



LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2010

Week 5:

January 31 – February 6

I. Adoration

1. Invocation Prayer

“Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen” (*The Book of Worship*)

2. Adoration through Psalm 5

(We'll use this Psalm, not for today's Bible reading, but for the sake of focusing our thoughts on God)

- Read slowly this passage at least three times and gather a different thought about God's character or deeds each day and translate it into a prayer of adoration.

II. Confession

Pause now and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to your sins and ask for forgiveness.

III. Thanksgiving

List, one by one, things that you should give thanks for.

IV. Scriptural Reflection: Based on the Gospel of Luke

Reading slowly and reflectively the assigned passage twice at least and consider the questions below each day:

January 31: 11: 1-13

- (1) What do you think motivated the disciple to ask Jesus to teach him to pray? What about you, do you want to ask Jesus to teach you to pray, and why?
- (2) Read the Lord's Prayer a few more times and ask yourself which part of this prayer is really hard for you to pray honestly?
- (3) You have to understand that the context of vv.5-13 is clearly on intercession, not just any kind of prayers. Given this clarification, what do you learn about intercessory prayer?
- (4) *What do you learn about "total surrender" today?*

February 1: 11: 14-36

- (1) From vv. 14-26, what do you learn about evil spirits? Should we be afraid of the evil spirits? (See I John 4:4)
- (2) Why did Jesus say that generation was wicked? What reason(s) did he give? Based on the reason(s) given, what would you say about our generation?
- (3) V. 35 says, "See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness." (Underlined mine) Why did Jesus not say, the lamp within you? What difference would it make in the meaning of his warning?
- (4) *What do you learn about "total surrender" today?*

February 2: 11: 37-54

- (1) As far as you know, who were the Pharisees and the experts in the law? Why did Jesus use such harsh words against them? What was their reaction?
- (2) What were the sins of the Pharisees? Try to list them out.
- (3) What were the sins of the experts in the law? Try to list them out.
- (4) Which of the above sins might you also be guilty?
- (5) *What do you learn about "total surrender" today?*

February 3: 12: 1-12

- (1) As thousands of people trampled on one another to hear Jesus, why do you think Jesus chose to speak to the disciples first?
- (2) Luke recorded the following things spoken to the disciples:
 1. The yeast of the Pharisee: what was it and why was it called yeast?
 2. Everything hidden will be revealed: do you have anything you are or have done in secret that you need to repent from?
 3. Do not be afraid of anyone, but only God: what reason did Jesus give?
 4. We are extremely precious to God: what reason did Jesus give?
 5. He will not acknowledge those who do not acknowledge Him before men: what might be the reason and occasion that we may not acknowledge Jesus?
 6. Do not worry about what to say when you are persecuted: does it apply to preaching and leading Bible Study or sharing the gospel in general?
- (3) Which of the about speaks to you most?
- (4) *What do you learn about “total surrender” today?*

February 4 12: 13-34

- (1) What reason did Jesus give in refusing to intervene in the financial dispute between the brothers? What if such a dispute occurs today between siblings or people in the church, what principle can we draw from Jesus’ teaching?
- (2) Jesus urges us to seek first His kingdom: think of three areas that distinguish things within His Kingdom and those of this earth? Then, what is meant by seeking His kingdom first?
- (3) Within these verses (13-34), what is the proof that we are definitely not seeking his Kingdom first?
- (4) *What do you learn about “total surrender” today?*

February 5 12: 35-59

- (1) Putting v. 41 (Peter’s strange question) and v.48 (the essence of Jesus’ reply) together, what do you think is Jesus’ answer?
- (2) With the question of Peter, do you think he thought he needed not hear what was taught in vv.35-40? Why did he think so? What about you?
- (3) V.49 expresses Jesus’ emotion. How would you describe and explain such an emotion? What does it tell you?
- (4) *What do you learn about “total surrender” today?*

February 6 13: 1-21

- (1) In some cultures, the violent death of a person is an indication of his wickedness. How did Jesus deal with this notion, especially with the parable of the fig tree? (Note: Jesus directed most of his parables to the people of the Jews as a nation and in this case, the fruit is primarily referred to that of repentance. See 3:8.)
- (2) When Jesus pointed out their hypocrisy in v. 15, he was using animals in comparing to the woman. What kind of hypocrisy he was attacking?
- (3) In understanding parables, we need to stick to their central teaching. In this case, the birds do not necessarily refer to anything bad or evil. By putting the two parables about the Kingdom of God, what is the central teaching of Jesus? How is it being revealed today?
- (4) *What do you learn about “total surrender” today?*

V. Meditative Reflection

(This week, we shall continue our meditation based on excerpts of *The Calvary Road* by Roy Hession. Though it is out of print, its messages have transformed many lives over the years.)

January 31

Willing to be Shorn.

Then He was the *shorn Lamb*, willing to be shorn of His rights, His reputation, and every human liberty that was due to Him, just as a lamb is shorn of its wool. He never resisted: A lamb never does. When He was reviled for our sakes, He reviled not again. When He suffered, He threatened not. He never said, “You cannot treat Me like that. Don’t you know that I am the Son of God?” But we — ah we, on how many occasions have we been unwilling to be shorn of that which was our right. We were not willing for His sake to lose what was our own. We insisted, too, that we should be treated with the respect due to our position. We resisted, and we fought. The Dove had to take His flight from us for we were not willing to be shorn lambs, and we were left without peace, hard and unloving.

February 1

He Answered Nothing.

