



LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2010

Week 15
April 11 - 17

I. Adoration

1. Invocation Prayer

“O God, in whom nothing can live but as it lives in love, grant us today the spirit which does not want to be rewarded, honored or esteemed, but only to become the blessing and happiness of everything that wants it; love which is the very joy of life, and thine own goodness and truth within the soul; who thyself art love, and by love our redeemer, from eternity to eternity. In Jesus Name. Amen.”
(Adapted from William Law, 1686-1761)

2. Adoration through Psalm 15

(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 this psalm that points to God's character that should be reflected in our lives 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 11: 9: 1-12

- (1) Why did the disciples immediately associated the blindness of the person with sin? Was it justified? Honestly examine yourself and see if you had ever judged someone misfortune and attributed to sin.
- (2) Does every sickness or misfortune in life necessarily lead to a display of the work of God? Why or why not?
- (3) Why did John bother to tell his reader the meaning of the Pool of Siloam? What might be its significance in the healing of this blind man?
- (4) V.4 seems a little out of place, and in a sense, its omission does not change the story a bit. Why was it there and what was Jesus message?
- (5) What have you learned about the love of God today?

April 12: 9:13-41

Let's study this longer passage from looking at the three (groups of) characters

(1) The Pharisees and the Jews:

1. What did they know about the incident?
2. Why did they refuse to acknowledge it?
3. What was the result of their “investigation”?
4. What was their agenda?
5. With what sin did Jesus charge them?
6. Any lesson can you learn from them?

(2) The parents:

1. What did they know about the incident?
2. If you were the parents, how would you react to the incident?
3. Why did they leave their son to fend for himself?

(3) The blind man:

1. Before Jesus revealed himself to him, how did he interpret this miracle?

2. Was he afraid of the Pharisees? Why or why not?
3. How different was he from his parents?
- (4) What have you learned about the love of God today?

April 13: 10: 1-10

Jesus gives two analogies about Him in this chapter. In the first 10 verses, He calls Himself the Gate.

- (1) What are the marks of a true shepherd listed in vv. 1-6?
- (2) Since He is the Gate, who is the shepherd in this passage?
- (3) What are the results of entering into the sheep pen through Him, the Gate? (vv. 7-10)
- (4) Why would entering through Him lead to “abundant life”? What is “abundant life”? Does it describe your life? Why or why not?
- (5) What have you learned about the love of God today?

April 14: 10: 11-18

Jesus changes the analogy here and calls Himself the Good Shepherd.

- (1) What is the command that Jesus received from the Father? What does it entail?
- (2) Why did Jesus call Himself the “Good Shepherd”?
- (3) What are the marks of sheep that truly belong to Him?
- (4) “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen”. Who are they? What is meant by “They too will be one flock”?
- (5) What have you learned about God’s love?

April 15 10: 19-29

- (1) “How long will you keep us in suspense?” According to Jesus, was their question sincere? Why or why not?
- (2) Jesus repeats here the marks of sheep that belong to Him. What really does each of these marks mean:
 1. “listen to my voice”. How?
 2. “I know them”. How?
 3. “they follow me”. How?

- (3) What is the most important result of being His sheep? Why would this fact never change?
- (4) What have you learned about God’s love today?

April 16 10: 30-42

- (1) What did the Jews understand by “I and the Father are one”? How do you understand it?
- (2) Jesus pointed to the many miracles He did as evidence of who He is. Try to jot down, to the best of your recollection, all the (kinds of) miracles Jesus did. Look at your list, what conclusion can you draw?
- (3) Read the last part of this passage, and reflect on the life of John the Baptist. Was his ministry a failure or a success?
- (4) What have you learned about the love of God?

April 17 11: 1- 16

This miracle of raising Lazarus is significant in many ways, one of which is the fact that it ushered Jesus into the height of his fame which eventually led to His death.

