

SAMPLE with
READINGS on the CHRISTIAN LIFE

A JESUS BREVIARY



meditation rendering by
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idjc.org

A Jesus Breviary

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A QUESTION FOR PONDERING:

*Lord, how do you want me
to spend/waste/pray
time alone with you?*

These eight sets of scripture passages are rendered for meditation in the Jesus story in the present tense. They may be taken one-a-day over eight months for a long retreat, a set each day over eight days, the eight passages of the day of the month to let the Jesus story sink in over the long haul, or other ways as the Holy Spirit may guide, even if that is far away from these renderings.

Rev. Steve Wolf

A JESUS BRIEFCASE

31 days of God's Love-Call

These are all from the Hebrew Bible, to help sit with God saying "I love you" for as long as we can stand it. If a new awareness of sin surfaces, be not afraid.

31 days of Jesus Incarnate

That God would enter human history as one like us in all things but sin was unexpected and laughed at when preached, the surprise of the Word made flesh.

31 days of Jesus Miracles

The Son of God shows forth the divine dynamic power in signs opening minds, hearts, souls, and strength.

31 days of Jesus Parables

Which parable leaves you most perplexed? You will want to waste a lot of time on it. Which one seems clear-cut? That one too, until you are perplexed again.

31 days of Jesus Sayings

These are in Sunday gospel readings in the 3 year cycle.

31 days of Jesus' Paschal Mystery

The full gift of the self of Jesus in his scandalous cross shows through his death and resurrection to Easter joy.

31 days of the Holy Spirit

Jesus told us that *the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, will teach us all things* (John 14:26), the Holy Breath of God.

31 days on the Christian Life

These timeless readings from the letters attributed to Saints Peter, Paul, John, and James are drawn from Morning and Evening Prayer in the *Liturgy of the Hours*.

31 days of GOD'S LOVE-CALL

What do you hear when you read God's word in the Bible? I hear a very long love letter. The Bible as a whole can be read in this simple message from God:

I made you, I know you, and I love you.

This can be a message of great consolation. If I am aware of not living as if God loves me, it can nudge as a challenge, not to be better to earn God's love, but a reminder of my desire to live a fidelity-response to God's complete love for me.

It has been an honor to journey with many good folks in the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius of Loyola in At-Home Retreats and in spiritual direction. The first part of the exercises is to sit with intention in the reality of God's provision and love. This means letting God say and repeat, *I love you*. These 31 passages rendered here without commentary can help let this message sink into one's being. Though most of them are psalms and canticles to sing to God, as scripture they are also meant to be read as part of God's revelation; so whether the words are addressed to God, to someone else, or to the reader, we can hear them as God's love letter to us.

The ancient way of listening to God in *lectio divina* can be as simple as choosing a word or phrase or image from the passage, sitting with it perhaps without thinking about it, and breathing to listen.

All God's Blessings,
Rev. Steve Wolf

***My Beloved,
I have made you in my image,
one and unique,
not like anyone ever has been
or ever will be made in my image.***

***Having made you,
I know you,
all the great things
your ego wants everyone to know,
those things
you do not want anyone to know,
and everything
you do not yet know yourself.***

***And in knowing you,
I love you,
neither because of your strengths
nor in spite of your weaknesses;
there is nothing you can do
that will make me love you,
and there is nothing you can do
that will keep me from loving you.***

***Remember this always:
that I love you just is.***

- God

GOD'S LOVE-CALL



God's Love

for you and for me is complete,
and our God is calling us.

Each person is created
to praise, revere, and serve our Lord God,
and in this vocation
to find salvation in eternal life.

The other things on the face of the earth
are created for us all, to help each person
find and fulfill the *purpose / reason / end / ...*
for which he or she is created.

We humans are to use well the other things
to the extent they help us discover and fulfill
our *purpose / reason / end / ...*

Sooner or later each of us
will need to rid ourselves of the other things
that get in the way of this personal vocation.

It will come to be our desire
to be indifferent to all created things,
as far as we are allowed free choice
and consistent with faithful commitments
already freely made.

And so, our concern will be to see
all good things in unbiased balance,
and we will not prefer
health to sickness,
riches to poverty,
the world's honor to its dishonor,
or a long life to a short life,
and this balance of indifference
will hold for all other things.

When my one desire comes to be
whatever is more conducive
to the *purpose/reason/end/...*
for which I am created,
may my choices reflect that desire.
If not now, when?

The Principle and Foundation

of St. Ignatius of Loyola, d. 1556
is usually part of the first days of
The Spiritual Exercises (para. 23).

GOD'S LOVE-CALL

1

God, you are my God;
you I earnestly seek.
My soul, she thirsts for you,
my body, he longs for you,
as in a land with no water,
dry and weary.
So in the sanctuary I saw you,
beheld you in your power and glory.
Your love is better than life itself;
my lips will glorify you.
So I will praise you
in all the ways I am alive;
in your name I will lift up my hands.
As with fatness and richness,
my soul will be satisfied;
with singing lips
my mouth will sing praise.
When I remember you on my bed,
through night watches I think of you,
you who are my help;
then in the shadow of your wings I sing.
My very self stays close to you;
your right hand upholds me.

31 days of GOD's LOVE-CALL

Love Letter from God
Principle and Foundation

- 1 Psalm 63:1-8
- 2 Psalm 46
- 3 Isaiah 55:1-13
- 4 Wisdom of Solomon 9:1-6,9-11
- 5 Psalm 23
- 6 Psalm 139:1-18,23-24
- 7 Isaiah 43:1-5a
- 8 Exodus 16:4-5,9,10b
- 9 Hosea 2:10-22
- 10 Psalm 131
- 11 Psalm 8
- 12 Psalm 103
- 13 Psalm 104
- 14 Psalm 19
- 15 1st Kings 19:4-9a,11-13
- 16 Jeremiah 29:11-14
- 17 Ezekiel 16:4-13
- 18 Jeremiah 18:1-6
- 19 Genesis 2:4-25
- 20 Genesis 1:24-31
- 21 Isaiah 54:4-10
- 22 Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- 23 Isaiah 62:1-5
- 24 Ecclesiastes 3:1-11,14b
- 25 Psalm 62:2-10,12,13a
- 26 Wisdom of Solomon 11:21-12:1
- 27 Psalm 91:1-12,14-16
- 28 Ezekiel 36:24-28
- 29 Ezekiel 37:1-14
- 30 Isaiah 40:1-11
- 31 Psalm 130

31 days of JESUS INCARNATE

rendered for meditation in the present tense

Jesus is that man who lived in the first third of what we now call the first century, near the Sea of Galilee in what is now called Israel, who we also know as Son of God, Christ the Anointed One, Savior, Redeemer, Risen Lord, and a host of other names.

Incarnate means enfleshed or embodied, or for Christians, the Word become Flesh. This means that God has chosen to enter human history as one of us. Tell a little child that there was a day when Jesus was exactly as tall as he or she is today. Tell a teen that Jesus too lived in his own in-betweenness. Tell a student that Jesus too had to learn. Tell the adult being tempted that so was Jesus, one like us in all things but sin.

Anytime we proclaim his divinity, his God-ness, to the diminishment of his humanity, we may fall into what we call heresy. And anytime we proclaim his humanity to the exclusion of his divinity, we may fall into heresy. For a Christian, Jesus is Son of God and Son of a human being, Mary. He is fully God and fully human, not half God and half man, as a teacher would say, not only God on his Poppa's side and human on his Momma's side, but completely God and completely human. The two natures of the one person of Jesus can be seen in these gospel classics.

Be in the story.

Imagine yourself as a character in the scene.

What do you see, hear, smell, taste and feel?

JESUS INCARNATE



Lord Jesus,

You are fully God
and fully human.

We your brothers and sisters
are created by God
and begotten of our parents.

Begotten of God and Mary,
you are not a creature;
as Son of God you know me
better than I know myself;
as Son of Mary you entered all of
human history, joy, and sorrow.

As I am made in God's image,
give me the grace necessary
to grow into your likeness,
New Human, Savior,
Brother and Friend.

Amen.

JESUS INCARNATE

7

THE WORD

In the beginning is the Word and the Word is with God, and the Word is God. This one is in the beginning with God. Through him all things become, and without him not one thing which is to be becomes. In him is life, and the life (*zoe*) is the light (*phos*) of all humanity; and the light shines in the night, and the night does not overtake it. There is a man, sent from God; his name is John. This man comes for witness, that he might witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He is not the light, but a witness to the light. The true light, which enlightens every human, is coming into the cosmos. He is in the cosmos, and the cosmos becomes through him, and the cosmos does not know him... To as many as receive him he gives the right to become children of God, the ones believing in his name, who are born not by blood nor by will of flesh nor by human will, but of God.