Then further, He was the silent Lamb. “As a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth.” Facing the calumnies of men, we read, “He answered nothing?” He never defended Himself, nor explained Himself. But we have been anything but silent when others have said unkind or untrue things about us. Our voices have been loud in self-defence and self-vindication, and there has been anger in our voices. We have excused ourselves, when we should have admitted frankly our wrong. On every such occasion the Dove had to take His flight, and withdraw His peace and blessing from our hearts, because we were not willing to be the silent lamb.

February 2

No Grudges.

He was also the *spotless Lamb*. Not only did nothing escape His lips, but there was nothing in His heart but love for those who had sent Him to the Cross. There was no resentment towards them, no grudges, no bitterness. Even as they were putting the nails through His hands, He was murmuring, “I forgive you,” and He asked His Father to forgive them too. He was willing to suffer it in meekness for us. But what resentment and bitterness have not we had in our hearts — toward this one and that one, and over so much less than what they did to Jesus. Each reaction left a stain on our hearts, and the Dove had to fly away because we were not willing to bear it and forgive it for Jesus’ sake.

February 3

Return, O’Dove!

These, then, are the acts and attitudes which drive the Holy Spirit from our lives, as far as present blessing is concerned, and they are all sin. Sin is the only thing that hinders the revival of His Church. The question of all questions for us just now is, “How can the Dove return to our lives with His peace and power?” The answer is again just simply, “The Lamb of God,” for He is not only the simple Lamb and the shorn Lamb and the silent Lamb and the spotless Lamb, but above everything else He is the *substitute Lamb*.

To the Jew the lamb that was offered to God was always a substitute lamb. Its meekness and submissiveness was only incidental to its main work, that of being slain for his sin and of its blood being sprinkled on the altar to atone for it. The humility of the Lord Jesus in becoming our Lamb was necessary only that He might become on the Cross our Substitute, our scapegoat, carrying our sins in His own Body on the Tree, so that there might be forgiveness for our sins and cleansing from all their stains, when we repent of them. But inasmuch as there is no past or future with God, but all is present and timeless, there is a sense in which the suffering of the Lord Jesus for the sins of which we have not repented is present too. What a vision it is when we see these sins wounding and hurting Him now! May this solemn thought break our proud hearts in repentance! For it is only when we have seen these sins of ours in the heart of Jesus, so that we are broken and willing to repent of them and put them right, that the Blood of the Lamb cleanses us from them and the Dove returns with peace and blessing to our hearts.

February 4

*He humbled Himself to the manger,
And even to Calvary's tree;
But I am so proud and unwilling,
His humble disciple to be.*

*He yielded His will to the Father,
And chose to abide in the Light;
But I prefer wrestling to resting,
And try by myself to do right.*

*Lord break me, then cleanse me and fill me
And keep me abiding in Thee;
That fellowship may be unbroken,
And Thy Name be hallowed in me.*

February 5

A saintly African Christian told a congregation once that, as he was climbing the hill to the meeting, he heard steps behind him. He turned and saw a man carrying a very heavy load up the hill on his back. He was full of sympathy for him and spoke to him. Then he noticed that His hands were scarred, and he realised that it was Jesus. He said to Him, "Lord, are you carrying the world's sins up the hill?" "No," said the Lord Jesus, "not the *world's* sin, just yours!" As that African simply told the vision God had just given him, the people's hearts and his heart were broken as they saw their sins at the Cross. Our hearts need to be broken too, and only when they are shall we be willing for the confessions, the apologies, the reconciliations and the restitutions, that are involved in a true repentance of sin. Then, when we have been willing to humble ourselves as the Lord humbled Himself, the Dove will return to us.

*Return, O heavenly Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest!
I hate the sins that made Thee mourn,
And drove Thee from my breast.*

February 6

Ruled by the Dove.

One last word. The Dove is the emblem of peace, which suggests that if the Blood of Jesus has cleansed us and we are walking with the Lamb in humility, the sign of the Spirit's presence and fulness will be peace. This is indeed to be the test of our walk all the way along. "Let the peace of God rule (or arbitrate) in your hearts" (Col. 3: 15). If the Dove ceases to sing in our hearts at any time, if our peace is broken, then it can only be because of sin. In some matter we have departed from the humility of the Lamb. We must ask God to show us what it is, and be quick to repent of it and bring the sin to the Cross. Then the Dove will be once again in His rightful place in our hearts and peace with God will be ours. In this way we shall know that continuous abiding of the Spirit's presence, which is open even to fallen men through the immediate and constant application of the precious Blood of Jesus.

Shall we not begin from today to allow our lives to be ruled by the Heavenly Dove, the peace of God, and allow Him to be the arbiter all the day through? We shall find ourselves walking in a path of constant conviction and much humbling, but in this way we shall come into real conformity with the Lamb of God, and we shall know the only victory that is worth anything, the conquest of self.

VI. A Time for Silence

You have mediated much today with your intellectual faculty today. Now have a moment of silence (the length is up to you, 5 or even 30 minutes), and ask God quietly, "Lord, is there any important message from you today that I might have missed? Show me, your servant is listening?"

VII. Supplication

Use the following chart to cover people and ministries that you want to remember before the Lord:

	Your family	Other people	Church Ministries	Other Ministries	City & World	Others
Sunday						
Monday						
Tuesday						
Wed						
Thursday						
Friday						
Saturday						

VII. Benediction

“May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and in his grace gave us unfailing courage and a firm hope, encourage you and strengthen you to always do and say what is good.” 2 Thessalonians 2: 16-17