



LGC Daily Devotion Guide 2011

Week 14

April 4 - April 10, 2011

I. Adoration

(1) Invocation Prayer

“How great is your goodness, dear Lord! Blessed are you for ever! May all created things praise you, O God, for loving us so much that we can truthfully speak of your fellowship with mankind, even in this earthly exile; and however virtuous we may be, our virtue always depends on your great warmth and generosity, dear Lord. Your bounty is infinite. How wonderful are your works! ” In Jesus Name, Amen. (Teresa of Avila, 1515-1582)

(2) Adoration through Psalm 66

(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 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 with the third mark, the Gospel. We have selected passages from the Scripture that tie in with the nuances of each major point of these chapters. (As our reflection coincides with Lent, these selections happen to speak mostly of God's love manifested in Jesus Christ, and can also be used to usher you into our Lent meditation.) Read slowly and reflectively the assigned passage twice at least and consider the questions below each day:

The Gospel: Introduction

April 4

Ephesians 1: 1-14

Theme: What Exactly is the Good News?

We shall mediate on this marvelous passage in four divisions which deal with the tremendous spiritual blessings that God has blessed us with

(1) Vv. 4-6:

- a. What is the first blessing according to v.4?
- b. What is the second blessing according to v.5?
- c. What is the purpose of these blessings according to v.6?

(2) Vv. 7-10

- a. What is the third blessing according to v.7?
- b. What is the fourth blessing according to v.9?
- c. What is the ultimate purpose when His plan is fulfilled according to v.10?

(3) Vv. 11-12

- a. What is the fifth blessing according to v.11?
- b. What is the sixth blessing according to v.12a?
- c. What is the purpose of these blessings according to the end of v.12b?

(4) Vv. 13-14

- a. What is the seventh blessing according to v.13a?
- b. What is the eighth blessing according to v.13b?
- c. What is the purpose of these blessings according to v.14?

(5) What then is the Good News exactly? Can you summarize based on the above?

(6) From the answers to all questions “c” above, what ultimately is the purpose of our salvation?

(7) What is the main message for you today?

The Good News is not simply that we are Okay

April 5

Romans 1: 26-32

Theme: The World is not Okay

- (1) The preceding section deals with the world that rejects God, and Vv.26-27 is one the clearest passages about homosexual behavior in the Scripture. Why would God oppose such behavior?
- (2) A Christian leader, whenever interviewed about the biblical view on homosexuality on Canadian TV, uses the ecological system to explain individual actions that may appear harmless might eventually upset the whole ecological system of the world. What do you think about such an analogy?
- (3) What are their consequences according to the Scripture?
- (4) Vv. 28-32 return to describing the world in general. V.28 points out that their actions are not innocent, but willful. Do you agree? (Refer to vv.19-20)
- (5) Vv.29-31 comprise a list of vices arranged in four distinct groups:
 - a. Being filled with: wickedness, evil, greed and depravity
 - b. Being full of: envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice
 - c. Who they are: gossip, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful
 - d. Who they are not: senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.Obviously, not all pagans are like the above. Highlight those that are marks of the world around you.
- (6) Highlight those that used to describe you before your conversion.
- (7) What is the main message to you today?

April 6

Deuteronomy 5: 1-21

Theme: The Law Reflects God's Character

- (1) The first five books of the Bible are called the Book of the Law, and in Leviticus, one will find the bulk of such laws prescribed by God. According to this passage, why was there a need to have 10 commandments to be singled out that God chose to inscribe on two tablets for the people of Israel?

- (2) While the common approach is to divide the Ten Commandments into two parts (which appears to be the Lord Jesus' approach in Mark 10:19), we shall meditate on the Ten Commandments as they reflect God's character. Summarize each commandment in a few words and consider how it reflects Gods' character in each of the cases:
 - a. 1st Commandment:
 - b. 2nd Commandment:
 - c. 3rd Commandment:
 - d. 4th Commandment:
 - e. 5th Commandment:
 - f. 6th Commandment:
 - g. 7th Commandment:
 - h. 8th Commandment:
 - i. 9th Commandment:
 - j. 10th Commandment:
- (3) Looking at the above, what have you learned about God?
- (4) There are Jewish scholars who take the 5th Commandment as the summary of the first 5, and the 10th Commandment as the summary of the 6th to 9th Commandments. What do you think?
- (5) What is the main message to you today and how can you apply it to your life?

April 7

Exodus 34: 10-16

Theme: God is a Jealous God!

As the Israelites made a golden idol and Moses broke the original Ten Commandments in anger, the Lord remade two stone tablets at Moses' intense intercession and renewed His covenant with the people in this passage:

- (1) What is God's pledge in v.10? How did He honor His part?
- (2) What is the people's part in this covenant in v.11?
- (3) God goes on to detail how the people should obey His commandments in vv. 12-13. What does the Lord require of them and why?

- (4) The Lord proclaims that He is a “jealous God”. Jealousy normally takes on a negative connotation. Is God being very narrow minded? Should He be a jealous God? Is it right for a spouse to be jealous if the other spouse falls in love with someone else?
- (5) In what ways will we arouse God’s jealousy today?
- (6) Vv.15-17 explains why making treaties with the Canaanites would be a snare to them (v.12): how can we apply them to our situation today?
- (7) What is the main message to you today?

