



LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2010

Week 25

June 20–June 26

I. Adoration

1. Invocation Prayer

“Dear Lord and Father of all mankind...in simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea, the gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word, rise up and follow Thee. Amen.” (*John Greenleaf Whittier, 1807-92*)

2. Adoration through Psalm 25

(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 I Peter. Read slowly and reflectively the assigned passage twice at least and consider the questions below each day:

June 20

1 Peter 2:18-25

- (1) Following the instruction to “submit yourselves for the Lord's sake” in v.13, now Peter applies to slaves. Slavery has long been abolished, and most of us work to earn a wage or salary as an employee. Would the same instruction in v.18 be applicable to us to today? Why or why?
- (2) It appears that Peter is applying this instruction to all situations, as the word, likewise, is being used even in chapter 3 applying to other relationships beyond slavery. Here, Peter tells us why it should be applied in all situations in v.21. What is the reason given by Peter? How significant is it to a Christian's life to understand that “to this you were called”?
- (3) Vv. 22-25 detail not only Christ's suffering, but His attitude toward it. Highlight each aspect the example set by Jesus for us. Is there any one aspect of His example you need to follow today?
- (4) What have you learned about His love today? Express your response to His love in prayer right now.

June 21

1 Peter 3:1-7

- (1) To wives with unbelieving husband, Peter says you need to win them through their submission, “in the same way”. How hard is it to submit to an unbelieving or unloving husband? How, “in the same way”, can help them to submit?
- (2) With respect to the submission by a wife, Peter highlights four things: purity, reverence, (v.2) gentleness and quiet spirit (v.4). How important each one is?
- (3) Does God expect a husband to be able to inherit His gracious gifts of life alone and have his prayers answered irrespective of how he treats his wife? Why or why not?
- (4) Give examples of how a husband lives with his wife (1) be

consideration, and (2) with respect?

- (5) What have you learned about loving God through loving one another today?

June 22 1 Peter 3: 8-16

- (1) Peter exhorts us to “love as brothers”. What are the features of the love between brothers in the family? What might be the motives and safeguards built into such a relationship? Can these be applied to our relationship within the church family? Why or why not?
- (2) What is the key to being truly compassionate? Truly humble? And be able not to repay insult with insult?
- (3) Do any of your answers above have anything to do with 2:21?
- (4) In quoting Psalm 34:12-16, Peter draws attention to our lips. How important is our speech to truly loving one another? (See James 3:2)
- (5) According to v.15, what is the best defense when we are under attack?
- (6) What have you learned about loving God and imitating Christ today?

June 23 1 Peter 3:17-22

- (1) Peter points out that Christ’s death has brought blessings to us. Can you count the blessings spelt out in this segment?
- (2) Because of this, why might it be God’s will for us to suffer also for doing good?
- (3) V.20 is an enigmatic verse, and we should refrain from developing any theology only based on one verse. In any case, the point is that “only a few people were saved” through Noah’s flood, but the baptism in Christ is available for all to be saved.
What is the purpose of baptism explained by Peter?
So, what actually saves us, baptism or Christ’ s resurrection (v.21)?
- (4) What have you learned about the love of God and loving God today?

June 24 1 Peter 4:1-11

- (1) What is meant by “he who has suffered in his body is done with sin”? And how can such an attitude be our weapon? Against what?
- (2) You’d probably have the experience of being thought strange because of your Christian behavior. Would there be a way to avoid it? Should we avoid it? How should we deal with it when it happens?
- (3) The theme of the end being imminent recurs here and Peter’s main concern is how we conduct ourselves in the church. See if you can categorize his exhortations about how we should live because the end is here. Which one of these speaks to you most? What is the one that is “above all”? And what is the goal of all these behaviors?
- (4) What have you learned about God’s love and loving God today?

June 25 1 Peter 4:12-19

- (1) Have you experienced trials that can be described as fiery (which is the original word used by Peter here)? Do most of your sufferings self-inflicted, or for Christ’s sake?
- (2) Vv. 13-14 give us reasons not to avoid sufferings, but to face them with joy. What are the reasons being given?
- (3) Peter informs us that judgment will begin in God’s household, but the end result will be that the righteous will be saved, but with difficulties or pain (Lenski). Whatever that means, in what area that you may be judged unfavorably (check the list you worked out yesterday in reflecting on question #3)?
- (4) Peter has one final word for those who are suffering. What is it? What does “faithful Creator” mean to you if you are suffering?
- (5) What have you learned about God’s love and loving God?

