



Journeying Through the Gospels in Lent



**Thursday
March 13th 2014**

Daily Devotional

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

Welcome to Day eight 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:

Look kindly, Lord, we pray, on the devotion of your people, that those who by self-denial are restrained in body, may the fruit of good works be renewed in mind. 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.

Daily Reading

Luke 11:29-32

Luke 11:29-32 (MSG)

Keep Your Eyes Open

²⁹⁻³⁰ As the crowd swelled, he took a fresh tack: “The mood of this age is all wrong. Everybody’s looking for proof, but you’re looking for the wrong kind. All you’re looking for is something to titillate your curiosity, satisfy your lust for miracles. But the only proof you’re going to get is the Jonah-proof given to the Ninevites, which looks like no proof at all. What Jonah was to Nineveh, the Son of Man is to this age. ^{32,31} “On Judgment Day the Ninevites will stand up and give evidence that will condemn this generation, because when Jonah preached to them they changed their lives. A far greater preacher than Jonah is here, and you squabble about ‘proofs.’ On Judgment Day the Queen of Sheba will come forward and bring evidence that condemns this generation, because she traveled from a far corner of the earth to listen to wise Solomon. Wisdom far greater than Solomon’s is right in front of you, and you quibble over ‘evidence.’”



Daily Meditation

We know we have to work hard to resist temptation and to change some of our bad habits. We know that spiritual renewal will not come easy. But we know that all we will ultimately be able to do will come from the inspiration of God as a gift to each of us. So we ask from a deeper and deeper place in our hearts. We listen to the wonderful children's story about Nineveh. They responded to God's word and repented. My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn. Psalm 51.

Today's Reflection

Blessed be God, the giver of salvation, who decreed that mankind should become a new creation in himself, when all would be made new. With great confidence let us ask him: Lord, renew us in your Spirit. Lord, you promised a new heaven and a new earth; renew us daily through your Spirit, that we may enjoy your presence for ever in the heavenly Jerusalem. Help us to work with you to make this world alive with your Spirit and to build on earth a city of justice, love and peace. Free us from all negligence and slothful attitude, and give us joy in your gifts of grace. Deliver us from evil, and from slavery to the senses and desires of our body, which blinds us from beholding the blessedness of heaven.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, I know you receive what is in my heart. Let me be inspired by your words and by the actions of your son, Jesus Christ. Guide me to make sacrifices during this Lenten journey in the spirit of self-denial and with greater attention to you and to those around me. Help me to believe that you will grant me this because of the sacrifice Jesus made for me.

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

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