



## LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2010

Week 11:

March 14 – March 20

### I. Adoration

#### 1. Invocation Prayer

“Our Father, I am no longer my own, but Thine. Put me to what Thou wilt; rank me with whom Thou wilt; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for Thee or laid aside for Thee, let me be exalted for Thee; or brought low for Thee; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and heartily yield all things to Thy pleasure and disposal. In Jesus Name. Amen.” (The Methodist Covenant Prayer)

#### 2. Adoration through Psalm 11

(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 John

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

#### March 14: 1: 19-34

- (1) Why did the Pharisees send people to ask John the Baptist who he was? What did they think John might be and why?
- (2) In what sense did John the Baptist “make straight the way for the Lord”? (See Isaiah 40:1-5) Why was it (or he) necessary?
- (3) As a witness or someone who made straight the way for Christ, what did John emphasize about who Jesus is? (Jot down every description of Christ by John in this passage)
- (4) John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin and of course, he knew him and yet he said in v.33 “I would not have known him.” In what way did he not know Jesus and how was it made known to him?
- (5) What have you learned about the love of God today?

#### March 15: 1: 35-51

Note: This is clearly the first encounter by Peter of Jesus and the location, according to v.28 was near Bethany, not too far from Jerusalem. This first group of disciples all came from the region of Galilee.

- (1) John the Baptist had his followers, and upon pointing out that Jesus was the Lamb of God, two of his disciples quickly followed Jesus. How would John have felt, losing two of his disciples?
- (2) Peter was his Greek name, his Hebrew name was Simon. Of all the disciples, why would Jesus choose to change Simon's name? Any significance to his action?
- (3) From this short passage, this much we know about Nathaniel
  1. Nathaniel was not with the rest of these newly called disciples, but was under the fig tree, perhaps among many people who flocked to John the Baptist for

repentance.

2. He made the cynical remark about Jesus to Philip.

Then, why would Jesus say that he was a man without falsehood or guile?

Why would he make a 180° change about Jesus simply because Jesus said, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree?” (Note: v.50 implies that this was a “great thing” in itself.)

- (4) What did Jesus liken himself to in v.51 (see Genesis 28:12) and why was it “greater things”?
- (5) What have you learned about the love of God today?

**March 16: 2: 1-11**

- (1) Now Jesus was returning to Galilee with a bunch of followers, not quite the lonely carpenter any more. Why did Mary feel the urge to tell Jesus that the wine ran out? And, in spite of Jesus’ reply she still insisted that the servants would “do whatever he” told them?
- (2) From Jesus’ reply to his mother in v.4 and the words that he chose to use, what lesson(s) is/are there to learn?
- (3) Since Jesus was going to act, what could he have done to supply wine to the wedding party, how special was the way he chose to supply wine for the occasion?
- (4) What was the ultimate purpose of this miracle, according to the gospel writer? What is then the ultimate purpose of all miracles being performed by Jesus?
- (5) What have you learned about the love of Jesus today?

**March 17: 2: 12-25**

- (1) As “the Lamb of God”, what was on Jesus’ mind as he came to Jerusalem to observe the Passover? Why was he so infuriated about people’s use of the temple?
- (2) How was his action greeted by the people (v.18)?
- (3) These people “believed” because they saw his miracles, but Jesus would not entrust himself to them. What could be the problem if “faith” is based purely on seeing miracles?

- (4) What have you learned about God’s love today?

**March 18 3:1-13**

- (1) What prompted Nicodemus to come to Jesus, and why at night?
- (2) What is meant by being born again of “water and the Spirit” (see Ephesians 5:26 also) and why did Jesus liken this to the wind?
- (3) So, how do you know that you are born again?
- (4) Jesus repeatedly used “we” as the one that bears testimony of heavenly things. Who are “we” (in light of v.13)?
- (5) What have you learned about God’s love today?

**March 19 3: 14-21**

- (1) It appears that Jesus continues to talk until the end of this chapter. How appropriate was Jesus’ use of Moses and the bronze snake as an analogy of his work of salvation? (See Numbers 21: 4-9) We often associate snake as evil, what does this analogy teach us about the use of object lesson?
- (2) 3:16 makes a very clear statement about eternal death and eternal life, and many people opine that a God who can send people to death is not a God of love. Read v.18 carefully a few times. How does this verse answer this criticism?
- (3) Read vv. 19-21 and I John 1:7. What is meant by us “walking in the light”? Does it mean that we do not sin or have no sin?
- (4) Substitute your own name in v.16 and read over a few times. What have you learned about the love of God?

