



LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2010

Week 24

June 13–June 19

I. Adoration

1. Invocation Prayer

“My Jesus, how good it is to love you. Let me be like your disciples on Mount Tabor, seeing nothing else but you. Let us be like two bosom friends, neither of whom can ever bear to offend the other. Amen. (*Jean-Baptiste Marie Vianney, 1786-1859*)

2. Adoration through Psalm 24

(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 you your sins and ask for forgiveness.

III. Thanksgiving

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

IV. Scriptural Reflection:

In our pursuit to understand the love of the Lord and responding to His love, we shall continue our scripture reading based on the Book of Ruth. And in transition to our next theme, “Imitating Christ”, we shall also begin the reading of the Book of I Peter. Read slowly and reflectively the assigned passage twice at least and consider the questions below each day:

Preface to Ruth 4

- Presumably, the land that belonged to Naomi was mortgaged or sold when they left Bethlehem to escape the famine, but according to the Law Moses, the title still remained in the family
- The condition of taking in the widow together with the land is not found in the Law Moses. Commentators speculate that it was either a local custom or a condition imposed by Naomi (Matthew Henry)

June 13

Ruth 4:1-12

- (1) It appeared that Boaz took up the matter immediately as Naomi had predicted in 3:18. Why do you think Boaz chose to act upon it so quickly that “he” will not rest until the matter is settled today.?”?
- (2) If he was so keen to act upon it, why bothered to go through the formality of approaching the other kinsman-redeemer, especially it was the time of the Judges, and Boaz appeared to be wealthy and powerful?
- (3) Why did that first-in-line kinsman redeemer appear to agree to the transaction so readily and yet backed off also so quickly? We do not how this “might endanger” his own estate. Can you think of any possible reasons, for him not to do so (including Ruth's background)? But more importantly, what was the difference in the motives of redemption between the two kinsmen?
- (4) What did the elders think of Ruth and Boaz' marriage to her?
- (5) What have you learned about God's love and loving God today?

June 14 Ruth 4:13-22

- (1) Naomi once said, “The Lord has afflicted me” in 1:21. Was she right?
- (2) What can you learn from what Naomi has gone through? Can you come up with at least three things that you have learned from her?
- (3) What can you learn from what Ruth has gone through? Can you also come up with three things that you have learned from her?
- (4) What do you think is the key to such a loving in-law relationship?
- (5) Read the last verses of the chapter carefully, whose genealogy was it (look at Matthew 1 also)? Any surprises there?
- (6) Reflect on the choices that Ruth and Orpah made. What can you learn from it?
- (7) What have you learned about the love of God and loving God today?

June 8 1 Peter 1:1-7

You will find good materials introducing I Peter from some of the Study Bibles, here it suffices to point out that Peter was one of the few privileged to see the glory of Jesus’ transfiguration, he denied Jesus three times, but was restored by Jesus as he was confronted with the questions of whether he loved Jesus (John 21) and throughout the Acts of Apostles, he was the ipso facto leader of the apostles, and he was writing to the first believers under considerable persecution in Asia Minor.

- (1) In verses 1-2, Peter gives rather detailed description of who we are as believers. Try to write it out one by one. What have you learned about yourself?
- (2) What does Peter say about the purpose of our being chosen in v.2? What does this mean to you?
- (3) In vv.3-6, Peter reminds us of the great mercy of God in giving us new birth. What are the two consequences he mentions about our new birth? Have you greatly rejoiced because of them (v.6)? Why or why not?
- (4) What reason does Peter give for the trials that we might be

going through? Does this help you face your sufferings? Why or why not?

- (5) What have you learned about the love of God and loving God today?

June 16 1 Peter 1: 8-12

- (1) In reminding us of the blessings of our faith, Peter points out that we have never seen Jesus, and yet we love him and believe in him.
 - How can he tell that those believers loved Jesus?
 - Can you honestly say that you love Jesus? Why or why not?
 - Are you filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy because of your faith in him? Why or why not?
- (2) Take one prophecy from the Old Testament that foretold Jesus’ suffering and read it again in light of vv.10-12. (You may want to read Isaiah 53.) What deeper insight have you gained concerning how the prophet received their inspiration?
- (3) Why would angels also “long to look into these things”? What would be the motive? What would be the need to do so?
- (4) What have you learned about the love of God and loving God today?

June 17 1 Peter 1:13-21

- (1) One of the often repeated themes of this letter is the 2nd coming of the Lord. Have you noticed how it was being mentioned already twice at least in chapter one verses 1-12? In vv. 13-15, in preparation to Christ’s return, what are the things that Peter remind us to do? List them out one by one and mark against each a specific action you need to do in order to obey Peter’s exhortation.
- (2) Apart from Christianity, other religions offer other ways of salvation. Try to think of the ways of salvation of two other religions, and compare them to what Peter describes in vv.18-21. What is the major difference in God’s way of salvation through Jesus Christ?

- (3) Peter reminds us that we are strangers (v.17). When was the last time he also mentioned about strangers in chapter one? Why does he repeatedly remind us of our status being strangers here?
- (4) Like the Apostle John, one of Peter's first concerns for us is love. Why so? What does he mean by "love one another deeply" (v.22)?
- (5) What have you learned about God's love and loving God today?

