



## LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2010

Week 13:  
March 28 – April 3

### I. Adoration

#### 1. Invocation Prayer

“O God our Father, help us to be rooted and established in your love, so that we may have the power together with all our brothers and sisters to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ today. In Jesus Name. Amen.” (Adapted from Ephesians 3: 17-18)

#### 2. Adoration through Psalm 13

(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 each day gather a different thought about the plight of the Psalmist (or your own), and also think of one “goodness” of God 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 28: 5: 30-43

Jesus continued to rebuke the Jews for their hatred towards him based on his perceived breach of Sabbath law and making himself equal with God.

- (1) Jesus said the Jews really had no excuse for not believing in him, because there was at least a four-fold testimony about him. Can you discern what they were?
  - i. Vv. 33-35
  - ii. V. 36
  - iii. Vv. 37-38, &
  - iv. Vv. 39-40

Have these four witnesses strengthened your faith in Christ?

- (2) The Jews “diligently studied the Scriptures” and yet they would not believe in Jesus? What were the reasons? How does this remind you of your own attitude in studying the Scriptures today?
- (3) Part of the sin of the Jews lied in their “accepting praise from one another” (v.44). Examine yourself whether this is also your sin.
- (4) What have you learned about the love of God today?

#### March 29: 6: 1-15

- (1) John said Jesus was testing Philip with his question. What should have been the answer of Philip for him to pass the test? What did his reply show?
- (2) Since Andrew knew that the boy's dinner was definitely not enough to feed more than a few people, why then did he even bring it to Jesus' attention? What was the result of his action? Is there a lesson to learn here?
- (3) Read carefully the entire process of food distribution, is there one part of it that catches your imagination or attention more than the rest?

- (4) What was the end result of performing this miracle (v.15)? Why then did Jesus still perform it, in the first place? (Refer to Mark 6:34)
- (5) What have you learned about the love of God today?

**March 30: 6: 16-24 (Mark 6: 45-52)**

It is helpful that we also read the parallel passage in Mark 6: 45-52 which gives more details and insights in this event.

- (1) What reason is given here for Jesus not accompanying the disciples on the boat? Can you also think of other reasons?
- (2) We know the impact the last miracle had on the people. What about the disciples? Had they learned anything, judging from their reaction amidst the storm? How should they have responded were their hearts not hardened?
- (3) What has this miracle demonstrated to you? How can you apply it to your life?
- (4) What have you learned about the love of Jesus today?

**March 31: 6: 25-40**

- (1) We understand that the crowd that followed Jesus was in general quite poor. Was Jesus being too harsh on them? What is the significance of v.27 when it comes to (a) our sharing of the gospel with others and (b) our own focus of life?
- (2) Read carefully vv. 27-29
  - V.27: Jesus urged them to work for eternal food (which in itself is a gift from the Son of Man)
  - V.28: The people asked what qualified as doing the work of God.
  - V.29 Jesus gave a fairly astonishing answer. What was it and what does it mean?
- (3) These people had already seen and personally tasted of the miracle of bread and fish. How could they still ask for “miraculous sign”? From what they said in v.31, what kind of a miracle they were hoping to see?

- (4) Jesus now declared clearly that “I am the bread of life”. Vv. 35-40 provide a list of “benefits” of having this Bread of Life. Try to list them out and see what are the implications to you?
- (5) What have you learned about God’s love today?

**April 1 6: 41-59**

- (1) Underline all the references to being “raised up on the last day”. Why did Jesus repeatedly mention it and how important is it? Is it important to you? If it is important to Jesus (important enough for him to repeat it), why then is it not important to you?
- (2) Consider the grumbling and argument among the people (v.41 & v. 52), did they have grounds for their disputes? How did Jesus address each and do you find it hard to understand? Why or why not?
- (3) What have you learned about God’s love today?

**April 2 6: 60-71**

- (1) Some of the disciples were grumbling too. What was that they found hard to believe? What did Jesus say was their problem, and how did He help them overcome it?
- (2) What ultimately determines whether someone would believe in Christ?
- (3) Vv. 66-67 are some of the saddest verses in the Bible. What could Jesus have done to prevent it, and why didn’t He?
- (4) What is your answer to v. 67? What is the reason for your answer? Is it the same as Peter’s? Why or why not?
- (5) What have you learned about the love of God?

**April 3 7: 1-18**

- (1) The brothers of Jesus did not believe in him (v.5). From what they said, what did they believe about Jesus? What lesson can we learn from this?