- (1) “Lord, the one you love is sick” were the words sent by the sisters to Jesus. What did it tell you about the relationship of this family with Jesus? Do you think this can also apply to you? Why or why not? (What about John 3:16?)
- (2) V.6 is a very odd verse. If He did love them, why would he tarry for two more days? Do you know what happened in these two days (apart from the fact that Lazarus died)?
- (3) While Mary and Martha mourned, Jesus said, “ I am glad” (v.15). How could Jesus be so cruel?
- (4) Comment on this human statement, “God is never late, but seldom early.”
- (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.

April 11

FARTHER UP AND FARTHER IN

Perhaps you will get some idea of it if you think like this. You may have been in a room in which there was a window that looked out on a lovely bay of the sea or a green valley that wound away among mountains. And in the wall of that room opposite to the window there may have been a looking-glass. And the sea in the mirror, or the valley in the mirror, were in one sense just the same as the real one: yet at the same time they were somehow different - deeper, more wonderful, more like places in a story: in a story you have never heard but very much want to know.

C. S. Lewis

April 12

We cry out to God to be our refuge and strength, our hiding place. We find others who have also taken refuge in Him, and are beginning to build from what is broken.

God called forth a people
and we responded to His call,
‘Rebuild this ancient ruin,
restore My city walls.’
He has led us day by day.
As we listened to His voice,
and we were fed on finest wheat,
and manna from the skies.

When we started, we were strangers,
we hardly knew each other’s names.
Now we are brothers and sisters,
and we will never be the same.

April 13

God called forth a people
and we responded to His call,
‘Rebuild this ancient ruin,
restore My city walls.’

As we built, brick by brick
we discovered the cornerstone
and as we let Him mould and fashion us,
He built us up in love.

Now we have seen,
and we have heard,
that the Lord our God is great
for a wilderness has been transformed
into His holy place.

April 14

Pray remember what I have recommended to you, which is, to think often of God, by day, by night, in your business, and even in your diversions. He is always near you and with you; leave Him not alone, You would think it rude to leave a friend alone who came to visit you: why then must God be neglected? Do not then forget Him, but think of Him often, adore Him continually, live and die with Him; this is the glorious employment of a Christian; if we do not know it we must learn it.

Brother Lawrence, The Practice of the Presence of God

April 15

Lord, You seized me and I could not resist You.
I ran for a long time, but You followed me.
I took by-paths, but You knew them.
You overtook me. I struggled. You won.
Here I am, Lord, out of breath, no fight left in me,
and I’ve said ‘yes’ almost unwillingly,

When I stood there trembling
like one defeated before his captor,
Your look of love fell on me.
The die is cast, Lord, I can no longer forget You.
In a moment You seized me,
in a moment You conquered me.
My doubts were swept away, my fears dispelled.
Nothing matters to me,
neither my comfort, nor even my life,
I desire only You, I want nothing but You,
Michel Quoist, Prayers of Life

When in the hush of eventide,
cool waters touched His feet
was it a hymn of Calvary's road
He heard the waves repeat?

But when the winds triumphantly
swept from the open plain,
the Master surely heard the song:
The Lord shall live again!

Catherine Baird

April 16

Christ 'in giving Himself to us has become our fellow-pilgrim on life's journey' But He said 'I piped to you and you would not dance.' In the face of this Christ I felt myself 'so heavy footed and drowsy.' I asked Him, therefore, to wake me, 'rouse me, let me dance hour by hour to Your piping in all I do all day long,' concluding, 'I have trusted in Him and I am helped, therefore my heart danceth for joy and in my song I will praise Him. So make us Thine that we may be a chalice of joy.'

*Marjorie Milne, as quoted in Glastonbury Journey,
a biography by Brian Frost*

April 17

When Jesus looked o'er Galilee,
so blue and calm and fair,
upon her bosom, could He see
a Cross reflected there?

When sunrise dyed the lovely deeps
and sparkled in His hair,
O did the light rays seem to say:
A crown of thorns He'll wear?

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

“Choose to make the shelter of the Most High as your dwelling place and you will stay in His over-shadowing today and throughout this week. In Jesus name. Amen.” (Psalm 91:1 adapted)