



## LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2010

Week 14  
April 4 - 10

### I. Adoration

#### 1. Invocation Prayer

“Our Heavenly Father, help us be crucified with Christ on the Cross so that we no longer be slaves to sin, and help us be untied with Him in His resurrection that this life we live, we live to God. In Jesus Name. Amen.” (Adapted from Romans 6)

#### 2. Adoration through Psalm 14

(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 one thought about the fool, and also think of one character or deed 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:

#### April 4: 7: 19-29

- (1) Jesus was commenting on their charges against him for breaching Sabbath law in vv. 19-24. By comparing what he did and how they allowed circumcision on Sabbath, Jesus pointed out their core problem being “judging by mere appearance.” Why did he say that?
- (2) Is this still a common mistake among God's people? Have you ever made the same mistake?
- (3) Did the people really know where Jesus was from (v.27)? Is “no one will know where (the Christ, i.e. the Messiah) is from” a biblical teaching in the Old Testament (see v.42)?
- (4) Have you come across the mixing of biblical teaching and human conjecture concerning the Second coming of Christ? (e.g. Who the Anti-Christ is? What 10-nation bloc will fight against Israel? The prediction of the time of Christ's return?)
- (5) What have you learned about the love of God today?

#### April 5: 7: 30-52

The following background to the “Feast of Tabernacles” (or feast of the booths, to commemorate the 40 years of wandering in the desert) is helpful to our understanding of this passage

“On the eighth and final day of the feast, the high priest of Israel, in a great processional made up of priests and tens of thousands of worshipers, descended from the Temple Mount to pause briefly at the Pool of Siloam. A pitcher was filled with water, and the procession continued via a different route back to the Temple Mount. Here, in the midst of great ceremony, the high priest poured the water out of the pitcher onto the altar. Since in Israel the rains normally stop in March, there is no rain for almost seven months! If God does not provide the “early” rains in October and November, there will be no spring crop, and famine is at the doorstep. This ceremony, then, was intended to invoke

God's blessing on the nation by providing life-giving water." (Christcenteredmail.com)

- (1) What impact would these words of Jesus, from vv.33-34 have after his death and resurrection on the hearers?
- (2) Why did Jesus choose the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles to call people to drink from Him? Why was it so fitting?
- (3) What is the work of the Holy Spirit as alluded to in v.39?
- (4) What did the guards dare to disobey their order (given in v.32)?
- (5) What have you learned about the love of God today?

**April 6: 8: 1-11**

- (1) Why did Jesus choose to stay away from Jerusalem at night? Why did he choose to return again, given the hostility?
- (2) Read Deuteronomy 22:22-27. Can you see the hypocrisy of the Pharisees in their action here?
- (3) Why was the question a trap (v.6)?
- (4) Since the Bible does not tell us what Jesus was writing on the ground, it is not helpful to speculate. Rather, we should consider why he chose to bend and write? What was he waiting for?
- (5) Why did they leave "one at a time, the older ones first"? Did they not come to trap Jesus? By leaving, what were they trying to avoid or run away from?
- (6) While Jesus was very open in condemning all kinds of sins and sinners, why did he not condemn this adulterous woman? Did it have anything to do with the woman not leaving while she could have? What was Jesus last word?
- (7) What have you learned about the love of Jesus today?

**April 7: 8: 12-20**

- (1) Here, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." Can you recall in the Gospel of John, what else did Jesus call himself beginning with "I am"?

- (2) Meditate on the metaphor being used of "light". How appropriate is this use of metaphor in the person and work of our Lord Jesus with regard to both the world, and yourself?
- (3) "I AM" in Greek is instantly recognized by the Jews as equivalent to the name of God in Hebrew (read 8:24 how Jesus claimed himself to be and Exodus 3:14). With this in mind, re-read John 1: 1-14.
- (4) What have you learned about God's love?

**April 8 8: 21-36**

- (1) What is the consequence of not believing in who Jesus is? Why is that?
- (2) Where was the Father while Jesus was on earth as the Son of Man (v.29)?
- (3) The statement of v.31 is a "cause-and-effect" statement. Which is the cause? Which is the effect? Why?
- (4) How did Jesus define real "freedom"? How different is it from the world's definition?
- (5) What have you learned about God's love today?

**April 9 8: 37-47**

- (1) In clinging to Abraham as their father, what were the Jews really clinging to for their salvation? Do you find any parallel today among professed Christians?
- (2) Jesus charged that their father was Satan. Was he being too harsh? How did Jesus describe Satan? What does having Satan as their father mean? What warning does it serve to you?
- (3) Why did Jesus say in v.42, "you would love me"?
- (4) Recap all the things this passage says about someone who does not believe in Jesus.
- (5) What have you learned about the love of God?