And the Word becomes flesh
and tents among us,
and we gaze on his glory,
glory as of an only begotten from a father,
full of grace and truth.

Prologue of the Gospel of **John 1:1-14**

31 days of JESUS INCARNATE

- 1 ANNUNCIATION Luke 1:26-38
- 2 NATIVITY Luke 2:15-21
- 3 THE MAJI Matthew 2:1-12
- 4 SIMEON & ANNA Luke 2:22-40
- 5 RETURN from EXILE Matthew 2:19-23
- 6 TWELVE YEARS OLD Luke 2:41-52
- 7 THE WORD Prologue of the Gospel of John 1:1-14
- 8 BAPTISM Matthew 3:13-17 Mk 1:9-11 Lk 3:21-22
- 9 TEMPTATION Matt 4:1-11 Mark 1:12-13 Luke 4:1-13
- 10 REJECTION Luke 4:14-30 Mt 13:54-58 Mk 6:1-6
- 11 SIMON, ANDREW... Mark 1:14-20 Mt 4:12-22 Lk 5:1-11
- 12 DAY in the MINISTRY Mk 1:29-39 Mt 4:23-25 Lk 4:38-44
- 13 NICODEMUS at NIGHT John 3:1-21
- 14 WOMAN at the WELL John 4:5-42
- 15 LEVI is CALLED Mark 2:13-17 Luke 5:27-32
In Matthew 9:9-13 the tax-collector's name is Matthew.
- 16 FIELD of GRAIN Mark 2:23-28 Mt 12:1-8 Lk 6:1-5
- 17 THE TWELVE & THE WOMEN Luke 6:12-19 & 8:1-3
Matthew 10:1-4 Mark 3:13-19
- 18 LOVE YOUR ENEMIES Matthew 5:43-48 Luke 6:27-36
- 19 THE FAMILY Mark 3:20-21 John 10:20
Mark 3:31-35 Matthew 12:46-50 Luke 8:19-21
- 20 THE BREAD of LIFE John 6:52-53,60-69
- 21 DISCIPLES of the BAPTIZER Luke 7:18-23 Mt 11:2-6
- 22 ANOINTING by a WOMAN Luke 7:36-50
- 23 PROFESSION Matt 16:13-20 Mk 8:27-33 Lk 9:18-21
- 24 TRANSFIGURATION Mk 9:2-10 Mt 17:1-9 Lk 9:28-36
- 25 WOMAN CAUGHT in ADULTERY John 8:2-11
- 26 RICH YOUNG MAN Mt 19:16-22 Mk 10:17-27 Lk 18:18-30
- 27 JAMES & JOHN Mark 10:35-45 Matthew 20:20-28
- 28 ZACCHAEUS Luke 19:1-10
- 29 ENTRY on a DONKEY Mark 11:1-10
Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19
- 30 CLEANSING the TEMPLE Mark 11:15b-18
Matthew 21:12-16 Luke 19:45-48 John 2:13-25
- 31 AUTHORITY QUESTIONED
Mark 11:27-33 Matthew 21:23-27 Luke 20:1-8
Mark 12:28-34 Matthew 22:34-40



31 days of JESUS MIRACLES

rendered for meditation in the present tense

Lord Jesus,

in your miraculous ministry
on the face of the earth
from Nazareth and Cana
and Capernaum and Galilee
to the Jordan and in Samaria
and Jericho and Jerusalem
you showed forth with authority
the compassion and power
of the God and Abba of us all.

Transform my ponder-meditation
on these good news stories
into a contemplative gaze on you,
my Physician, Redeemer,
Brother and Friend.

Amen.

JESUS MIRACLES

2

CATCH of FISH

Getting into one of the boats, Simon's, Jesus asks him to put out a little. Sitting he teaches the crowds out of the boat. When he stops speaking, he says to Simon, "Put out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch."

Simon answers, "Master, laboring through the whole night we took nothing; but at your word I will let down the nets."

Doing this they net a multitude of many fishes, and their nets are being torn. They signal to their partners in the other boat that they should come to help them. They come and fill both boats so that they are sinking.

Seeing, Simon Peter falls at the knees of Jesus saying, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful human." Astonishment seizes him and all the ones with him at the catch of the fishes they are taking, and likewise James and John, sons of Zebedee, who are partners with Simon.

Jesus says to Simon, "Fear you not; from now on you will catch alive human beings."

Bringing the boats down onto the land and leaving all things, they follow him.

31 days of JESUS MIRACLES

- 1 WATER & WINE (1st of 6 or 7 Signs in John) John 2:1-11
- 2 CATCH of FISH Luke 5:3-11
- 3 SON of a ROYAL OFFICIAL John 4:46-54
- 4 DEMONIAK Mark 1:21-28 Luke 4:31-37
- 5 LEPER Matthew 8:1-4 Mark 1:40-45 Luke 5:12-16
- 6 PARALYTIC Mark 2:1-12 Matthew 9:1-8 Luke 5:17-26
- 7 SICK MAN at BETHESDA John 5:1-17
- 8 MAN with a WITHERED HAND Mark 3:1-6
Matthew 12:9-14 Luke 6:6-11
- 9 SERVANT of a CENTURIAN Matt 8:5-13 Luke 7:1-10
- 10 SON of a WIDOW Luke 7:11-17
- 11 CALMING of a STORM Matthew 8:23-27
Mark 4:35-41 Luke 8:22-25
- 12 GERASENE-GADARENE DEMONIAK Mark 5:1-20
Matthew 8:28-34 Luke 8:26-39
- 13 DAUGHTER of JAIRUS & WOMAN in the CROWD
Luke 8:40-56 Matthew 9:18-26 Mark 5:21-43
- 14 TWO BLIND MEN Mathew 9:27-31
- 15 POSSESSED MUTE Matthew 9:32-35
- 16 FEEDING of FIVE THOUSAND John 6:1-15
Matthew 14:13-21 Mark 6:34-44 Luke 9:10-17
- 17 WALKING on WATER John 6:16-21
Mark 6:45-52 Matthew 14:22-33
- 18 WOMAN of CANAAN Matthew 15:21-28 Mk 7:24-30
- 19 DEAF MUTE Mark 7:31-37
- 20 FEEDING of FOUR THOUSAND Mt 15:32-39 Mk 8:1-10
- 21 BLIND MAN of BETHSAIDA Mark 8:22-26
- 22 POSSESSED BOY Lk 9:37-43a Mt 17:14-20 Mk 9:14-29
- 23 PROVISION for TEMPLE TAX Matthew 17:22-27
- 24 MAN BORN BLIND John 9:1-41
- 25 WOMAN CRIPPLED Luke 13:10-17
- 26 MAN with DROPSY Luke 14:1-6
- 27 TEN LEPERS Luke 17:11-19
- 28 BLIND BARTIMAEUS Mark 10:46-52
Matthew 20:29-34 Luke 18:35-43
- 29 RAISING of LAZARUS John 11:1-45
- 30 CURSING of a FIG TREE Mark 11:12-14,20-25 Mt 21:18-22
- 31 HEALING of an EAR Luke 22:47-51

31 days of JESUS PARABLES

rendered for meditation in the present tense

Lord Jesus,
Master & Teacher,
in your parables
you invite us into listening
with the ear that our Abba
opens in our hearts.
Friendship takes time
as do your parables.
Grace me with patient time
to hear what you teach
and wisdom and courage
to live it and do it.
Transform my ponder-meditation
inside these good news parables
into a contemplative gaze on you,
my Savior, Redeemer,
Brother & Friend.
Amen.

JESUS PARABLES

4

GOOD SAMARITAN

A certain lawyer stands up testing Jesus saying,
"Teacher, what do I do to inherit eternal life?"

He says to him, "What has been written in the law? How do you read it?"

He answers,
"You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your strength
and with all your mind,
and your neighbor as yourself."

He says to him,
"Rightly do you answer; do this and you shall live."

But wishing to make himself just he says,
"And who is my neighbor?"

Taking him up Jesus says,

"A certain man is going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He falls in with robbers, who both stripping him and laying blows on him go away leaving him half dead.

By coincidence a certain priest is going down in that way, and seeing him passes by opposite.

