



LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2010

Week 28
July 11—17

I. Adoration

1. Invocation Prayer

“Father, I want to know Thee, but my cowardly heart fears to give up its toys. I cannot part with them without inward bleeding, and I do not try to hide from Thee the terror of the parting. I come trembling but I do come. Please root from my heart all those things which I have cherished so long and which have become a very part of my living self, so that Thou mayest enter and dwell there without a rival. Then shall my heart have no need of the sun to shine in it, for Thyself wilt be the light of it, and there shall be no night there. In Jesus’ name. Amen.
(*A.W. Tozer, 1897-1963*)

2. Adoration through Psalm 28

(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:

We shall continue the reading of the Gospel of Mark as we pursue the theme of imitating Jesus. Read slowly and reflectively the assigned passage twice at least and consider the questions below each day:

July 11

Mark 2: 13-17

- (1) From this brief account about Levi, can you describe the kind of life a tax collector might have? Take time to think of someone that you know who might live a life quite similar to that of Levi? How hard might it be for that person to become a Christian? Why?
- (2) Why then would Levi follow Jesus immediately upon being called?
- (3) What did Levi do right after he became Jesus’ disciple? Why did he not cut off all ties with his former circle? (Many commentators tell us that the term, sinners, refers to prostitutes).
- (4) Ask yourself, if you were one of the Pharisees, would you feel comfortable about Levi and his circle of friends and their lifestyle? Would you also wonder why Jesus would willingly be part of such a dinner?
- (5) As a Christian, what might be the kind of people that would make you uncomfortable in associating with?
- (6) Mull over the reply Jesus gave in v.17. How should it affect your attitude toward reaching people who might make Christians uncomfortable?
- (7) How may you imitate Jesus today?

July 12

Mark 2: 18-22

- (1) Read carefully vv.21-22, the parable of a new patch on old clothe, and new wine into old wine skin. What then does Jesus refer to as old clothe or old wine skin? What then is the new patch or new wine?
- (2) Now if Jesus represents the new, in what sense is it (He) new?
- (3) Now if the Law of Moses is old, then in what sense is the Law old?
- (4) Applying to vv.18-20 (the issue of fasting), why fasting in the

presence of Jesus in like mixing the old with the new?

- (5) Jesus did leave them for a while, but now the Holy Spirit has come and dwells in each believer; has fasting then become “new” again, or does it remain the “old”? What was the purpose of fasting by the disciples of John and the Pharisees that made it “old”?
- (6) What have you learned about Jesus today?

July 13 Mark 2:23-28

- (1) Go to I Sam 21:1-6 in which David and his men ate of the consecrated bread that was only meant for priests (see also Lev.24:5-9 and Mat.12:4). How was David’s eating of the consecrated bread justified? From this incident, how would you approach and understand the ceremonial law in the Old Testaments?
- (2) How then should the Jews interpret and keep the law regarding Sabbath, in spite of the severe wordings in Exodus 32:12-17?
- (3) Jesus said, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath”. What does it mean? We do have keep ceremonial law of the OT today, can you think of any application of this teaching today?
- (4) What do you think the impact of v.28 might have on the Jews that day, given this being the earlier part of Jesus’ ministry?
- (5) What have you learned about imitating Jesus today?

July 14 Mark 3: 1-12

- (1) Read carefully what Jesus said in v.4. Jesus was not really concerned about what was lawful, but rather the real purpose of Sabbath. What is the real purpose of Sabbath according to Jesus?
- (2) What had the Jews turned Sabbath into?
- (3) Why was Jesus angry? Can you think of similar things in your life that might make Jesus angry today?
- (4) Mark describes to us that the crowd was growing around Jesus (Luke sometimes uses “many thousands” to describe the size of the crowd, e.g. in 12:1). The only way Jesus could

practically minister to them was to do so from a boat. (v.9) Put yourself into the shoes of three kinds of people in the crowd: (a) the ordinary people who saw the miracles and heard His preaching, (b) His disciples, like Peter, and (3) the religious leaders, like the Pharisees. What might be the best description of each of their attitudes toward Jesus?

- (5) What have you learned about Jesus today?

July 15 Mark 3: 13-19

- (1) From this small section, it appears that Jesus has attracted more than the Twelve to follow Him, but now He appointed the Twelve and some manuscripts say, “designating them apostles”. On what basis do you think Jesus choose these Twelve?
- (2) Why then did He choose Judas Iscariot who eventually betrayed Him?
- (3) Mark mentions a three-fold purpose for choosing these apostles. What is it? What is the significance of each of these three folds?
- (4) What is the most significant lesson you have learned today and how can you apply it to yourself?

July 16 Mark 3: 20-27

- (1) How would you describe Jesus’ life of ministry? Should it be a model for us? Why or why not?
- (2) Why would his family call this or him “out of his mind”? If you were Jesus, how would you respond to them?
- (3) Can you remember the kinds of miracles that Jesus has performed so far? Suppose you are a skeptic, what explanation(s) might you come up with to explain all these away? What explanation did the teachers of the law come up with?
- (4) Jesus did not address their attacks all the time, but he chose to this time. Why? Was his explanation convincing? Why?
- (5) What have you learned about Jesus and about following him today?