June 18 1 Peter 2: 1-8

- (1) In fact, go back to 1: 23-25, as the word of God is the focus of this passage and it begins at 1:23. What functions does the word of God play in our lives? What should our attitude toward it be?
- (2) What is meant by "to crave pure spiritual milk"? Do we rid ourselves of all the sins so that we can crave, or by craving we can be get rid of them? Do you crave pure spiritual milk? Why or why not?
- (3) Have you tasted that the Lord is good? How?
- (4) Peter likens us collectively as building a spiritual house. What is the purpose of this house and what part do we play and how?
- (5) What have you learned about God's love and loving God?

June 19 1 Peter 2: 9-17

- (1) Compare v.9 to Exodus 19:5-6. It is in fact a quote from Exodus, but now being applied to the church. In what way God has intended Israel to be, and how the church is now taking over this role?
- (2) Reflect on v.10. How would you respond to two statements, collectively and individually from a gentile perspective? What does being the people of God mean to you?
- (3) The theme of strangers and aliens is being taken up here again. However Peter seems to imply that by seeing ourselves as strangers, some believers have behaved among the non-believers in a way that was not helpful to our witness. What is the problem and what is Peter's command, and on

- what basis does he give his instructions?
- (4) What have you learned about God's love and loving God today?

V. Meditative Reflection

This week we shall continue reflecting on Celtic spirituality.

June 13

I have observed through the years that most Christians have little understanding of the word 'season'. Our Lord is a seasonal God; He comes, He departs. His faithfulness never changes, but His seasons do! There are seasons when the tree is green, there are seasons when it is dry, and seasons when, for the life of us, the thing looks dead. Now, does this mean you are serving some capricious God who comes and goes by whim? Or, could it be, that it is only through seasons that true growth may come?

'Paul said, 'Does not nature teach us?' Fruit from a tree comes to us as a result of three or four seasons.

The Christian and the Lord's body both need rain and sunshine, cold and hot, wind and doldrums.

June 14

Seasons of joy, seasons of sorrow, times when the Lord is so real it seems any activity you undertake is a spiritual experience.

Seasons of dryness, when things are so bleak that even a plateful of Sinai sand would be considered a feast! And are not these seasons from the hand of God? If so, what is His goal in the matter? He is taking you to that place where you can be a man for all seasons. Where seasons don't faze you ... no, not even the glorious ones. An old apostle said it so well to a young man. 'Be ready in season, be ready out of season.'

We are all very subject to seasons; yet these seasons are there to make us eventually seasonless. There is only one way you are ever going to learn to triumph over all seasons, and that is to go through each and every season...many times. When you can reckon the sound of abundant rain and the hot blowing of a dry spell exactly the same, then you will be nearing the land of maturity.

June 15

What can you do, in your hour of hurting, that might please your Lord? My guarded answer is: very little.

You can rejoice. That's one possibility. You can yield to Him.

With joy you can offer up to Him the situation and say, 'Lord, I know this is from Your hand.' But the chances are you are not going to get anywhere near that. So what can you do in the midst of adversity? You can kneel; you can weep, and weep, and weep. *This* you can do.

There is one thing you must not do. Complain if you must, groan if you must, and get angry if you must. But oh, dear brother, stay far distant from bitterness, and from blaming others. Do that and you are dangerously close to forfeiting all future spiritual growth.

June 16

Is it possible to know if there is true brokenness in a man?

I think so.

Such a man is not in rebellion toward anything:

- 1) nothing in his circumstances,
- 2) nothing that has to do with what other people inflict upon him,
- 3) and certainly not anything that God chooses to lay within his life.'

He is at peace in all three circumstances.

June 17

Some of the wine they sipped was restored wine, and some of it was new wine, but for that little band of believers, *it was all new*.

Not one drop of that wine did they ever sip except by experience,

June 18

If you become a worker, remember the words of that man there in that forsaken cell and make them your own; 'To suffer for the church, to suffer *in her place*, for this I was made a minister!'

On some future occasion when things are really getting rough you might remember those words. Keep reminding yourself of this, 'For *this* I was made a minister.'

June 19

The Lord did not complete His suffering. It has been given to the church to complete the sufferings of Christ. Suffering not yet filled up waits out there for you. You see, the body is also Christ. The body,

which is the church, is part of that Christ. There is suffering out there yet to be endured, yet to be known, yet to be embraced by that part of Christ which is called the body. We all thank God that no one member of that body will ever have to know and endure all the sufferings that Jesus Christ experienced while living on earth. But each one of us — because we are in some mysterious way one with Him — will taste some part of His experience of suffering.

One within your fellowship may know *ridicule*. Another will partake of *physical* pain, another will know *rejection*, perhaps someone else may taste what it means to be *vilified* and verbally, socially crucified. And perhaps, just perhaps, there will be one within your fellowship who will touch that awful thing which Christ touched in that last moment on the cross: the dark night of the spirit.

There is one aspect of the cross that none of us will ever know—praise God! We will never know what it means to be the sin-bearer. That is one thing which I will never experience, nor will you. He and He alone has experienced that. He experienced the one thing that none of us should have escaped, and the one thing which He need never have known. He became the sin-bearer and thereby took suffering that was truly mine.

Now you must step into your place in the body of Christ, and you must receive and you must bear some segment of the suffering which is Christ's — that is, that part of Christ which is the church.

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

“God bless the night, and calm the people’s fright that we may love. God bless this land and guide us with your hand lest we be unjust. God bless this earth through pangs of death and birth, and make us whole. Amen.” (*Jim Cotter*)