Likewise also a Levite, coming upon the place and seeing, passes by opposite.



And a certain Samaritan journeying comes upon him and seeing is filled with pity, and approaching binds up his wounds pouring on oil and wine, and placing him on his own beast brings him to an inn and cares for him.

The next day, he takes out and gives two denarii to the innkeeper and says, 'You care for him and whatever you spend in addition when I return I will repay you.'

Who of these three seems to you to have become neighbor of the one falling into the robbers?"

He says,

"The one doing the mercy with him."

And Jesus says to him,

"Go, and you do likewise."

Luke 10:29-37

Two denarii is the wage for two days of work.

31 days of JESUS PARABLES

- 1 NEW WINE Mark 2:18-22 Mt 9:16-17 Lk 5:33-39
- 2 CHILDREN of the MARKETPLACE Mt 11:12-19 Lk 7:28-35
- 3 THE SOWER & GOOD EARTH Mark 4:3-20
Matthew 13:3-23 Luke 8:4-15
- 4 GOOD SAMARITAN Luke 10:29-37
- 5 RICH FOOL Luke 12:16-21
- 6 RAVENS & LILIES Luke 12:22-32 Matthew 6:25-34
- 7 GRAIN GROWING Mark 4:26-29
- 8 MUSTARD SEED Mark 4:30-32 Mt 13:31-32 Lk 13:18-19
LEAVEN Luke 13:20-21 Matthew 13:33
- 9 WEEDS & WHEAT Matthew 13:24-30
- 10 TREASURE & PEARL & NET & HEAD of HOUSEHOLD
Matthew 13:44-52
- 11 LATRINE Mark 7:14-23 Mathew 15:10-20
- 12 VIGILANT SERVANT Mark 13:32-37 Luke 12:35-40
- 13 FAITHFUL SERVANT Matthew 24:45-51 Luke 12:42-48
- 14 BARREN FIG TREE Luke 13:6-9
- 15 MEGA BANQUET Luke 14:16-24 Mathew 22:1-14
- 16 FAMILY & TOWER & TROOPS & SALT Luke 14:26-35
Matthew 5:13, 10:37, 16:24 Mark 8:34-37, 9:49-50
- 17 ONE LOST SHEEP Luke 15:1-7 Matthew 18:12-14
ONE LOST COIN Luke 15:8-10
- 18 LOST SON Luke 15:11-32
- 19 STEWARD of INJUSTICE Luke 16:1-13
- 20 RICH MAN & LAZARUS Luke 16:19-31
- 21 UNFORGIVING DEBTOR Matthew 18:21-35
- 22 UNPROFITABLE SERVANTS Luke 17:7-10
- 23 PERSISTENT WIDOW Luke 18:1-8
- 24 WORKERS in the VINEYARD Matthew 20:1-16
- 25 PHARISEE & TAX COLLECTOR Luke 18:9-14
- 26 TWO SONS Matthew 21:28-32
- 27 TENANT FARMERS Mark 12:1-11
Matthew 21:33-46 Luke 20:9-19
- 28 TEN VIRGINS Matthew 25:1-13
- 29 TALENTS Matthew 25:14-30
Luke 19:11-27 (mina coins)
- 30 SHEEP & GOATS & WORKS of MERCY Matthew 25:31-46
- 31 VINE & BRANCHES John 15:1-8

31 days of JESUS SAYINGS

an incomplete list, most from Sunday readings

Many good people have written books with titles such as *The Life of Jesus* or *A Life of Christ*. This is not one of those.

In addition to the four canonical or church-sanctioned gospels of *Matthew*, *Mark*, *Luke* and *John*, there are other books called *gospels* from near ancient times, and some folks have composed even to recent years accounts of the *evangelion* or *good news* of Jesus Christ. It could even be an instructive exercise for a modern Christian to write out how he or she might tell the story of the Baptism of the Lord, his three-year ministry of teaching and healing, his Passion and death on the cross, and his Resurrection and Ascension. (See Acts 1:22 for how this capacity might qualify one to be an *apostle*.) But this is not one of those.

Scripture scholars have identified a number of passages that can be found in both *Matthew* and *Luke* which are not in either *Mark* or *John*. Based on the most commonly accepted notion of how the gospels were written: *Mark*, perhaps around the year 75(?), from oral traditions; *Matthew* and *Luke*, perhaps around the mid-80's; and *John*, perhaps in the 90's; that each of the four has material in none of the others; that both *Matthew* and *Luke* relied heavily on *Mark*; and that there is matching material in *Matthew* and *Luke* which is not in *Mark* or in *John*, so a theory has evolved that there was a long-lost collection of *Sayings of Jesus*, or a *gospel* often called "Q" after the German word *Quelle* or "source,"

which both *Matthew* and *Luke* seem to have put to good use. Many have composed possible lists of these sayings of Jesus. This is not one of those.

So what is this? It is simply a meditation rendering of words attributed to Jesus by the writers of the gospels that one parish priest has found helpful in praying *Lectio Divina*, while walking in the woods or on a treadmill or other torture device, driving here and there, or rocking in a chair like a hungry old bear. Nothing more. There could be many ways to use a collection such as this:

- a. One a day for the 31 days of a month, like a vitamin.
- b. Choosing a saying or a phrase to pray,
and breathing with it through the day.
- c. Wanting an introduction to this Jesus of Nazareth.
- d. Searching for some healing words of consolation.
- e. Being open to a message of challenge from
the Loving Savior.
- f. A doorway into the gospel context of a saying
that intrigues.
- g. The ongoing search for the gospel account or
parable that is for me "*the gospel within the gospels.*"
- h. With extra time on my hands, finally getting around
to sitting with those "hard" sayings of Jesus.
- i. A way to begin a new dialogue with Christ the Lord.
- j. Admitting the desire to be a disciple of
the Master Teacher.
- k. Looking to listen to God in patient anticipation
of a surprise.

JESUS SAYINGS



Lord Jesus,
your word
helps me look at my life
without condemnation
or complacency;
when I am in trouble
guide me in safe consolation;
when I am proud
wake up a teachable disciple;
and when I am nowhere
draw me to your side,
my Savior, Redeemer,
Brother and Friend.
Amen.

JESUS SAYINGS

8

Allow the children to come to me
and do not prevent them,
for of such is the kingdom of God.

Mark 10:14

Amen I tell you, whoever
does not receive the kingdom of God as a child
by no means may enter into it.

Mark 10:15

Go, sell what things you have
and give to the poor
and you will have treasure in heaven,
and come follow me.

Mark 10:21

It is easier
for a camel to go through the eye of a needle
than for one who is rich to enter into
the kingdom of God.

Mark 10:25

With humans it is impossible
but not with God,
for all things are possible with God.

Mark 10:27

JESUS SAYINGS

17

The kingdom of heaven is like
a treasure hidden in a field
which a human finds and hides
and in joy goes and sells everything
and buys that field.

Matthew 13:44

The kingdom of heaven is like
a merchant seeking fine pearls,
who finds one precious pearl
and going away sells everything and buys it.

Matthew 13:45,46

Every scribe disciplined to the kingdom of heaven
is like a head of a household
who puts forth from the treasure
things both new and old.

Matthew 13:52

Take courage; it is me. Come.

Matthew 14:27,29

Little-faith, why did you doubt?

Matthew 14:31

31 days of JESUS SAYINGS

1	TEMPLE BAPTISM	TEMPTATION	Luke & Matthew
2	CALL of ANDREW	FIRST SIGN	GOSPEL John & Mark
3	NAZARETH REJECTION	CALLING	Luke & Matthew
4	WILLING TAKE YOUR MAT	NEW WINE	Mark
5	SABBATH	HOUSE DIVIDED	KINGDOM of GOD Mark
6	TALITHA KOUM	EPHPHATHA	Mark
7	WHO DO PEOPLE SAY I AM		Mark
8	ALLOW the CHILDREN to COME to ME		Mark
9	NO COMMANDMENT GREATER		Mark
10	SERMON on the MOUNT	BEATITUDES	Matthew
11	SERMON on the MOUNT		Matthew
12	SERMON on the MOUNT		Matthew
13	SERMON on the MOUNT		Matthew
14	BE NOT AFRAID		Matthew
15	COME TO ME	MY YOKE IS GENTLE	Matthew
16	THE KINGDOM of HEAVEN		Matthew
17	THE KINGDOM of HEAVEN		Matthew
18	WHERE TWO or THREE FORGIVE		Matthew
19	CORPORAL WORKS of MERCY		Matthew
20	SERMON on the PLAIN	BEATITUDES	Luke
21	SERMON on the PLAIN	YOUNG MAN ARISE	Luke
22	FOXES HAVE HOLES and BIRDS HAVE NESTS		Luke
23	ASK SEEK KNOCK		Luke
24	TAKE the LOWEST PLACE	DETACH	Luke
25	GOD, BE MERCIFUL to ME, a SINNER		Luke
26	To SEEK and to SAVE the LOST		Luke
27	GOD SO LOVED the COSMOS		John
28	FIRST to THROW a STONE		John
29	I CAME that THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE		John
30	The WAY and the TRUTH and the LIFE		John
31	RECEIVE the HOLY SPIRIT		John
	GO into ALL the COSMOS		Mark
	BEHOLD, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS		Matthew

31 days of the PASCHAL MYSTERY of JESUS

rendered for meditation in the present tense

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the Living God
and Paschal Lamb,
In your Passover offering
you made the perfect gift of love,
and through the Easter Mystery
of your victory over death
you call us into eternal life.

