



## LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2010

Week 26

June 27–July 3

### I. Adoration

#### 1. Invocation Prayer

“Lord, let me be obedient without arguing, humble without feigning, patient without grudging, pure without corruption, merry without lightness, sad without mistrust, sober without dullness, true without doubleness, fearing Thee without desperation, and trusting in Thee without presumption. Amen. (*John Cosin, Bishop of Durham, 1594-1672*)

#### 2. Adoration through Psalm 26

(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 how you can worship God through your life 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 be like Jesus, we shall continue our scripture reading based the Books of I and II Peter. Read slowly and reflectively the assigned passage twice at least and consider the questions below each day:

#### June 27

#### 1 Peter 5: 7-14

- (1) Peter is addressing people of the end-times and he vividly portrays the devil as a prowling lion looking for victims to devour. He first addresses those who go through life with many worries. Why do people, like yourself, are often bogged down with worries? What is Peter's advice and how can it be put into practice?
- (2) And for those who are going through fiery trials, what is his advice here and how can it be put into practice?
- (3) Of the various schemes of the devil, like persecution, hardship, affluence and pleasure, which one do you think is the most deadliest as far as your are concerned? Why is it and how best, according to Peter, can you defend yourself so that you will not be devoured?
- (4) In pronouncing his benediction in verses 10-11, Peter intends to bestow this special blessing on those who are suffering. How appropriate is this particular blessing, especially to you?
- (5) What have you learned about God's love in this letter, and how should you imitate Christ?

#### June 28

#### 2 Peter 1: 1-11

II Peter was written by Peter who sensed that his death was imminent (1:14), and he made clear the intention of this letter was to help believers, bombarded by false teachers and their teachings, to make their calling and election sure (1:10)

- (1) Peter addresses himself, as he writes his last letter, as a servant then as an apostle. Why would he use both “titles” and what might he be thinking as he puts servant before apostle?
- (2) Peter, after years of knowing God and Jesus His Lord, has embraced his faith as precious. Meditate on this section and list out the various things that make our faith so precious.

- (3) How would you describe your Christian life: a struggle, a failure, or a victory? What do verses 3-4 say to you in this respect?
- (4) Peter gives us a list of things on which to build our faith. List them out one by one and see if they do present a logical progression. Why does Peter say what will happen, if we keep growing in them, and what if we are lacking in these aspects?
- (5) What have you learned about God's love and loving God today?

**June 29                    2 Peter 1: 12-21**

- (1) Peter appears to know that his martyrdom is near and this has prompted him to write this second and last letter to "firmly establish (his flock) in the truth". (Remember his charge in John 21:17?) We do not know how much time we still have in this temporal "tent", if your death is as imminent as Peter's, what might be the thing you must do as your charge from God while there still is time?
- (2) Peter emphasizes on the "power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (v.16). What is the common attitude toward this today, in society and in the church? How is Peter's first-hand experience in witnessing Jesus' transfiguration (see Matthew 17:1-8) relevant to his emphasis?
- (3) Can you locate at least two Old Testament prophecies concerning Jesus' second coming and His power? How should we take these prophecies according to Peter? (Suggested prophecies to look up: Daniel 7:13-14, Zechariah 14: 1-8)
- (4) What have you learned about loving God and God's love today?

**June 30                    2 Peter 2: 1-9**

- (1) Peter predicts the coming of false teachers in vv. 1-3. What do you know about these false teachers from Peter's description, and can you relate these to any known heretical groups?

- (2) Peter uses several examples to highlight the swiftness and severity of past judgments of God. What are the examples cited, and in each case, what were the sins and how severe were the punishments?
- (3) Jesus likens the last days to the days of Noah (Mathew 24:37ff), what then shall we do today in preparation for the Lord's coming?
- (4) What have you learned about the love of God and loving God today?

**July 1                                    2 Peter 2: 10-22**

In this section, Peter launches very severe attacks on the false teachers, depicting them as

- A. Arrogant (vv. 10-12)
  - B. Licentious (vv. 13-14)
  - C. Being like Balaam (vv. 15-16)
  - D. Detrimental to new believers (vv.17-19)
  - E. A dog returning to its vomits (vv. 20-22)
- (1) Why does Peter compare their arrogance to being beast-like?
  - (2) What's so special about their lifestyle? Is it typical of cults?
  - (3) Read Numbers 22 about the story of Balaam. What was his sin and what was his core error?
  - (4) What kind of promise do they make to new believers to lure them away from the truth? Why is it so effective?
  - (5) Why is Peter so bitter about them?
  - (6) Given all these, what can you still learn about God's love and loving God today?

