
Journeying Through the Gospels in Lent



**Tuesday
March 25th 2014**

Daily Devotional

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

Welcome to Day eighteen 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:

May your grace not forsake us, O Lord, we pray, but make us dedicated to your holy service and at all times obtain for us your help. 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.



Today's Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

Today's Meditation:

Do not let us be put to shame, but deal with us in your kindness and great mercy. Azariah asks God to remember his mercies. He places his complete trust in God. These days, we place our lives in God's hands, and we let God forgive us. The challenge of the Gospel is to forgive as we have been forgiven. In our daily living with others we are so much harder on them than our God is on us! We need to spend time during this Lenten season, examining of conscience.

*"So will my heavenly Father do to you,
unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."*



Matthew 18:21-35 (MSG)

A Story About Forgiveness

²¹ At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, “Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?”

²² Jesus replied, “Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.

²³⁻²⁵ “The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn’t pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

²⁶⁻²⁷ “The poor wretch threw himself at the king’s feet and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

²⁸ “The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, ‘Pay up. Now!’

²⁹⁻³¹ “The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ But he wouldn’t do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

³²⁻³⁵ “The king summoned the man and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn’t you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?’ The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that’s exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn’t forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy.”

Today's Reflection

Praise to Christ, who has given us himself as the bread from heaven. Let us pray to him, saying: Jesus, you feed and heal our souls; come to strengthen us today. Lord, feed us at the banqueting table when we commune to experience your body and blood and proclaim your death for all mankind with all the gifts of your sacrifice. Give us a perfect heart to receive your word, - that we may bring forth fruit in patience. Make us eager to work with you in building a better world, - so that it may listen to your Church and its gospel of Peace and Reconciliation. We confess, Lord, that we have sinned, so wash us clean by your gift of salvation today.

Closing Prayer

God of infinite love, I thank you for this reminder of your love and your call that I should be more patient, gentle and compassionate with others. Here in the middle of Lent, I turn to you to beseeching you for encouragement and help. Please soften my heart, O God. Help me to let go of judging others. Remove my prejudices so that I can love others through you, for they are yours. I ask you this, in Jesus' name.

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

Amen