- (2) This passage touches on “timing”, what can learn here in terms of God’s timing?
- (3) Why did Jesus appear to have “lied” about his going to Jerusalem? What was the atmosphere like in Jerusalem at the time?
- (4) How special was Jesus’ teaching, and what was His secret?
- (5) What have you learned about the love of God?

## 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 28

The following song from the third chapter of the book of Malachi was given in 1978 as a prayer for the Islanders. Lindisfarne, long dubbed the ‘Holy Island’, still needs a witness to each succeeding generation, and God will have a presence there in His people.

The Island’s inhabitants walk often unknowingly in the field of an on-going spiritual conflict.

When the work is done,  
 when comes the day of the Refiner’s fire,  
 when they are purged like gold and silver  
 to offer Me an offering in righteousness  
 then shall the offering of My people in My holy place  
 be pleasant unto Me, the Lord your God,  
 as in the days of old,  
 and as in former years:  
 a place of peace,  
 a dwelling—place for man and God.

### March 29

Why should the former glory of these holy places be greater than what can happen in these latter days? Look at Haggai chapter 2, and you find it need not be so. There again God reminds us the first tenth of our income, at least, must be dedicated to Him — or we are robbing Him.

Can we afford to do this?  
 Can we afford not to?  
 When the time is come, `
 when they return to Me in everything they do  
 and I am first,  
 then will heaven’s windows open wide  
 and pour a blessing bigger than you can contain,  
 Then shall the offering  
 of My people in My holy place

be pleasant unto Me, the Lord your God,  
as in the days of old,  
and as in former years:  
a place of peace,  
a dwelling-place for man and God.

### March 30

It is by God's grace that our feet don't lose contact with the path we set out to follow. We say, 'Here I am, Lord' when He calls. He calls continually to the willing and the unwilling. It is not so much our ability He has need of, but our availability.

Jesus stands on the shore and whistles  
for his people to respond, wave upon  
wave. He calls them to bind the  
broken-hearted, and build up waste places.

Bryan Pollard

I see a Man walking by the seashore,  
whistling gently to the waves of those  
who will come to restore the ruined  
places, who're crying,

'PREPARE THE WAY!

Prepare the way, Prepare the way.  
Prepare the way for the Lord!'

### March 31

Each of us has the potential to become a son of God, an heir to all that is His, for each of us, male or female, in every place, has been made in His image, with chance to choose Him.

Only after we have yielded to Him can we reflect the face of Christ.

What kind of stones will Holy Island offer on His return?

When I the Lord shall come  
to gather jewels for My diadem  
shall I find stones, resistant, hard and rough?

or gems prepared and radiant with My glory?  
And shall the offering of My people in My holy place  
be pleasant unto Me, the Lord your God?  
as in the days of old,  
and as in former years:  
a place of peace,  
a dwelling—place for man and God?

So hearken unto Me  
and follow Me with all your heart.

### April 1

TIME FOR EVERYTHING BUT PRAYER

Why is there so little anxiety to get time to pray?

Why is there so little forethought in the laying out of time and employments so as to secure a large portion of each day for prayer?

Why is there so much speaking, yet so little prayer?

Why is there so much running to and fro, yet so little prayer?

Why so much bustle and business, yet so little prayer? Why so many meetings with our fellow—men, yet so few meetings with God?

Why so little being alone, so little thirsting of the soul for the calm, sweet hours of unbroken solitude, when God and His child hold fellowship together as if they could never part?

It is the want of these solitary hours that not only injures our own growth in grace but makes us such unprofitable members of the church of Christ, and that renders our lives useless.

Horatius Bonar

### April 2

In one single quiet hour of prayer the soul will often make more progress than in days of company with others. It is in the desert that the eye gets the clearest, simplest view of eternal certainties; it is in His presence alone, it is then that the soul gathers in wondrous refreshment and power and energy.

And so it is also in this way that we become truly useful to others. It is when coming out fresh from communion with God that we go forth to do His work successfully.

In nearness to God we get our vessels so filled with blessing, that, when we come forth, we can not contain it to ourselves but must, as by a blessed , necessity, pour it out whithersoever we go.

Horatius Bonar

**April 3**

O God our Father, who hast set forth the way of life for us in Thy beloved Son: We confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our reluctance to follow Him. Thou hast spoken and called, and we have not given heed; Thy beauty has shone forth and we have been blind; Thou hast stretched out Thy hands to us through our fellows and we have passed by. We have taken great benefits with little thanks; we have been unworthy of Thy changeless love.

Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

From the Covenant Service

**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**

“ People of God, flee from the love of money, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith and take hold of eternal life...that is truly life. Amen” (I Timothy 6: 11, 12, 19, adapted)