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# *Journeying Through the Gospels in Lent*

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**Saturday  
March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014**

## *Daily Devotional*

*“Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise”*

Welcome to day sixteen as we bless our day and our life by spending a minimum of 5 minutes on each **segment** or **step below**:

- ✓ **Meditation:** [5 minutes of quiet reflection]
- ✓ **Visualization:** See what your day will be. With conviction, declare how you want your day to unfold and your intentions toward God, his creation and other people who you will be privileged to meet today. And who will be fortunate to encounter you.
- ✓ **Gratitude:** Thankful for the good happenings in your life. Appreciate where you are NOW from where you WERE then.
- ✓ **Inspirational Reading:** Read an article about a person or a situation that will inspire you today.

### **Collect**

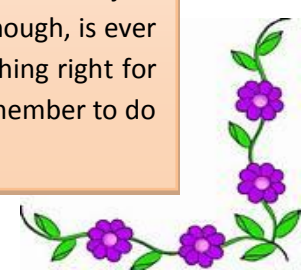
O God, who grant us by glorious healing remedies while still on earth to be partakers of the things of heaven, guide us, we pray, through this present life and bring us to that light in which you dwell. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

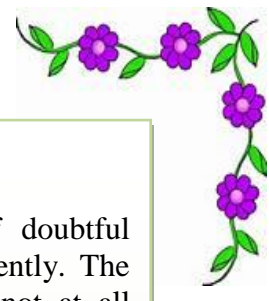
### **The Readings**

Psalm 103:6-18  
Luke 15:8-12,  
31-32

#### **Psalm 103: 6-18 (MSG)**

<sup>6-18</sup> GOD makes everything come out right; he puts victims back on their feet. He showed Moses how he went about his work, opened up his plans to all Israel. GOD is sheer mercy and grace; not easily angered, he's rich in love. He doesn't endlessly nag and scold, nor hold grudges forever. He doesn't treat us as our sins deserve, nor pay us back in full for our wrongs. As high as heaven is over the earth, so strong is his love to those who fear him. And as far as sunrise is from sunset, he has separated us from our sins. As parents feel for their children, GOD feels for those who fear him. He knows us inside and out, keeps in mind that we're made of mud. Men and women don't live very long; like wildflowers they spring up and blossom, but a storm snuffs them out just as quickly, leaving nothing to show they were here. GOD's love, though, is ever and always, eternally present to all who fear him, making everything right for them and their children as they follow his Covenant ways and remember to do whatever he said.





### Daily Meditation

We must celebrate and rejoice. Our lesson today takes us to the parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin and the two sons. In the Parable of the two sons we see one who is ungrateful and leaves, but returns, and one who will not accept the forgiveness the father lavishes on the other. The Lord is loving and merciful, slow to anger, and full of love; the Lord is kind to all, and compassionate to all that He has created.

### Today's Reflection

Let us always and everywhere give thanks to Christ our Savior, and ask him with confidence to help us with His grace and His mercy. May we keep our bodies pure, as temples of the Holy Spirit. May we offer ourselves this day to the service of others, and do your will in all things throughout the day. Teach us to seek the bread of everlasting life, the bread that is your gift. Keep our eyes and minds and hearts in your Word so that we may lack nothing.

### Closing Prayer

God of infinite love, you shower me with limitless gifts in my life. In my every thought and action today, guide me to the bright and loving light of your kingdom. Help me to be aware of the many ways you allow me to share in your life so intimately today. Thank you for the gifts you have placed in my life. Let me be grateful every moment of this day.

*May the Lord bless us,  
protect us from all evil  
and bring us to everlasting life.  
Amen*

### Luke 15:1-12, 31-32(MSG)

#### The Story of the Lost Sheep

15<sup>1-3</sup> By this time a lot of men and women of doubtful reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently. The Pharisees and religion scholars were not pleased, not at all pleased. They growled, "He takes in sinners and eats meals with them, treating them like old friends." Their grumbling triggered this story.

<sup>4-7</sup> "Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and lost one. Wouldn't you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the lost one until you found it? When found, you can be sure you would put it across your shoulders, rejoicing, and when you got home call in your friends and neighbors, saying, 'Celebrate with me! I've found my lost sheep!' Count on it—there's more joy in heaven over one sinner's rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue.

#### The Story of the Lost Coin

<sup>8-10</sup> "Or imagine a woman who has ten coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and scour the house, looking in every nook and cranny until she finds it? And when she finds it you can be sure she'll call her friends and neighbors: 'Celebrate with me! I found my lost coin!' Count on it—that's the kind of party God's angels throw every time one lost soul turns to God."

#### The Story of the Lost Son

<sup>11-12</sup> Then he said, "There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, I want right now what's coming to me.....'

<sup>31-32</sup> "His father said, 'Son, you don't understand. You're with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he's alive! He was lost, and he's found!'"

