

Walking in Christ's Light

Daily Prayer Journal

March 9-14, 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 3:14-21 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+3:14-21)

Theme: The Peace of God

Sermon: "Peacemaking Servants of God"

Question: What can I do to share God's peace?

MONDAY 3-9-09

Read: Mark 1:9-15 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=mark+1:9-15)

Prayer: Almighty God, you sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Lord. I give you thanks for his message, and for the challenge to repent and to believe the gospel. As your Son endured temptation, called sinners to follow him, and went to the cross for the sin of the world, so give me grace to be faithful to Christ and steadfast through whatever wilderness I must endure. Give me courage to persevere, strength to resist the wiles of the devil, and confidence that you are with me always. Surround me with the power of Your presence and I know I will be able to do anything You ask! Amen

Journal Reflection: If Jesus did not avoid this world's wilderness, can you expect that you will? Be aware today that the wilderness experience is true for all human beings. You might not be in the desert today, but somebody you meet will be. And, you can rest assured that a desert is in your future. Therefore, speak gently and softly to all whom you meet for each one is carrying a cross. You can be God's word of encouragement to someone in the wilderness. Just as Christ will bring someone into your wilderness to speak words of support to you!

Resolve: With God's help, I will grow more loving through the wilderness.

TUESDAY 3-10-09

Read: Psalm 25:1-10 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+25:1-10)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I put my trust in your words of mercy and forgiveness. I know that I am not perfect. I know how much I try to follow you and fail. I know about my lust, greed, jealousy, and unresolved anger. So do you! Thank you for continuing to love me, teach me, and most of all forgive me. Lord Jesus Christ, I put my trust in You and You alone! Amen.

Journal Reflection: Reflect upon the mercy of the Lord today. Think back upon all the times you could have been judged, but were not. Think about the times you failed and were picked up and encouraged. Think about God's protection when you were weak and God's challenge when you were haughty. Reflect upon the mercy of God and give thanks to God all day long.

Resolve: Praise God! Praise to the most merciful and magnificent God!

WEDNESDAY 3-11-09

Read: I Peter 3:18-22 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=1+peter+3:18-22)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, remind me today of Jesus' suffering. Help me to remember the rejection and the ridicule that was heaped upon his shoulders. Place before the screen of my mind his physical suffering and spiritual pain. Keep me aware of Christ's suffering so that I will be less able to think of myself as a victim no matter what my circumstances might be today. Amen

Journal Reflection: Scripture reminds you of the great burden of pain that Jesus chose to bear. Jesus suffered when he did not have to do so. Jesus suffered because he fully identified with you. Your sin is gone because Jesus carried it to the cross! Let this be the day that you give thanks to Jesus with your whole heart, soul, mind, and being.

Resolve: Thank you, thank you, Jesus for providing eternal forgiveness for me.

THURSDAY 3-12-09

Read: Genesis 9:8-17 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=genesis+9:8-17)

Prayer: Almighty God, you who call me to prayer, and who offer yourself to all who seek your face, pour out your Holy Spirit upon me today and deliver me from coldness of heart, a wandering mind, and wrongful desire. By the power of your spirit place with me steadfast love and devotion, so that today I may worship and serve you with all of my life through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen

Journal Reflection: God does provide signs of hope in the midst of the wilderness. For Noah, the sign was a rainbow. For Jesus, the sign was the angels' presence. God's sign can be a physical or spiritual one. In a prayerful spirit, think back over your life and remember God's signs of hope. It might have been a person in the right time or place. It could be a book or a scripture passage that came to you at just the right time. It could be a phone call from the right person at the right time. It might be a dream or vision given at just the right time. Prayerfully think back over the last year and mark the signs of hope that God has sent you. Give thanks for each one of them!

Resolve: God of hope, I praise you and thank you for being in my life.

FRIDAY 3-13-09

Read: Revelations 22:1-7 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=revelations+22:1-7)

Prayer: Son of God, Christ my Lord, I look forward to the day that you come for me. Your vision of the New Jerusalem inspires me. I anticipate the day all nations will be healed and we will worship God in the unity and peace. Come among us soon, Lord Jesus! Come, Lord Jesus some soon. Amen

Journal Reflection: This last vision of John for the healing of all the nations completes the healing of planet earth. The tree of life is for healing. We are all invited back into Eden. God will walk with us in peace. We will worship God, be inspired by God, and be enlightened by God. Let this vision guide your choices today. Certainly we live in the midst of a world of violence and abuse. Nations harm nations. Husbands harm wives. Children harm parents. There is an abundance of evidence that we live in an exceedingly violent world. Let this vision of God's healing of the nations inspire you to do what you can to bring about healing in your life and the lives of your friends. Seek to walk in the peace of God all day today!

Resolve: I will pray and work for God's peace in my life today.

SATURDAY 3-14-09

Read: Genesis 1:26-2:4 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=genesis+1:26-2:4)

Prayer: Creator God, your vision for planet earth is so wonderful. Men and women are living in harmony. Children are growing up in peace. The world is treated as a cherished garden. Animals are respected and cared for properly. Poverty does not exist. Injustice is not even in the language of Eden. Lord God let me be an instrument of bringing this vision a little closer to reality now. Amen

Journal Reflection: God's Eden is not a story to be dismissed, but a vision to be lived into. Jesus said God's Kingdom was available right now. Eden's gates are opened through Jesus' resurrection. God's Beloved Community is already present in our world. The hard question is for us: 'Will we live by Eden's values right now and help bring about a growth of God's Beloved Community?' Planet earth needs people who will value the earth as God values each and every part of the world. Your community needs you to share God's peace with the children, the youth, the elderly, and all others who are trapped in a morass of violence. Choose today to be one of God's Kingdom citizens who live on behalf of all God's people on planet earth.

Resolve: All God's creation is sacred and worthy of my respect and love!