**July 2                                    2 Peter 3: 1-7**

- (1) In both of his letters, on what basis does Peter use to stimulate his flock to wholesome thinking? How does it help you in having confidence in the Bible that you are reading today? Jump also to 3:15-17 for a moment to understand how Peter treats Paul's writing as well.
- (2) In summing up all his writings, what does Peter cite as his number one concern for believers in the last days? What is the main "beef" of the scoffers in the last days? What is their error? Can you identify this error today among Christian teachings?

- (3) Twice Peter mentioned the “word”. What part does the “word” play with respect to the created universe, past, present and future?
- (4) How should you respond to scoffers saying that all the Jesus was saying in the gospel was about his first coming, and there is not second coming?
- (5) How should you respond to scoffers saying that our responsibility is to make this world better and better and this world will last forever?
- (6) What have you learned about God’s love and loving God?

**July 3                    2 Peter 3: 8-13**

- (1) The fact is the Jesus has said of His coming for over 2,000 years now. What does Peter attribute our doubt of His coming as and what reason does he give for the apparent delay?
- (2) How should you respond to scoffers who say that this world will not pass away and our responsibility is to make this a better world?
- (3) In view of the end of this material world, does it mean that we do not have to live responsibly to look after God’s creation? But ultimately what is the most important advice that Peter gives to us in v.11?
- (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 27**

We need to clarify for the unchurched that intellectually believing in Christ is only part of the answer, One way is to use a Bible verse that provides a *spiritual equation* that spells out with math-like efficiency what it really means to become a Christian.

As I recite John 1:12, I ask them to listen for the active verbs: ‘Yet to all who *received* him, to those who *believed* in His name, He gave the right to *became* children of God.’

Those verbs make up the equation: **believe+receive=become.**

To *believe* is intellectually to agree that Christ sacrificed Himself to pay for the wrongs we’ve committed. That’s important, I tell them, but don’t stop there. Some people sit in churches for years, stuck at this point, and they wonder why their spiritual life is stagnant. The next verb in the equation is critically important, too. We need to *receive* God’s free offer of forgiveness and eternal life. We have to claim it for our own, because until we do that, it’s not ours; it’s just something we know about in our head. So it’s necessary for us to admit our wrongdoing, turn away from it, and humbly accept Christ’s payment on our behalf.

That makes sense, doesn’t it? Jesus said, ‘I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.’

*Lee Strobel*

Faith is work.  
It is a struggle.  
You must struggle  
with all your heart.  
And on the way God  
will ambush you.

*Walter Wangerin, novelist*

**June 28**

Christianity is the only co—operative society that exists for the benefit of non—members.

*William Temple*

‘Tour-bus Christians’ drive comfortably through life as they gaze out the window at others who are elbow-deep in the daily

adventure of serving God and working among spiritually needy people.

Tour-bus Christians are insulated from the real-world activity and excitement of God's work. They may avoid some of the pain that's involved, and they may protect themselves from the difficulties and struggles; but there's no real adventure on a tour bus. They miss out on the excitement of living at the edge of expectation. They don't experience the tremendous counter-cultural truth that the more a Christian pours himself out serving others in God's name, the more God will fill him to overflowing. The adventure comes when you tell the tour bus to stop, and you jump off and say:

'Lord, I want to get into the fray. I want to play a role in the biggest adventure story of all time. Use me to make a difference. Use me to impact a young person for You. Use me to solve someone's problem. Use me to soothe someone's pain. Use me to answer someone's prayer. Use me to feed someone who's hungry. Use me to rescue a child. Use me to bring someone to You. Use me to ease someone's loneliness. Use me to raise a godly family.

'Use me to deepen someone's faith. Use me to cheer someone on, Use me to help a broken person understand that he's precious in Your sight. Use me to touch lives in Your name.

'I don't want to just observe cathedrals through my bus window; I want to roll up my sleeves and build one! Lord, use me to build a living cathedral dedicated to Your glory.'

*Lee Strobel*

### **June 29**

Many whom God has, the church does not have; and many whom the church has, God does not have.

*Karl Rahman theologian,  
parodying St Augustine*

Who is the target of most of our communication of the gospel? Who are we seeking to reach? Some churches or ministries are 'seeker-driven', fashioning their approach to bring and effectively speak to secular individuals. They seek to reach unchurched non-Christians and turn them into devoted followers of Christ.

Sometimes the focus is unchurched Christians - those who claim a relationship with Jesus, but are not committed to any group

of believers.