The Christian greeting,
“He is Risen!”
overwhelms
the scandal of the cross.

Transform my ponder-meditation
inside these good news mysteries
into a contemplative gaze on you,
my Savior, Redeemer,
Brother and Friend.
Amen.

PASCHAL MYSTERY

3

THE LAST SUPPER



As they eat,
taking a loaf,
blessing,
he breaks
and gives to them
and says,
“You take;
this is my body.”

Taking a cup,
giving thanks,
he gives to them,
and all drink of it
and he says to them,
“This is my blood of the covenant
being poured out for many.
Amen I tell you,
no more will I drink
of the fruit of the vine
until that day when I drink new
in the kingdom of God.”

Having sung a hymn
they go forth to the Mount of Olives.

Mark 14:22-26 Matthew 26:26-30 Luke 22:14-20

22

APPEARANCE to MARY of MAGDALA

Mary stands outside the tomb weeping. As she is weeping, she stoops into the tomb and behold: two angels in white, sitting, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus lay.

Those say to her, "Woman, why do you weep?"

She says to them, "They took my Lord, and I do not know where they put him." Saying these things, she turns back, and behold: Jesus standing. She does not know it is Jesus.

Jesus says to her, "Woman, why do you weep? Whom do you seek?"

Thinking that it is the gardener, she says to him, "Sir, if you did carry him, tell me where you put him, and I will take him."

Jesus says to her, "Mary." Turning, she says to him in Hebrew, "Rabboni," meaning "Teacher."

Jesus says to her, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.'"

Mary the Magdalene comes announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and these things he said to her.

31 days of the PASCHAL MYSTERY of JESUS

- 1 MANY OTHER THINGS John 20:30-31 & 21:25
- 2 ANOINTING at BETHANY Mark 14:3-9 Matt 26:6-13
- 3 THE LAST SUPPER Mark 14:22-26 Mt 26:26-30 Lk 22:14-20
- 4 FOOT WASHING John 13:1-17
- 5 LAST SUPPER DISCOURSE John 13:31-14:12 Lk 22:24-30
- 6 AGONY in the GARDEN Mk 14:32f Mt 26:33f Lk 22:39f
- 7 BETRAYAL & ARREST Luke 22:47-53
Matthew 26:47-56 Mark 14:43-52 John 18:1-11
- 8 SANHEDRIN Mk 14:53-64 Mt 26:57-68 Lk 22:54 Jn 18:12-14
- 9 PETER'S DENIAL Luke 22:55-62
Matthew 26:69-75 Mark 14:66-72 John 18:15-18,25-27
- 10 DEATH of JUDAS Matthew 27:3-10 Acts 1:16-20
- 11 PILATE'S QUESTIONS Luke 23:1-5
Matthew 27:11-14 Mark 15:2-5 John 18:33-38a; 19:7-11
- 12 MOCKERY Luke 22:63-65 & 23:6-12
John 18:38-19:6 Mark 15:16-20 Matthew 27:27-31a
- 13 SENTENCE of DEATH John 19:7-11a,12-16a
Matthew 27:15-26 Mark 15:6-15 Luke 23:13-25
- 14 WAY of the CROSS Lk 23:26-32 Mt 27:31f Mk 15:21 Jn 19:16bf
- 15 CRUCIFIXION John 19:19-27
Matthew 27:33-44 Mark 15:22-32 Luke 23:33-43
- 16 DEATH of JESUS Mark 15:33f Mt 27:49f Lk 23:44f Jn 19:28f
- 17 BURIAL & GUARD Mt 27:57f Mk 15:42f Lk 23:50f Jn 19:38f
- 18 THE EMPTY TOMB Mark 16:1-8
- 19 THE EMPTY TOMB Luke 24:1-12
- 20 THE EMPTY TOMB John 20:1-10
- 21 THE EMPTY TOMB Matthew 28:1-10
- 22 APPEARANCE to MARY of MAGDALA John 20:11-18
Mark 16:9-11
- 23 On the ROAD to EMMAUS Luke 24:13-35 Mk 16:12-13
- 24 HIS HANDS & HIS FEET Luke 24:35-45 Mark 16:14
- 25 UPPER ROOM John 20:19-23
- 26 THOMAS on the EIGHTH DAY John 20:24-29
- 27 REPORT of the GUARDS Matthew 28:11-15
- 28 APPEARANCE to SEVEN in GALILEE John 21:1-14
- 29 BREAKFAST LOVE QUESTION John 21:15-19
- 30 COMMISSION Matthew 28:16-20
- 31 ASCENSION Luke 24:46-53 Mark 16:14-20

31 Days of the HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit,
take hold of our lives
and sign us with your holy love;
give us your gifts,
confirm us in faith,
Spirit, Come.

Adapted from a song attributed to
Serafina Di Giacoma

Come/, Cre\ -a-tor\ Spir/-it,
Souls\ of yours, now\ vis/-it:
Fill/ with grace\ be\ -yond/ na/-ture
All/ these hearts\ that you have cre-a\ -ted.

You/ are\ named Com-fort-Par-a-clete,
The high-est gift of our giv-ing God,
Font/ of life and fire and lov-ing char-i-ty,
Font/ of spir-it-u-al a\ -noin\ -ting.

You/ sev\ -en-fold\ ho-ly gift,
Fing-er of the right\ hand of God,
You who were prom-ised du-ly by the Fa/-ther,
En-rich our throats\ to speak words\
you want heard.

Kin-dle light in our minds, your ho-ly light,
Send and in-fuse in-to hearts your love.
Hu-man weak-ness dwell-ing in hu-man bod/-ies
Your pow-er streng-thens in-to per-pe-tu-i-ty.

Spir-it, drive a-way ev-'ry en-mit-y
Bring-ing now peace ev-er-last/-ing.
With you, our faith-ful lead-er pro/-ceed/-ing
May we a-void\ all harm/ and e\vil.

Through you may we know our\ Fa/-ther,
And bet-ter know our Lord Je-sus Christ.
You are the Spir-it of the Fa-ther and the Son;
May our trust be in you for all time to come.

Glo-ry be to God/ the Fa/-ther,
To the Son Res-u\rec/-ted,
And to the **Ho-ly Spir-it**, Com-fort-Par-a-clete,
For gen-er-a-tions and gen-er\a\tion.

A\men/.

Text: Rabanus Mauras, d. 856, *Veni Creator Spiritus*,
with assistance from the literal translation © 2008
by Bard Suverkrop-IPA Source, LLC
Music: VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS, LM; Mode VIII

HOW MUCH MORE

And Jesus says to them, "Who of you have a friend to whom you might go at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend has arrived to me off a journey and I have nothing to set before him.' and that one within answering may say, 'Cause me no trouble; the door has been shut and my children are with me in the bed, so I cannot rise up to give to you.' I tell you, even if he will not rise to give because he is a friend, yet because of his persistence, rising he will give as much as is needed. And I tell you,

ask and it will be given you,
seek and you will find,
knock and it will be opened to you,

for everyone asking receives, and the one seeking finds, and to the one knocking it will be opened.

Is there of you a father whose son asking for a fish will hand to him a snake instead of a fish? Or asking for an egg will hand to him a scorpion?

If you, being evil, know to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the **Holy Spirit** to those who ask.

