! Reread it a lot today. Let the truth of this Scripture become a part of your life in such a solid way that when you must choose between good and not so good, this verse will guide you towards the good. Remember, God's grace is God's unmerited, unearned, and unconditional love. God's grace is a free gift to you through Jesus Christ.

Resolve: I will celebrate God's grace today.

THURSDAY 4-2-09

Read: Psalm 107:1-3 and 17-22 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+107:1-3; 17-22)

Prayer: "Lord God, you who are the source of all truth, wisdom, justice, and love, lead me through this time of worship and throughout this day of service to you. Help me constantly to rest my life upon the eternal foundations of your love and presence. Save me from haste and confusion, from wrongful desire, and the net of evil. Through the inspiration of you Holy Spirit, enlighten, instruct, and guide me all the day long. In the name of Jesus. Amen (Norman Shawchuck, *A Guide to Prayer*, p.123)

Journal Reflection: God's steadfast love endures. God's love will be around when earth's rocks no longer exist. God will be around when all the matter and energy of the universe is gone. When the stars have fallen out of the sky and the sun no longer shines, God's love will still be present in the world. God's love endures. God loved the world before it was created. God's love will be real after the universe is gone. Ponder today the incredible, steadfast, and enduring love God has for you and all creation. Keep your focus today on God's enduring love and let the rest of the troubles of this world fall away. God's steadfast love endures and endures and endures! Thank God!

Resolve: I rejoice today in God's eternal and unending love!

FRIDAY 4-3-09

Read: I John 4: 7-21 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+john+4:7-21)

Prayer: God of all love, Author of the book of love, Creator of love itself, teach me how to accept your love so that I may love you with all my heart and soul. I know that I am constantly tempted to be consumed by fear. All around me the fearful shouts and whispers are deafening. I know that if I allow my fear to rule my life I will choose to live poorly when I could be wealthy with your love. Teach me today and everyday how to choose to live with your love, hope, joy, and peace within my soul. Surround me with the light of Your love and cast out my fear, O Lover of my soul. Amen

Journal Reflection: The opposite of love is not hate. According to Holy Scripture the love's opposite is fear. For a number of years our world has been flooded with messages of fear. Like the proverbial frog in the ever hotter pot of water, we are unaware of how fear has warped our lives. Examine the way fear disrupts your life. Talk with people who grew up in the 1950's or before and see how much fear has changed our lives for the worse. Choose today to let God's love melt your fear and warm your heart. Decide today to let God's love be the focus of your decisions instead of fear. Let God's love be at the center of every decision you make today.

Resolve: I choose to live within the circle of God's love today.

SATURDAY 4-4-09

Read: Proverbs 10:12 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=proverbs+10:12)

Prayer: God, whose love is beyond my understanding or comprehension, teach me to love. I confess that my pride often gets in the way of my love. I want to love, but I want to control the situation more. Let Your love be strong within my heart and soul today, Lord God. Forgive me when I am weak and fall back into my own little box. Let your love flow through me in such a powerful way that it washes away my pride. Amen

Journal Reflection: In your mind's eye see some of the unloving things you have done in your life. Make a list of as many of them as you can remember. Once you are pretty sure that your list is complete, take a clean white piece of paper and cover your list. Say out loud "God's love covers all my offenses!" Give thanks to God for God's loving forgiveness! If God can love you and forgive you in such a powerful way, decide today to let God's love work in you so that you can love and forgive others in the same way. Once you have decided to let God's love work, listen to the instructions God gives you for reconciliation.

Resolve: I will be a channel for God's love today.