Another concern would be reaching churched unbelievers, individuals who attend a place of worship but for whatever reason remain untouched by the Gospel.

Then there are many churches whose main target, whether they want to admit it or not, is churched Christians. The content, language and style of all we present should be appropriate to our intended audience.

*Lee Strobel*

### **June 30**

When we talk about Christianity being true the unchurched person of today shrugs with disinterest. 'You have your truth, I have mine.' What he wants to know is, 'Does it work?'' We need to help him to understand the absolute and unchanging truth of Christ, but we should also explain how Christ is available to help him in practical ways to heal his hurts and help him deal with everyday living. We need to communicate that Christianity isn't just for the tomorrow of his eternity but also for the today of his life. Christianity *does* work.

The God of the Bible offers us supernatural wisdom and assistance in our struggles, difficulties, and recovery from past hurts. But we need to communicate that the reason it works is because it's *true*. Because Christ, at a point in history, had the power to overcome the grave, we can have access to that same kind of supernatural power to cope with the difficulties that face us day to day.

And because the Bible is God's revelation to His people, it contains a kind of practical and effective help that's unmatched by mere human philosophers.

Some people get mixed up in this area. One prominent nature worshipper in North Carolina says she doesn't want to hit a deer while driving at night, so:

As she sets out in her car, Anne imagines a blue light circling her vehicle clockwise three times, then silently chants, 'Three times around, three times about a world within, a world without.' Then she adds a silent prayer to Artemis, a goddess of the hunt, 'to protect the deer and tell them I'm coming. I imagine this as a psychic warning system.' Anne believes wholeheartedly in this practice. 'It

works!' she says. 'I have a friend who's hit twelve deer in five years. I've never hit one.'

Can you see how muddled thinking can lead to false conclusions? To deduce on the basis of a few missed deer that a belief system is valid turns logic on its head. As far as Christianity is concerned, we're not saying it's true *because* it works; we're saying Christianity is true and therefore it works.

*Lee Strobel*

### **July 1**

Imagine your soul as being like the Tyne Bridge. There are busy times and quiet times. The job of the bridge is not to ask what is in the cars or lorries but simply to bear their weight for a few seconds and then allow them to go on their way. There is no problem when the flow of traffic is even, but when breakdowns and bottlenecks occur, the fights and the impatience begin. Your soul too has to take the weight and let it go. The suffering becomes prolonged only when you do not acknowledge its existence and let it pass on. Then it sits on your soul like a judgment.

The time to repair the bridge is in the night when the traffic is light. Your prayer in quiet times gives you the strength to cope with the heavy, busy times. You dig, patch and repair in the night. As a result the world can flow over your soul in the day without congestion. You must allow the flow of faith, love, healing, hope, joy and light to pass through you into the world. You must allow the flow of hatred, darkness and sin to flow from the world through you to God.

All of this is done by prayer, and by forgiveness of yourself, of others and perhaps even of God Himself for what you feel He has done to you. Little by little, you grow in the power of prayer, in the ability to bear the weight and accept the contradictions of the two-way flow between God and the world.

*Aidan Clarke*

### **July 2**

Jesus, bless my conception.  
Jesus, bless my time in the womb,  
May the peace of the birth of Jesus be on my birth.

I present my whole being to Jesus.  
May Jesus be in all the suffering of my life.  
May Jesus heal me by His stripes.  
Jesus, crown me with glory, praise, honour and thanksgiving.  
Jesus, teach me to carry my cross and follow You.  
Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.  
Jesus, bless me in my daily death,  
Jesus, bless me in my final death.  
Jesus, give me a power of resurrection in each day of my life,  
Jesus, be with me all my days.  
Jesus, fill me with the Holy Spirit.  
Jesus, lead me from earth to heaven.  
Jesus, make me the person I am meant to be.

*Aidan Clarke*

### **July 3**

I read a story about a boy who lost a clog in New York City. As he walked up and down the streets, systematically and slowly, a friend complained that he wasn't even looking for the dog.

He answered, 'I'm not looking for him. I'm letting him find me. Sooner or later he will discover the trail I am putting down and follow it until he comes to me.'

In the same way, Jesus is not looking for converts, He has set down a trail which different people pick up at different points and follow until they find Him. The person who prays is also not looking for converts but setting down a track which others will find and follow to Jesus. Maybe a perfect evangelist is one whose work and love is never recognized, who is never acknowledged or thanked by anyone this side of the grave. May Jesus bless the millions who pray in secret.

*Aidan Clarke*

**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**

“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.” (I Peter 5:10-11)