June 26 1 Peter 5: 1-6

- (1) Peter now addresses both the leaders and the general congregation of the church. To the elders (this should include all who are in leadership), what role in fact we are being entrusted by the Chief Shepherd? Go to Ezekiel and

read 34:1-6 and reflect on the charge given to you by God?

- (2) What are the likely errors committed by the shepherd of a church, and how can he or she avoid committing them?
- (3) What about the general congregants, what likely mistakes they will commit? How can they avoid such mistakes?
- (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 20

If you ever see a great work of God,
something joyous,
alive and real,
something of Christ,
something that is Christ,
something enduring,
then you may be certain of one thing:
some lonely saint
silent, alone
went to the cross,
suffered, died
and fell into the earth.

And for what did that someone die?
for that lovely harvest,
that work of God
which now you see
and declare to be so beautiful.
There must be another day,
and another body of believers.
A day when someone else
must fall into the earth
and die.
And that someone may be you.

June 21

If you cannot *cherish* what it is the Lord is doing in your life, at least do not *waste* what He is doing in your life. Lay down the self-pity, and with all the strength and grace that He allows you, yield to His work. If you cannot make it up within you to yield totally to your Gethsemane (most of us can't) then at least yield up to the light the dark feelings of resentment and bitterness that are trying to hatch inside you.

One day you are going to come to the conclusion that serving the Lord is mostly crying... and suffering... and agonizing. What

can you do in that sad hour? Nothing really, except bend over double and absorb into your being those sufferings, sufferings which really belong to the church. In that hour, bear her sufferings for her. And if you happen to look up, you will see her going on her way, gloriously rejoicing. She will be oblivious to the fact that she is, at that moment, so very glorious because you have suffered.

June 22

Go to the busiest crossroads you know, and try to notice everything: all the people, the cars, the buses, the colours, the noises, the clouds, the birds, the spaces, Notice the impatience.

Now picture the cross on which Jesus died as a crossroads of people, time and place; a physical crossroads through which at some time all people pass. Understand the cross as a meeting-place of all history with God, the source, forgiveness and peace.

Aidan Clarke

June 23

Can You remember who I was?

Can You still feel it?

Can You find my pain?

Can You heal it?

Then lay Your hands upon me now
and take this darkness from my soul.

Only You can light my way;

only You can make me whole once again.

From Crossroads by Don Maclean

June 24

Remember in prayer all those who are at a particular crossroads in their own life, especially anyone close to you or with whom you have spoken in the last day or so.

Here is another prayer which can be said over and over

Again — perhaps with 10 repetitions — at the crossroads, at home, or wherever you pray:

I praise You, Jesus, .

The power of the Holy Spirit is with You to heal.

Blessed are Your death and resurrection;

and holy beyond all telling is the name of Jesus.

Holy Jesus, have mercy on us.

Fill us with grace and truth.

and protect us always and everywhere

by the loving power of the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Aidan Clarke

June 25

What I believe about Jesus could not be contained in a thousand books. I believe in Jesus more than I believe in the pen with which I am writing these words. I cannot, however, expect you to believe my beliefs. Imagine you meet me in a café and I introduce you to a friend. I say, 'This is Jesus.' I do not then give you a list of things you must believe about His family and a thick book to memorize before I let you speak to Him. I don't ask you to believe in Him — because you can see Him for yourself. I ask you only to trust Him and to get to know Him.

Aidan Clarke

June 26

One word, one light, one person,

one life He loved enough

for Him to die.

And the love that died,

His love that burns inside me,

impels me on the road

to seek for Christ in the stranger's face

or feel the absence of His touch,

Do you love Christ?

King Jesus, is He yours'?

Then love God more,

and burn with love:

hold fast the light he gives.

Live thou for Him.

Believer, hold Him high,

that all may see the light of Jesus

in a son of man.

One word, one light, one person,
 one life He loved enough
 for Him to die.
 And the love that died,
 His love that burns inside me,

impels me on the road
 to seek for Christ in the stranger's face
 or feel the absence of His touch.

Do you love Christ?
 King Jesus, is He yours?
 God knows the emptiness:
 deep cries to deep.
 Receive the life He gives:
 live now for Him.
 Believe and be baptized,
 then all will see
 the life of Jesus in a son of man.

One word,
 one light,
 one person on the way.

Neil Arnold and Andy Raine

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

“May God keep you in all your days. May Christ shield you in all your ways. May the Spirit bring you healing and peace. May the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you and pour upon you blessing and light. Amen.” (*The Promise of His Glory*, 1991)