April 8

Romans 3: 9-20

Theme: No One is Righteous

- (1) If you are familiar with the Old Testament, how would you describe the Israelites in terms of their religion and their relationship with God? (You may look up passages like Isaiah 29:13)
- (2) Are we, gentiles, any better according to Paul in v.9?
- (3) Paul, quoting from various OT passages, asserts the following as universal truth. See if you agree:
 - a. No one is righteous? Really?
(Is there one person on earth that by himself does not have a broken relationship with God?)
 - b. No one understands? Really?
(What is the foundation of true understanding? See Proverbs 9:10)
 - c. No one seeks God? Really?
(What is the opposite of seeking God?)
 - d. Everyone has turned away? Really?
(See Isaiah 53:6)
 - e. No one does good? Really?
(See Mark 10:18)
- (4) Are you now convinced of the above?
- (5) Read the world’s condition in vv.13-14. What is the one thing that is being repeated here? Does it aptly describe the people on earth?

- (6) What about the condition described in vv.15-16? What is the core issue of the world according to v.18?
- (7) Can anyone in the world defend his or her innocence given all of the above?
- (8) What is the main message to you today?

April 9

Psalm 51: 1-12

Theme: Sin is against God!

This is obviously a familiar psalm which we have read before. Today, we shall look at David’s confession from the angle that all sins are against God primarily. Reflect on each of the verses and ask yourself, how does it point to the fact that all sins are against God:

- (1) V.1: Instead of asking forgiveness from the ones David offended, why did he ask it from God?
- (2) V. 2: Why only God can blot out transgression, wash away iniquity and cleanse sin?
- (3) V.3: according to your experience, why would sins always be before you, and when will they stop bothering us?
- (4) V.4: David gives the reason why he considers his sins are only against God.
 - a. What is his reason?
 - b. Does it mean that he has not sinned against “people”?
- (5) V.5: teaches the doctrine of original sin. When does sin begin in a person?
- (6) V.6: How does God look at what constitutes sin in a person?
- (7) V.7: we know that hyssop does not make a person clean. What then does David mean?
- (8) V.8: What has sin done to a person?
- (9) V.9: Can God really do this?
- (10) V.10: What does David pray for and why?
- (11) V.11: What does David really cherish?
- (12) V.12: What is the joy of salvation? Can you describe it?
- (13) What best describe you today: bones crushed or joyous in Gods’ presence?
- (14) What is the main message to you today?

April 10

Isaiah 1: 1-9

Theme: True Love is not Doting Love

- (1) Who are the people of Israel according to v.2? How special are they?
- (2) What has happened to this relationship?
- (3) What analogies does God use to describe their rebellion in v.3? Why?
- (4) How does God express his lament in the beginning of v.2? What is God trying to say when He asks the heavens and earth to hear and listen?
- (5) God details the sins of the people in v.4: if you were the Lord, what would you do to a people like this?
- (6) What did the Lord do to them, according to vv.7-8?
- (7) Reflect on the history of the people of Israel, and see if what is being described is an exception or a norm until today.
- (8) From what is being described in vv.5-6, does it mean that God has totally forsaken them or has stopped loving them? Why or why not?
- (9) As a child of God, what is the message to you today, especially in vv. 5-6?

V. Meditative Reflection

This week we shall continue to reflect on the ‘Nine Marks of a Healthy Church’, continuing with

MARK THREE:THE GOSPEL

April 4

Please read from the second last paragraph on page 79 starting with “What exactly is this Good News.....” to the second paragraph on page 80 ending with “.....to trust the Lord together.”

Question for reflection:

If someone says to you that he is Okay and does not need the gospel, what would your answer be?

April 5

THE GOOD NEWS IS NOT SIMPLY THAT WE ARE OKAY

Please read from the third paragraph on page 80, starting with “You know the often-quoted book title.....” to the end of the page ending with “.....but also of respect for life itself.”

Question for reflection:

Foucault was a leading thinker of our time who proposed pushing all boundaries in life and his life without boundaries probably led to him contracting AIDS. How would you share the gospel with someone like him?

April 6

Please read from the page 81, beginning with “Our individual transgressions.....” to the third last paragraph ending with “.....deeper issue of my relationship with my wife.”

Question for reflection:

What does the Law of God mean to you? How does it reflect God’s character?

April 7

Please read from the second last paragraph on page 81, beginning with “So it is with us and God.....” to the end of the second paragraph on page 82 ending with “.....Paul draws the obvious conclusion:”

Question for reflection:

“God is a jealous lover”. Does this statement make you uncomfortable? Why then the Bible makes this assertion?

April 8

Please read from the second last paragraph on page 82 beginning with “What shall we conclude.....” to the second paragraph on page 83 ending with “.....we become conscious of sin (Rom. 3:9-20).”

Question for reflection:

The Bible asserts that “there is no one righteous, not even one.” Do you agree? Why?

April 9

Please read from the third paragraph on page 83 beginning with “Now all of this may be.....” to the first paragraph on page 84 ending with “.....The Gospel is not simply that we’re okay.”

Question for reflection:

The author says, “you have sinned, not primarily against yourself or even against someone else, but against God.” How important is this statement regarding our proper understanding of sin?

April 10

THE GOOD NEWS IS NOT SIMPLY THAT GOD IS LOVE

Please read from the second paragraph on page 84 beginning with “Other times, we may simply.....” to end of the fourth paragraph ending with “.....answer to such questions if God doesn’t tell you?”

Question for reflection:

“If you loved me, you would let me do it.” How does this statement help your understanding of God’s kind of love?

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

“How great are God’s riches! How deep are His wisdom and knowledge! Who can explain His decisions? Who can understand His ways...For all things were created by Him, and all things exist through Him and for Him. To God be the glory for ever! Amen.” (Paraphrased from Romans 11)