31 days of the HOLY SPIRIT

SONG COME, CREATOR SPIRIT Music: VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS

- 1 The SPIRIT WILL REST on HIM Isaiah 11:1-5
- 2 The SPIRIT of the LORD Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11
- 3 SPIRIT of the SON of GOD Galatians 4:3-7 & 5:16,22-23,25
- 4 The BEGOTTEN of the SPIRIT Matthew 1:18-25
- 5 HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU in the SPIRIT Mark 1:1-8
- 6 BEHELD the SPIRIT John 1:29,32-34
- 7 LED by the SPIRIT into the DESERT Mark 1:12-13
- 8 BLASPHEMING against the HOLY SPIRIT Mark 3:22-30
Matthew 12:24-32 Luke 12:10
- 9 DAVID and the HOLY SPIRIT Mark 12:35-37
- 10 The HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKING Mark 13:1-11
- 11 FULL of JOY in the HOLY SPIRIT Luke 10:17-24
- 12 HOW MUCH MORE Luke 11:1-13
- 13 HE WILL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING John 14:15-26
- 14 ASCENSION Beginning of the Book of Acts 1:1-9
- 15 From ELEVEN to TWELVE Acts 1:12-17,21-26
- 16 PENTECOST Acts 2:1-4,12-13
- 17 PETER: WITNESSES Acts 2:37-39 & 5:30-32
- 18 STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR Acts 7:54-60
- 19 PHILIP in SAMARIA Acts 8:5-8,14-20
- 20 CONVERSION of SAUL Acts 9:1-9,17-19
- 21 ANOINTED with the HOLY SPIRIT Acts 10:37-45
- 22 FIRST CALLED CHRISTIANS Acts 11:19-26 & 13:1-4
- 23 LETTER to the NATIONS Acts 15:22a,23-29
- 24 PAUL LAYING HANDS Acts 19:1-10
- 25 PAUL to the ELDERS of EPHEBUS Acts 20:22-32
- 26 PAUL in ROME End of the Book of Acts 28:25b-31
- 27 SPIRIT of ADOPTION Romans 8:14-27
- 28 JOY in the HOLY SPIRIT Romans 14:13-19
- 29 PETER on PROPHECY 2nd Peter 1:16-21
- 30 UNITY of the SEVEN ONES Ephesians 4:3-6
- DO NOT GRIEVE the HOLY SPIRIT Ephesians 4:25-32
- 31 By the POWER Ephesians 3:16-21

appendix a - Into which ANGELS LONG to LOOK 1st Peter 1:10-12

appendix b - The SPIRIT SEARCHES ALL THINGS 1st Corinth 2:1-16

SONG BLESSED BE Ephesians 1:3-14

Bless-ed be the God and Fa-ther
of our Lord/ Je-sus Christ,
Who has blessed us in the Christ\,
bless-ings in their Spir-it breath.
As God chose us in the Mes-si-ah
be-fore/ found-ing sky or earth,
To be ho-ly, clean of blem-ish,
in God's eye: a-dop-tion worth.

In the Son we have re-demp-tion,
God's for-give-ness of our sin,
By the rich-es of his grace\
lav-ished on us gath-ered in.
Giv-ing wis-dom, know-ledge/, vis-ion,
mys-t'ry/ of the Fa-ther's will,
Sum-ming up all things in Je-sus,
fa-vored in the full-ness sent.

In our hear-ing of the gos-pel
word of our sal-va-tion,
One by one we too were cho-sen,
joined as part-ners with the Son.
By the prom-is'd Ho-ly/ Spir-it,
signed and/ sealed as heirs of God,
God's pos-ses-sion, God's re-demp-tion,
God's be-lov-ed, Ab-ba's own.

Text: **Eph 1:3-14**, Stephen J. Wolf, grateful to the Institute for Priestly Formation, 2008
Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, d. 1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1824

Melody: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

31 days on the **CHRISTIAN LIFE**

Readings selected from the *Liturgy of the Hours*

**Abba Father,
Christ Brother,
Guiding Spirit,**
One God in Three Persons,
give us true humility
to see ourselves as you see us
with your gifts to give
through very human weakness,
courageous charity
to not judge others,
and power willing
to do the good
as we seek to love you our God
with heart and mind
and soul and strength
and our neighbors
as ourselves.
Amen.

CHRISTIAN LIFE

1

O the DEPTH

As you then disobeyed God,
but now have received mercy
by way of these disobediences,
so also others have disobeyed in the same mercy
so that they also may now receive mercy.
God has jailed all in disobedience
that God may show mercy to all.

O the depth
of riches and wisdom and knowledge of God;
how inscrutable the judgments
and unsearchable the ways,
for who has known the mind of the Lord?
or who has been the Lord's counselor?
or who has given anything to the Lord
to be repaid?

Because of God,
through God,
and to God
all things are.
To God is the *doxa*-glory for the *eon*-ages.
Amen.

Saint Paul, **Letter to the Romans 11:30-36**

CHRISTIAN LIFE

2

CROWD TOO MANY to NUMBER

I saw, behold,
a crowd too many to number
out of every nation and tribe
and people and tongue
standing before the throne
and before the Lamb
clothed in white robes
and with palm branches in their hands.
They cried out with a loud voice saying,
*Salvation from our God sitting on the throne,
and from the Lamb.*

And all the angels
stood around the throne with the elders
and the four living creatures
and fell on their faces before the throne
and worshipped God
saying,
*Amen,
blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks
and honor and power and strength to our God
to the eons of the eons.*
Amen.

Saint John, **Revelation 7:9-12**

CHRISTIAN LIFE

3

COMFORT-ENCOURAGEMENT

Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Father of compassion and God of all comfort,
comforting-consoling-encouraging us
in all our affliction
that we may be able
to comfort those in every affliction
through the comfort by which we ourselves
are comforted by God.

As the sufferings of Christ abound in us,
so through Christ also abounds our comfort.

Now when we are afflicted
it is on behalf of your comfort and salvation;
when we are comforted
it is on behalf of your comfort
enduring in the same sufferings
which we also suffer.

Our hope for you is firm
knowing that as you partake in the sufferings
so also you partake of the comfort.

Saint Paul, **2nd Letter to the Corinthians 1:3-7**

*The Greek word paraklesis can mean
comfort or consolation or encouragement.*

CHRISTIAN LIFE

4

DOING GOOD

You yourselves know
how good it is to imitate us.
We were not idle among you,
nor did we eat bread as a gift from anyone,
but by labor and struggle
by night and by day working
to not be a burden on any of you,
not that we have no authority,
but so that we ourselves might give to you
an example to imitate.

Even when we were with you,
we gave you as a charge
that if anyone does not wish to work
neither let that one eat.

For we hear of some walking among you idly,
not working but walking around the working,
and to such we charge
and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ
that from your quiet working
you may eat bread.

And you, brothers and sisters,
do not lose heart in doing good.

These words are addressed to the Christian community.
Saint Paul, **2nd Letter to the Thessalonians 3:7-13**

CHRISTIAN LIFE

5

PUT ON the LORD JESUS CHRIST

Know that this is the *kairos*-time,
the hour for you to be raised out of sleep,
for now our salvation is nearer
than when we became believers.

The night has advanced
and the day draws near.

Let us cast off therefore the deeds of the darkness
and let us put on the armor of the light.

As in the new day
let us walk
not in revelings to drunken bouts,
not in sex to excesses,
not in strife to jealousy,
but put on the Lord Jesus Christ;
and as for the flesh,
give its lust no room to think.



Saint Paul, **Letter to the Romans 13:11-14**

CHRISTIAN LIFE

6

CHILDREN of GOD

See what manner of love
the Father has given to us
that we may be called
children of God,
and we are.

The world
does not know us
because it did not know him.

Beloved,
now we are children of God
and what we shall be
has not yet been shown.

We know
that when it is shown
we will be like him
because we will see him as he is.
Everyone who carries this hope
is made pure
as God is pure.

WORD PLANTED in YOU

Know, my beloved brothers and sisters; let every human be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to be angry, for human anger does not work toward God's justice way.

So put away all filth and unnecessary waste and receive in meekness the word planted in you that is able to save your souls. Become doers of the *logos*-word and not hearers only misleading yourselves. The hearer of the word who is not a doer is like a human seeing in a mirror one's face of birth, and seeing oneself goes away right away and forgets what sort he or she is. But the one who looks into the perfect law of freedom and remains, becoming not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the *ergon*-work, blessed in the doing will this one be.

Any who think themselves religious and do not bridle their tongue but deceive their heart, vain is their religion. This is religion clean and undefiled before the God and Father: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unspotted by the cosmos.

