**I Love to Tell the Story**

**Day 216 Mark’s addition to the story Mark 16: 9-20**

Guided reflection:

The writer of Mark’s Gospel gives credibility to Mary Magdalene and her encounter with Jesus. Because of this story, we know that Jesus first told a woman to go and tell! We read that Jesus showed up at other times before being taken up to heaven. The Great Commission is expanded to say that the disciples would cast out demons, speak in languages they never learned, and would not be hurt by serpents! This Gospel wants the reader to know that we have been given power – we are not powerless orphans left behind… we are empowered by the spirit to make things happen!

Guided prayer:

*“Jesus told us to GO and make disciples. I want to be the best disciple of Jesus that I can be. Forgive my unbelief and my lack of understanding. Fill me with your power so I can be the person you have dreamed me to be. Thank you for your Word that has been preserved over the years so that I could know the stories of Jesus. Amen”*

**THIS COMPLETES OUR STUDY OF MATTHEW, MARK AND LUKE,. WE WILL NOW ENTER THE PAGES OF THE 4TH GOSPEL, JOHN, WRITTEN BY THE YOUNGEST OF ALL THE DISCIPLES. JOHN REFERS TO HIMSELF AS “THE ONE THAT JESUS LOVED”. THIS JOHN IS THE ONE WHO WAS AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS AND LATER WROTE THE BOOK OF REVELATIONS. ANY STORIES ALREADY TOLD IN THE OTHER GOSPELS WILL NOT BE REPEATED IN OUR READING OF JOHN.**

**Day 217 The Word made flesh John 1: 1-18**

Guided reflection:

Have you ever had anyone say to you, “I give you my word?” Well, God has said that to us! In Genesis, we read that the WORD spoke creation into existence… and now John wants is to know that the creation story takes another step in that the WORD became flesh to dwell with us. Immanuel – God with us… the LIGHT with us. You will see, as we go through John, he adds some theology, not just an account of Jesus’ actions.

Guided prayer:

*“Thank you, God, for giving us your Word in sending Jesus. We have your “word on it” and believe that Jesus is the light, the insight, the key to our understanding. Open our hearts and minds to this light. Open our ears to hear your Word. Amen”*

**Day 218 The Calling of the Disciples John 1: 35-51**

Guided reflection:

Since John was one of the disciples, he is more personal about how the other disciples were called. They became his buddies! I love what he says about Nathaniel in vs 47, “he is one who has a pure heart”. Make a list of the disciples from this passage. Now, how did YOU become a disciple? How would your story go?

Guided prayer:

*“You have called me through the words of Jesus, O God. I have chosen to follow Jesus! I am a part of the story of your love! Thank you!* (Right now, remember those who helped you find your way to Christ. Consider writing them a note of thanks!)

**Day 219 The first Miracle – at a wedding John 2: 1- 12**

Guided reflection:

I get tickled when I read this as a mother… I am not sure if Mary is being a nag or is trying to encourage him to fly. Somehow she believes it is time for him to start his work, but he thinks not - yet, makes the miracle happen! Water is turned into wine - and not just plain ole wine – the best stuff any had ever tasted. Now the cat is out of the bag... Jesus is not your ordinary person! The last verse tells us that at first his mother and his siblings traveled with him. Can’t you just imagine how Mary bragged about her boy? You should see what he can do!

A miracle at an ordinary event – this is how it all began.

Guided prayer:

*“Take my ordinary life, O God, and fill me with new wine. Help me to keep my eyes open at all times for your activity around me. Amen”*

**Day 220 Jesus and Nicodemus John 3: 1-21**

Guided reflection:

This is the passage that makes the Gospel in a nutshell! Nicodemus is not politically correct – he knows he should not be talking to Jesus, but he wants to know who this Jesus really is and how his life can be affected! Jesus tells him that he must be born again – what does that mean? Jesus slowly tells him that he was born a natural birth from his mother and that means born into sin… but he can be “born again” by a new beginning through the spirit! Then Jesus give him the core statement in the scripture “God so loved that world that he gave his Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life!” John 3:16. Do you have it memorized? Do you know that the “who so ever” means you?

Guided prayer:

*Just like Nicodemus, I do not understand all about new birth through the spirit, but I can understand love. You love me! You love my family! You love my enemies! You love the whole world! WOW! I am one of the “whosever’s”!!! You love me! Thank you for sending your son for me! Amen”*