**March 20 3: 22-36**

(John the Baptist’s final testimony about Jesus)

- (1) Apparently, many had switched to being baptized by Jesus. What spiritual principle did John the Baptist’s give

in his response to this “Competition”?

- (2) How can you sum up John’s attitude in serving Christ?  
How can you apply to yourself today?
- (3) Read carefully vv. 31-36. Jot down all that John said about Jesus. What can you learn about Christ”?
- (4) Review the entire chapter 3, and highlight everything about “eternal life”. How important is eternal life to you and to Jesus?

## V. Meditative Reflection

As we finish our daily reflection based on “Calvary Road”, I would like to introduce you to short reflective pieces, both modern and ancient, beginning with the Celtics this week.

### March 14

The world gives itself  
up to incessant activity  
merely because  
it knows of nothing  
better.

The inspired man  
works among  
its whirring wheels  
also, but he knows  
whither the wheels  
are going.  
For he has found  
the centre  
where all is  
stillness ...

*Paul Brunton*

### March 15

These verses may be sung to any of the tunes used for ‘When I survey the wondrous cross’, and are brought to us by Wild Goose of Iona.

#### INSPIRED BY LOVE AND ANGER

When trouble strikes and fear takes root  
and dreams are dry and sense unsound  
when hope becomes a barren waste,  
then doubts like mountains soar around.

Our wandering minds believe the worst  
and ask, as faith and fervour fade,  
‘Has God now turned His back on us,  
forsaking those He loved and made?’

God says, 'See how a woman cares,  
can she forget the child she bore?  
Even if she did, I shan't forget.  
Though feeling lost, I love you more.'

### March 16

God says, 'See how a woman cares,  
can she forget the child she bore?  
Even if she did, I shan't forget,  
Though feeling lost, I love you more.'

'My dearest daughter, fondest son,  
My weary folk in every land,  
your souls are cradled in My heart,  
your names are written on My hand.'

Then praise the Lord through faith and fear,  
in holy and in hopeless place,  
for height and depth and heaven and hell  
can't keep us far from His embrace.

### March 17

A healthy child is  
somehow very much  
like God. A hurting  
child, His son.

*Calvin Miller, The Singer*

In 'The Singer' Earthmaker and His Troubadour sit down on the  
outer rim of space and look at our planet. Earthmaker holds it to  
His ear...

'They're crying, Troubadour,' He said. 'They cry so  
hopelessly.' He gave the tiny planet to His Son who also  
held it by His ear. 'Year after weary year they all keep  
crying. They seem born to weep then die.'

Then with his nail He scraped the atmosphere and both

of them beheld the planet bleed. Earthmaker set earth  
spinning on its way and said, 'Give Me your vast infinity,  
My Son; I'll wrap it in a bit of clay.'

And so the Son became a one-of-us.

### March 18

A covenant sealed with blood commits both parties to each other  
for ever. All they have belongs to the other, and they will lay down  
their life on the other's behalf.

Christ has many services to be done;  
some are easy, others are difficult;  
some bring honour, others bring reproach;  
some are suitable to our natural  
inclinations and temporal interest,  
others are contrary to both.

In some we may please Christ and please ourselves,  
in others we cannot please Christ except by denying  
ourselves,  
Yet the power to do all these things is assuredly given us  
in Christ, who strengthens us.

Therefore let us make  
the Covenant of God our own.  
Let us engage our heart to the Lord,  
and resolve in His strength never to go back!

*The Covenant Service*

### March 19

The Love of Jesus took Him to Calvary where He forgave, and  
offered hope even as He suffered.

We need to receive His mercy, but also to show it to others.  
Jesus is Shiloh, the Awaited One to whom all will gather. His  
wounds are for our cleansing, His blood the cup of our salvation.

Hear the challenge of this Chuck Girard song:

Don't shoot the wounded,  
 they need us more than ever.  
 Sometimes we just condemn them,  
 and don't take time to hear their story.  
 Don't shoot the wounded,  
 some day you might be one.

**March 20**

Why do we call impossible what God calls possible?  
 Why do we call unforgivable what God has forgiven?  
 Why do we compromise with what God calls sin?  
 How we need to know God's heart, and reach out in His  
 love and wisdom to others.

It's easy to love the people who are standing hard and fast,  
 pressing on to meet that higher calling.  
 But the ones who might be struggling, we tend to judge  
 too harshly  
 and refuse to try and catch them when they're falling.  
 We put people into boxes and we draw our hard  
 conclusions  
 and when they do the things we know they should not do  
 we sometimes write them off as hopeless and we throw  
 them to the dogs.  
 Our compassion and forgiveness sometimes seem  
 in short supply...

*Chuck Girard*

**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**

"The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land. The Lord will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Amen." (Isaiah 58:11)