REBIRTH to a LIVING HOPE

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose great mercy we are given rebirth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to the inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you by the power of God, guarded through faith to a salvation ready to be revealed at the end time.

You rejoice in this, while yet you grieve if necessary for a little while by even many trials for the proving of your faith, much more precious than gold perishable while being proven by fire, that you may be found giving praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Christ.

Without seeing him, you love him; still without seeing him you believe and exult with indescribable joy; and having been glorified, you are receiving the goal of your faith: the salvation of your souls.

9

THESE THINGS ABOUNDING

The divine power has given us all things that go with life and piety through the full knowledge of the one who called us to this glory and virtue through which the precious things and the mega promises have been given to us, that through these you might come to share in the divine nature and escape from the corruption of desire.

For this very thing bring all your diligence to supply your faith with virtue, virtue with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with piety, piety with filial friendship, and filial friendship with love.

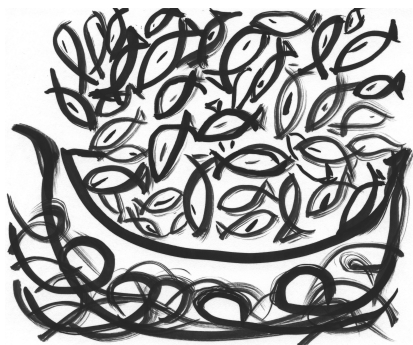
These things abounding in you will keep you from being barren and unfruitful in full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Blind and short sighted is the one who lacks these things, and forgetful of how his or her sins were cleansed. Brothers and sisters, be diligent in your call and firm in your choice and you will not fail in what you do. Richly supplied will be your entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

CHRISTIAN LIFE

10

GRACE of GOD

We give thanks always to God
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
praying concerning you,
having heard of your faith in Christ Jesus
and the love you have toward all the holy ones
because of the hope
being laid up for you in the heavens,
which you heard previously
in the word of the truth
of the *evangelion*-gospel coming to you,
as it is also bearing fruit
and growing in all the world as also in you,
from the day you heard
and fully knew in truth the grace of God.



Saint Paul, **Letter to the Colossians 1:3-6**

CHILDREN of the DAY

About the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need to be written, for you know correctly that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night. Whenever they say, "peace and safety," then sudden destruction comes on them as the birth pang to a pregnant woman, and by no means may they escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in the darkness that the day should overtake you as a thief. For all of you are children of light and children of the day.

We are not of the night nor of darkness. And so let us not sleep as the rest, but let us watch and be sober. For those sleeping by night sleep, and those being drunk by night are drunk. But being of the day let us be sober, putting on a breastplate of faith and of love and a helmet of hope in salvation. God did not appoint us to wrath but to come to salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, the one who died for us, that whether we watch or we sleep, together with him we may live.

And so comfort one another and build up one another, as indeed you do.

ALL HAVE SINNED

Now without law, the justice of God has shown forth, witnessed by the law and the prophets, justice of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

There is no difference for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God and are made just freely by God's grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus, in whom God set forth an expiation through faith by his blood, for a showing forth of his justice because of the disappearance of the sins previously committed, in the forbearance of God, for the showing forth of justice in the present time, that God should be just and make just those of faith in Jesus.

So where is the boasting? It was shut out. Through what law? of works? No, but through a law of faith. For we reckon a person to be made just by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God of Judeans only? Not also of nations? Yes, also of nations, since there is one God who will make just circumcision by faith and uncircumcision through the faith. So do we destroy law through faith? May it not be. But we support the law.

CHRISTIAN LIFE

13

I AM PERSUADED

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Affliction? Distress?

Persecution? Famine?

Nakedness? Peril?

The Sword?

But in all these things we overconquer
through the one who has loved us.

For I am persuaded

that not death

nor life

nor angels

nor rulers

nor present things

nor things coming

nor powers

nor height

nor depth

nor any other creature

will be able to separate us

from the love of God

in Christ Jesus our Lord.

CHRISTIAN LIFE

14

LIVING and ABIDING WORD of GOD

Your souls now purified
by obedience to the truth
of unfeigned love
for brothers and sisters,
love one another earnestly from the heart,
having been regenerated
not by corruptible seeds
but incorruptible
through the living and abiding word of God.

*All flesh is as grass
and all its glory as a flower of grass;
the grass dries up
and the flower falls out,
but the word of the Lord
remains unto the eon.*

This is
the gospel word preached to you.



Saint Peter, **1st Letter of Peter 1:22-25**

IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY

Let love be unassumed. Shrink from the bad and cleave to the good. Love one another warmly in filial friendship, giving honor to one another, unslothful in zeal, burning in spirit, serving the Lord, rejoicing in hope, enduring in affliction, steadfast in prayer, imparting to the needs of the saints, and pursuing hospitality.

Bless your persecutors; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those rejoicing; weep with those weeping. Be of the same mind toward one another, not attentive to the high things, but being present to the humble. Do not become wise in your own mind. Instead of returning evil for evil, don't. Provide for good things before all people. If possible, as far as it rests on you, seek peace with all human beings.

Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but leave room for the wrath, for it has been written,

Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.

But if your enemy is hungry, feed him or her; or if they are thirsty, give them drink. In doing this you will heap on their heads coals of fire. Be not conquered by the bad but conquer the bad by the good.

Saint Paul, **Letter to the Romans 12:9-21**

CHRISTIAN LIFE

16

GOD IS LOVE

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God,
God remains in that one, and that one in God.

We have known and have believed
the love which God has in us.

God is love

and the one remaining in love remains in God
and God remains in him or her.

By this has love been perfected with us
that we may have confidence
in the day of judgment,

for as that one is, so also are we in this cosmos.
Fear is not in love but perfect love casts out fear
for fear is about punishment

and one fearing has not been perfected in love.

We love because God first loved us.

If anyone says, "I love God,"

and hates a brother or sister, that one is a liar.

For the one not loving

a brother or sister who has been seen
cannot love God who has not been seen.

This commandment we have from God,
that one who loves God

loves also his or her brother and sister.

Saint John, **1st Letter of John 4:15-21**

MERCY EXULTS over JUDGMENT

Brothers and sisters, be impartial with people
as you have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ
in his glory.

For if a human enters the synagogue
with gold on a finger
and in splendid clothing
and also a poor human enters
in shabby clothing
and you look on the one wearing
the splendid clothing and say,
"you sit well here,"
and to the poor one say,
"you stand there" or "sit under my footstool,"
do you not discriminate among yourselves
and become judges of evil thoughts?

Hear, my beloved brothers and sisters:
Did not God choose the poor in the world
to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom
promised to those who love God?
But you dishonor the poor human.
Do rich humans not oppress you
and drag you into tribunals?
Do they not blaspheme
the good name called on over you?

If indeed you fulfill the royal law in the scripture:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself,
you do well.

But if you are partial to certain persons
you work sin
and are reproved by the law as transgressors
for the one who keeps all the law
but stumbles in one thing
has become guilty of all.

For the one saying,
Do not commit adultery,
said also,
Do not murder.

Now if you do not commit adultery
but murder
you have become a transgressor of the law.

So speak and so do
as one about to be judged
through a law of freedom.
For judgment will be unmerciful
to the one not doing mercy;
mercy triumphs over judgment.

ONE IS the LAWGIVER & JUDGE

From where
come wars and fights among you?
Not from your pleasures
soldiering in your members?
You desire and do not have;
you murder and are jealous
and are unable to obtain;
you fight and you war.
You have not because you ask not;
you ask and receive not
because you ask badly
that you may spend in your pleasures.
Adulterers, do you not know
that the friendship of the cosmos
is enmity with God?
And so whoever resolves
to be a friend of the world
becomes an enemy of God.
Or do you think
that the scripture says in vain that,
the Spirit which dwelt in you yearns in envy?
But we are given greater grace, and so it says,
God resists the arrogant,
but gives grace to the humble.

And so be subject to God,
but oppose the diablo
who will flee from you.
Draw near to God
who will draw near to you.
Cleanse your hands, sinners;
and purify hearts, you two-souled.
Be distressed and mourn and weep;
let your laughter be turned to mourning
and your joy to dejection.
Be humbled before the Lord
who will exalt you.
Do not speak against each other,
brothers and sisters.
The one speaking against a brother
or judging a sister
speaks against the law
and judges the law.
And if you judge the law
you are not a doer of law
but a judge.
One is the lawgiver and judge:
the one able to save and to destroy.
Who are you to be judging your neighbor?