**April 10 8: 48-59**

- (1) On what basis did the Jews say that Jesus was a

Samaritan and a demon-possessed at this point? What did these charges reveal? And what was the most important point that Jesus was trying to make in his response? (vv. 48-51)

- (2) The Jews asked, “Who do you think you are?” (v.53) did they know what Jesus has been claiming himself to be? If so, what does this “question” show?
- (3) Why did Jesus bring up Abraham again in v.56 and what does his answer in v.58 mean and why did it lead to their stoning of Jesus?
- (4) Put yourself in the shoes of the Jews, how would have responded to Jesus’ claim in v.58?
- (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 Celts this week.

### April 4

It was only Nicodemus who was told to be born again, the adulteress who was told ‘Neither do I condemn you, go, and sin no more, but we all identify with them and learn from the conversation Jesus had with them.

This song was a prophecy for one man, but we can all learn from it:

#### RESERVIOR

You place my feet upon a larger place, Lord,  
You give my hands a greater task for You.  
You set my eyes upon the far horizon  
and in my heart I know Your word is true.

You place a reservoir within my heart, Lord,  
that all my tears  
would come from a different place:  
that all my ways would minister Your grace  
to those who long  
to see Your face.

### April 5

Even as the tide comes in and goes out again, so we are drawn to retreat into silence and aloneness with God, then released to be involved in the going and activity again.

Most of the world would like to see something of Jesus, but how we fail to show Him through our life! How seldom when we speak is it what He has given us to be said!

So in my life may I know Your approval;  
so may I move out with Your commendation,  
that my words may be filled with Your grace and truth  
from the reservoir within my heart.

You place a reservoir within my heart, Lord,  
that all my tears  
would come from a different place:  
that all my ways would minister Your grace  
to those who long ~  
to see Your face.

### April 6

I'm not defeated. I'm an overcomer. I want to live to give glory to You, God. All creation resounds with Your praise and longs to be finally reconciled. I am part of Your purposes,  
You cause my heart to soar like an eagle,  
You teach my feet to conquer like a deer.  
All I survey shall echo with Your praise,  
and Lord,  
I know that *I* must know You here.

You place a reservoir within my heart, Lord,  
that all my tears  
would come from a different place:  
that all my ways would minister Your grace  
to those who long  
to see Your face.

Teach us, Lord, to cry with Your tears, as well as our own.

### April 7

God's life in our life is always a miracle.  
Something which is known to have been from the beginning, this we have heard, and seen with our own eyes, something we have touched and have carefully watched, the Word who is life, this we share with those whose lives touch our own.  
Suddenly the miracle seems possible — to them, and once again to us also.

I knew a blind man  
whom a surgeon

helped to see.  
The doctor never had a  
lover such as he.  
It is in such a way  
that singers love  
composers.

Calvin Miller

### April 8

If we have truly looked at God then we are different — there is a difference for always. An old man and his wife had been married for many years. Content in each other's company they rarely needed to speak.

Another man, speaking of his way of praying, has said, 'I looks at Him, and He looks at me, and we're happy together'  
My eyes, my eyes have seen the King.  
My eyes, my eyes have seen the King.  
The vision of His beauty .  
has pierced me deep within;  
to whom else can I go?

John Skinner

### April 9

His Bride is a corporate Bride made up of all those who love Him and put Him before everything else, He loves us and longs to spend time alone with us. He loves to hear us speak to Him, and we love Him because He loves us first, and drew us to Him  
My heart, my heart desires Him,  
my heart, my heart desires Him.  
He's touched something inside of me  
that's now reaching out for Him,  
and I know that I must go.

John Skinner

### April 10

The following passage is from The Last Battle, the seventh and final of the Narnia stories by C. S. Lewis: Q  
FAREWELL TO SHADOWLANS

‘Farther up and farther in!’ roared the Unicorn, and no one held back. They charged straight at the foot of the hill and then found themselves running up it almost as water from a broken wave runs up a rock out at the point of some bay. Though the slope was nearly as steep as the roof of a house and the grass was smooth as a bowling green, no one slipped. Only when they had reached the very top did they slow up; that was because they found themselves facing great golden gates. And for a moment none of them was bold enough to try if the gates would open. They all felt just as they had felt about the fruit- ‘Dare we? Is it right?’ Can it be meant for us?’

But while they were standing thus a great horn, wonderfully loud and sweet, blew from somewhere. inside that walled garden and the gates swung open.

**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**

“Throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and run with perseverance the race marked out for you this week and always. In Jesus name. Amen.” (Hebrew 12:1, adapted)