July 17 **Mark 3: 28-35**

- (1) What is meant by blaspheming the Holy Spirit and why would it be an unforgivable sin according to Jesus?
- (2) Mark remarks that Jesus said this because they were saying, 'He has an evil spirit.' So, have they (the teachers of the law) committed such an eternal sin? Why?
- (3) How should we then avoid such a sin?
- (4) Back in v.21, the family of Jesus was trying to take charge of Jesus, and now they had come, because they thought he was out of his mind. How did Jesus respond to their action?
- (5) What do you think might be the reaction from his mother and brothers?
- (6) What does Jesus' statement in v.34 mean to you?
- (7) What can you learn from Jesus today?

(1) V. Meditative Reflection

This week we shall continue reflecting on The Aidan Liturgy from the Northumbria Community's 'Celtic Daily Prayer.' (Permission to reprint granted).

July 11

In the crack of the wind
I trace His fest;
and none in His coming was e'er so fleet,
so sweet.

Often my heart is a heavy stone
mock'd, trodden under
and spat upon,
my way a mirk and I alone,
alone:

Then in my heart flames
a climbing star
as His pilgrim feet come flashing far
to bring me where the blessed are.
By Him I am fed, and healed and shriven;
He is the cleft in the dark sky riven
whereby I may leap to the bending heav'n
through the storm.

Marjorie Milne of Glastonbury,
Rhymes from a Lindisfarne Monk

July 12

The lambs were weary and crying
with a weak, human cry.
I thought of the Lamb of God
going meekly to die.

Up on the green, green meadow
verdant pastures are sweet,
rest for the weary bodies,
rest for the little feet.

But for the Lamb, the Lamb of God,
out on the mountain so green
only a Cross, a cross of wood
two stark crosses between.

All in the April evening,
April airs were abroad;
I met the sheep with their lambs
and thought on the Lamb of God.

'All in the April Evening'

July 13

Let God's name be glorified
and held in honour
in the world He chose to create.
May He establish His Kingdom
in our lives each day
and in the days ahead.
May His Kingdom come quickly
and without delay.
Amen. Let it be so.

May His great name be praised for ever,
glorified, exalted, honoured and proclaimed.
May His name, the name of the Holy One,
be praised, and recognized in all its greatness.
Bless God whose glory is beyond all blessing,
past our ability to praise.
His glory touches us more deeply
than any word of consolation in this world.
Amen.

Let there be great peace from heaven
upon us and all God's people.
Amen. Let it be so.

May He who sends peace from heaven
cover us with peace,
and give peace to all His people.

Amen. Let it be so.

*Adapted from the Kaddish, a Jewish prayer said
often during the first year of a bereavement*

July 14

In *A Jew Today* by Elie Wiesel the one remaining member of a
Jewish family says to God:

Master of the Universe, I know what You want - I understand
what You are doing, You want despair to overwhelm me. You
want me to cease believing in You, to cease praying to You, to
cease invoking Your name to glorify and sanctify it. Well, I tell
You: No, no - a thousand times no! You shall not succeed! In
spite of me and in spite of You, I shall shout the Kaddish,
which is a song of faith, for You and against You. This song You
shall not still, God of Israel.

We pray to God because He has too much to answer for to be
allowed simply to disappear, because we have to protest against Him
as well as to Him, and because the only alternative is despair, or
silence.

July 15

My dear King, my own King,
without pride, without sin,
you created the whole world,
eternal, victorious King.
King of the Mysteries,
You existed before the elements,
before the sun was set in the sky,
before the waters covered the ocean floor;
beautiful King,
You are without beginning and without end.

King, You created the land out of shapeless mass,
You carved the mountains and chiselled the valleys,
and covered the earth with trees and grass.
King, You measured each object
and each span within the universe;

the heights of the mountains
and the depths of the oceans;
the distance from the sun to the moon,
and from star to star.

And You created men and women
to be Your stewards of the earth,
always praising You for Your boundless love.

From The Celtic Psalter (ninth century)

July 16

GLASTONBURY

Glastonbury is a place of legend and pilgrimage. Its Christian history is very early, and Joseph of Arimathea is said to have visited there, and given witness to Christ.

Other legends say that Patrick and Brigid came there, either of which is possible. Its connections with Arthur and Merlin have fascinated Christians and occultists alike, and today it is a place of deep spiritual conflict.

Pray for the believers in that town, because as the song says:
It's hard to dance ·
with the Devil on your back.

Pray that their love of Christ will grow ever stronger.

The most important thing in my life
is that I chose to follow Jesus. ‘

No-one makes me.

I chose to.

I have chosen to follow Him

because He loves me

and love makes all the difference.

Ann Kiemel

The ancient Glastonbury carol says:

The bells of Paradise, I heard them ring.

And I love my Lord Jesus above everything.

July 17

HEAVENFIELD

Many a commemorative cross stands by roadside or in field, but few as significantly as that which stands at Heavenfield. It reminds us of good King Oswald, returning from Iona to unite his land, and win its people to Christ. He did not shirk his responsibilities, but fulfilled them with honesty and faith, as a Christian first, and only secondly as a king. We can only imagine with what mixture of emotions he knelt before the cross that day.

God has a place for you to fill,
but it will take all of you to fill it.

Hugh Redwood

He walks with God who, as he onward moves,
follows the footsteps of the Lord he loves,
and keeping Him for ever in his view,
his Saviour sees and His example, too.

Author unknown

I'm going where He goes -
out into the world
of lonely people.

Ann Kiemel

If this is not a place
where tears are understood,
then where can I go to cry?

Ken Medema

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 the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”
(Hebrews 13: 20-21)