Saint James, **Letter of James 4:1-12**

CHARISMS

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, through the compassion of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, your worship and reasonable service.

Do not conform to this eon but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that what you do may be proven to be the will of God, the good and well-pleasing and perfect. For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you, to not have high thoughts beyond what is needed, but think to be sober-minded, to each as God allocated a measure of faith.

For as in one body we have many members, but not all the members have the same action, so we the many are one body in Christ and each one members of one another.

And having charisms as the *charin*-grace given to us differs, whether prophecy in the proportion of the faith, or serving in the service-ministry, or the one teaching in the teaching, the one exhorting in the exhortation, the one sharing in simplicity, the one taking the lead in diligence, or the one showing mercy in cheerfulness.

GOOD STEWARDS of GRACE

Now of all things
the end has drawn near.
And so be sober in mind
and sober in prayer.
Before yourselves in all things
have fervent love
for love covers a multitude of sins.
Be hospitable to each other
without murmuring.
As each one receives a gift to yourselves
service-minister
as good stewards
of God's manifold grace.
If anyone speaks
as words of God;
if anyone service-ministers
as by strength supplied by God,
so that in all things
God may be glorified through Jesus Christ
to whom is the glory and the might
to the eons of the eons.
Amen.

SUFFICIENT to YOU IS MY GRACE

My need to boast is indeed not expedient,
so I will come to visions
and revelations of the Lord.
I know a human in Christ who fourteen years ago
—whether
in the body I know not,
or outside the body I know not, but God knows—
was caught up to the third heaven.
And I know such a human
—whether
in the body or apart from the body
I know not, but God knows—
who was caught into the paradise
and heard unspeakable words
which a human is not permitted to speak.
On behalf of such a one I will boast
but on behalf of myself I will not boast
except in my weakness.
For if I wish to boast
I would not be foolish
for I speak the truth.
But I spare lest anyone reckon to me
beyond what is seen or heard of me
by these excessive revelations.

And so
lest I should be uplifted exceedingly
there was given to me
a thorn in the flesh,
a messenger of satan,
that he might buffet me
lest I should be uplifted exceedingly.

As to this
three times I begged the Lord
that it might depart from me.
And he said to me,
"Sufficient to you is my grace,
for my power is perfected in weakness."

And so
I will boast most gladly rather
in my weakness
that overshadowing me might be
the power of Christ.
I am content in weakness,
insult, hardship, persecution,
and constraint for Christ.
When I am weak, then I am in power.

TO THIS YOU WERE CALLED

Now the end,
all of you be of one mind,
sympathetic,
loving as siblings,
compassionate,
humble in mind,
not giving back evil for evil
to revile when reviled,
but on the contrary
a blessing,
because to this you were called
that you might inherit blessing.

*Let the one wishing to love life
and see good days
restrain the tongue from evil
and speak no guile by the lips
and turn aside from evil
and do good.*

*Let that one seek peace
and pursue it.*

LET ENDURANCE WORK

Deem it all joy, brothers and sisters, whenever you fall into various trials, knowing that what is approved in your faith works to endurance. And let endurance work toward the perfect best fit, that you may be perfect and whole, wanting in nothing.

But if any of you is wanting in wisdom, ask from God who gives to all unreservedly without reproach, and it will be given. But let the asking be in faith, doubting nothing. For one doubting is like a wave of the sea driven by wind and tossed. For let the two-souled person unsettled in all his or her ways not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

But let the humble brother or sister boast in a height and in humiliation the rich one who will pass away with all as does a flower of grass. For the sun rises with the hot wind and dries the grass and its flower falls out and its handsome face perishes. Thus also will the rich person in his or her goings fade away.

GOD IS the ONE WORKING in YOU

My beloved,
as always you obeyed
not only in my presence
but rather now even more in my absence
with fear and trembling
you work out your salvation,
for God is the one working in you
both to will and to work
on behalf of God's good will.

Do all things
without murmurings and disputes
that you may be blameless and harmless,
children of God faultless
in the midst of a crooked generation.
Among those having been corrupted
you shine as luminaries in the world
holding up a word of life,
a boast to me in the day of Christ
that not in vain did I run
nor in vain labor.

THIS IS MY GOSPEL

And so you, my child, be empowered by the grace in Christ Jesus. And the things you heard from me through many witnesses, commit these to faithful people who will be competent to also teach others. Suffer ill as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No soldiers are involved with the affairs of life so that they may please those who enlist them. Also in athletics one is not crowned without competing by the rules. It is best if the laboring farmer is the first to partake of crops. Ponder what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, of the seed of David: this is my gospel in which I suffer and am in chains as if an evildoer. But the word of God has not been chained. And so I endure all things for the chosen ones that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. Faithful is the word: If we died with him we shall also live with him; if we endure we shall also reign with him; if we deny, that one will also deny us; if we disbelieve, that one remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

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For GOOD & for BUILDING UP

We who have power
ought to bear the weaknesses
of those who are not in power
and not to please ourselves.

Let each one of us please his or her neighbor
for good and for building up,
for even Christ pleased not himself.

As it has been written,
*The reproaches of those reproaching you
fell on me.*

What was written for our teaching
was written that through patience
and through the comfort of the writings
we may have hope.

May the God of patience and comfort
give to you
the same mind among yourselves
in accord with Christ Jesus.

WALK as HE HIMSELF WALKED

My little children,
I write these things to you
that you will not sin.
If anyone does sin,
we have an Advocate with the Father:
Jesus Christ the Just,
expiation for our sins,
and not only for ours
but also for those of all the world.
By this we know that we have known him:
if we keep his commandments.
The one saying, "I have known him,"
not keeping his commandments, is a liar,
and the truth is not in this one.
Whoever keeps the word,
truly in this one
the love of God has been made complete.
By this we know that we are in him:
The one claiming to remain in him
ought walk
as he himself walked.

PUT ON the NEW HUMAN

Put to death what on the earth is in you:
fornication, uncleanness, lust, bad desire,
and greed that is idolatry.

The anger of God is coming because of these,
in which indeed you then walked
when you lived in these things.

But now put away all such things
as anger, rage, malice, blasphemy,
abuse out of your mouth,

and do not lie to one another,
having put off the old human with its practices
and having put on the new human
renewed in full knowledge

in the image of the one creating you,
where there is no separate place
for Greek or Judean,

circumcision or uncircumcision,
barbarian or Scythian,
slave or free,

but Christ is all and in all.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
put on yourselves bowels of compassion,
kindness, humility,
meekness and patience.

Bear with one another
and if anyone has a complaint against anyone,
forgive.
As indeed the Lord forgave, so also you.
Over all these things
put on love
which is the complete bonding.
And let rule in your hearts
the peace of Christ
to which indeed you were called in one body,
and be thankful.
Let the word of Christ indwell in you richly,
teaching in all wisdom
and admonishing one another
in psalms, hymns, and with spiritual songs
singing in your hearts to God.
And everything whatever you do
in word or in work,
do all things
in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks through him
to God the Father.

Saint Paul, **Letter to the Colossians 3:5-17**

BE RECONCILED

You having been alienated and in enmity of mind by your bad works, now be reconciled through his death in the body of his flesh, to present you holy and without blame or reproach before him if indeed you continue in the faith having been founded and steadfast and unseparated from the hope of the gospel which you heard proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I Paul became a minister.

Now I rejoice in my sufferings on behalf of you, and fill up the things lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh on behalf of his body, which is the Church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship of God given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the mystery hidden from the eons and from the generations but now shown to his saints, to whom God wished to make known among the nations what is the riches of the glory of this mystery, Christ in you, the hope of glory.

We proclaim him, warning every human and teaching every human in all wisdom that we may present every human complete in Christ.

CHRISTIAN LIFE

30

CHRIST LIVES in ME

Judeans by birth and not sinners of *ethnon*-nations,

we know that a human

is not made just by works of law

but through faith in Christ Jesus.

And we believed in Christ Jesus

that we might be made just by faith in Christ

and not by works of law,

for no flesh will be made just by works of law.

But if seeking to be made just in Christ

we are also found to be sinners,

then is Christ a minister of sin? May it not be!

For if I build again the things I destroyed

then I myself am a transgressor.

For through law I died to law

that to God I might live.

I have been crucified with Christ

and I live no longer I but Christ lives in me.

And what I live now in the flesh

I live by faith in the Son of God

loving me and giving up himself on my behalf.

I do not set aside the grace of God

for if our being made just comes through law

then Christ died for no reason.

Saint Paul, **Letter to the Galatians 2:15-21**

NEW HEAVENS and a NEW EARTH

Beloved, I write to remind you and rouse the sincerity of your mind, to remember the words spoken by the holy prophets and to you by the apostles, the command of the Lord and Savior.

Know this first, that there will come during the last of the days scoffers scoffing and going after their own desires saying, "Where is the promise of his *parousia*-presence? From the day when our ancestors fell asleep, all things remain as from the beginning of creation." It is concealed from them as they wish, that of old the heavens were and that the earth out of water and through water was formed by the word of God. Through these the world of then was deluged by water and perished. The heavens and the earth are now by the same word stored up for fire, being kept for a day of judgment and destruction of ungodly humans.

But let this one thing not be concealed from you, beloved, that one day with the Lord is as a thousand years and a thousand years as day one. The Lord is not slow on his promise, as some deem slowness, but is patient with you, not for the purpose that any perish but that all people might come to conversion.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a rushing sound and the elements burning will be dissolved and the earth and its works will be uncovered.

All these things to happen, what sort of people need we be in holy conduct and piety as we await and hasten the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens set on fire will be dissolved and the elements burn and melt?

We await new heavens and a new earth in accord with his promise, in which justice dwells. And so, beloved, awaiting these things be diligent to be spotless and unblemished, to be found by him in peace.

Deem the patience of our Lord as salvation, as indeed our beloved brother Paul wrote to you by the wisdom given to him by God, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them about these things, in which some things are hard to understand, which the unlearned and unsteady twist, as with the rest of scriptures, to their own destruction.

Knowing this, beloved, guard lest being led away by lawless error you fall from your own stability. But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him is the glory both now and to the eternal day.

31 days on the CHRISTIAN LIFE

- 1 O the DEPTH Saint Paul to the Romans 11:30-36
- 2 CROWD TOO MANY to NUMBER
Saint John in the Book of Revelation 7:9-12
- 3 COMFORT-ENCOURAGEMENT
Paul in 2nd Corinthians 1:3-7
- 4 DOING GOOD Paul, in 2nd Thessalonians 3:7-13
- 5 PUT ON the LORD JESUS CHRIST
Paul to the Romans 13:11-14
- 6 CHILDREN of GOD 1st Letter of Saint John 3:1-3
- 7 WORD PLANTED in YOU Letter of Saint James 1:19-27
- 8 REBIRTH to a LIVING HOPE
1st Letter of Saint Peter 1:3-9
- 9 THESE THINGS ABOUNDING 2nd Letter of Peter 1:3-11
- 10 GRACE of GOD Paul to the Colossians 1:3-6
- 11 CHILDREN of the DAY Paul in 1st Thessalonians 5:1-11
- 12 ALL HAVE SINNED Paul to the Romans 3:21-31
- 13 I AM PERSUADED Paul to the Romans 8:35,37-39
- 14 LIVING and ABIDING WORD of GOD 1st Ltr of Ptr 1:22-25
- 15 IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY Paul to the Romans 12:9-21
- 16 GOD IS LOVE 1st Letter of John 4:15-21
- 17 MERCY EXULTS over JUDGMENT James 2:1-13
- 18 ONE IS the LAWGIVER & JUDGE James 4:1-12
- 19 CHARISMS Paul to the Romans 12:1-8
- 20 GOOD STEWARDS of GRACE 1st Letter of Peter 4:7-11
- 21 SUFFICIENT to YOU IS MY GRACE 2nd Corinth. 12:1-10
- 22 To THIS YOU WERE CALLED 1st Letter of Peter 3:8-11
- 23 LET ENDURANCE WORK Letter of James 1:2-11
- 24 GOD IS the ONE WORKING in YOU
Paul to the Philippians 2:12-16
- 25 THIS IS MY GOSPEL Paul in 2nd Timothy 2:1-13
- 26 For GOOD & for BUILDING UP
Paul to the Romans 15:1-5
- 27 WALK as HE HIMSELF WALKED 1st Letter of John 2:1-6
- 28 PUT ON the NEW HUMAN Paul to the Colossians 3:5-17
- 29 BE RECONCILED Paul to the Colossians 1:21-28
- 30 CHRIST LIVES in ME Paul to the Galatians 2:15-21
- 31 NEW HEAVENS and a NEW EARTH
End of the 2nd Letter of Peter 3:1b-18

Small Ink Brush Drawings: Some years ago a prayer blessing came, a scribbled outline of Charles Dickens' take on the Jesus story written for his children in 1849. Some years later, after a workshop on the calligraphy of Thomas Merton, came the drawings in this book, following Dickens' outline.

But what outline do you use when you tell the story of Jesus?

outline of *THE LIFE OF OUR LORD* by Charles Dickens

Birth of Jesus.

Shepherds of the field and Wise Men of the East.

Murder of the Innocents by Herod the Great.

12-year-old Jesus with the Doctors in the Temple.

Jesus is baptized by John.

Temptation in the Wilderness.

Miracle during the marriage feast at Cana.

Naming of the Twelve.

Great catch of fish.

Teachings on prayer, including the "Our Father."

Healing of a leper, a man with palsy, a servant of a centurion, and a daughter of a magistrate.

Challenges of the Pharisees.

Raising of the only son of the widow of Nain.

Jesus sleeps in the boat in a storm;

Jesus awakes and stills the storm.

Casting of evil spirits into a herd of swine.

Imprisonment and beheading of John the Baptist.

A woman washes Jesus' feet with her hair.

A man ill for 38 years, at the pool of Bethesda.

Feeding of 5,000 plus, from 5 loaves and 2 fish.

Walking on water and many more healing miracles.

Feeding of 4,000 plus, from 7 loaves and a few fish.

Sending of the Disciples into towns and villages.

Jesus predicts his Death, Rising, and Ascending.

Transfiguration on Mount Tabor.

Jesus cures a mad boy the Disciples could not.

Teachings on being childlike

and forgiving 70 times 7 times.

Stories of the unforgiving steward and a generous master.

Jesus and the accusers of the adulterous woman.

The Greatest Commandment.
Story of the Good Samaritan.
Story of the excuses of those invited to a great supper.
Jesus calls out to Zacchaeus in the tree.
Story of the Prodigal Son.
Story of the Rich Man and Lazarus.
A proud man and a humble man in the Temple.
Jesus is challenged about paying a tax to Caesar.
Example of the widow and her two mites.
Resuscitation of Lazarus of Bethany.
Mary of Bethany anoints Jesus' feet with oil.
Jesus enters Jerusalem on an ass. Hosanna!
Jesus casts out the tables of the money changers.
More of the blind and the lame are healed by him.
Jesus washes the feet of the Disciples.
Jesus says there is one who will betray him.
Judas Iscariot accepts thirty pieces of silver.
The Last Supper.
Jesus predicts that Peter will deny him 3 times.
Jesus prays and the Disciples sleep in Gethsemane.
Judas arrives with a guard and kisses Jesus.
Peter denies Jesus, the cock crows, and Peter weeps.
The Scribes and Priests agree Jesus is to be killed.
Judas throws the silver at the Chief Priests and takes his life.
Chief Priests spend the silver on Potters' Field.
Jesus is questioned by Pontius Pilate.
Pilate has Jesus beaten, mocked, and crowned with thorns.
Pilate says, "Behold the man!" Crowds cry, "Crucify him!"
Pilate washes his hands.
Jesus is nailed alive to a great wooden Cross.
Four soldiers divide Jesus' clothes and gamble over his coat.
People who pass that way mock him.
John the Beloved and four women stay, including Mary.
A deep and terrible darkness comes over the whole land.
A soldier puts to Jesus' mouth a sponge dipped in vinegar.
Jesus says, "It is finished" and "Father, I commend my spirit."
Joseph & Nicodemus wrap & bury the body in a new tomb.
Mary Magdalene sees the rolled away stone.
Peter and John the Beloved go into the empty tomb.
The appearances of the Risen Lord begin.

PASCHAL MYSTERY



1

MANY OTHER THINGS

Jesus does many and other signs
before the disciples,
which have not been written in this book.

But these have been written
that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and that believing
you may have life in his name.

John 20:30-31

There are also many other things Jesus does,
which if they were written singly,
I think not the cosmos itself would contain
the bibles being written.

Conclusion of the Gospel of **John 21:25**