**I Love to Tell the Story**

**Day 221 John the Baptist’s Opinion of Jesus John 3: 22-36**

Guided reflection:

What a great passage about seeing one’s place in God’s love story. John the Baptist has been preaching his heart out and baptizing any who will be baptized and he has gathered a group of disciples around him. They become jealous of the popularity of another (Jesus) who is gathering large groups of people. Rather than be jealous, John reminds his followers that he is not the Messiah and is just pointing folks to the Messiah. His own happiness is complete … if Jesus is truly the messiah, He, John, must decrease in importance so the real work of God – the Messiah – can increase. Wow, such humility! How many times have I heard pastors become jealous of another person’s congregation when their numbers are larger than their own? Should that we be more like John!

Guided Prayer:

*“O Loving God, help me to know this kind of humility. Help me to know that all that I do for you is not about me, but about you! Help me release my need to be recognized and remember that I play to an audience of one – you! Amen”*

**Day 222 Jesus and the Samaritan Women at the well John 4: 1-42**

Guided reflection:

Take time to read the whole story. A day in the life of Jesus… being at the right place at the right time to meet someone’s need. I love it how she tries to change the subject and then how Jesus brings it right home to her heart. What a story of Grace and acceptance! Put yourself in the story. What of your past/present would you want to keep from Jesus? What story of your own life would you love to hear Jesus forgive and accept you just as you are? He does, you know!

Guided Prayer:

*“I am just like the woman at the well, Dear God! I put on a good front but inside I know who I really am (you might want to make of list!) Right now I hear the words of Jesus accepting me and releasing me from shame and guilt… please set my heart to singing.. so that I can come back bringing others to you! Amen”*

**Day 223 Jesus Heals an Officer’s Son John 4: 43-54**

Guided reflection:

The first “mighty work” was turning the water into wine, now Jesus does his first miracle. And did not even need to be present with the boy who was ill! He just said the words “your son will live” and it happened! What a thrill to walk with Jesus!

Guided prayer:

*“Healing God, your love is always present. Thank you for this story of the officer who heard the words of Jesus and then saw the results. It is hard for me to believe when I do not see. Help my unbelief! Amen.”*

**Day 224 The Healing at the Pool John 5: 1 – 18**

Guided reflection:

You are beginning to see why those who do not know the Bible are encouraged to read the Gospel of John as the place to begin. The stories are so honest and so alive and filled with grace. When I hear this story I wonder why the man did not move closer to the water. Then I wonder what Jesus saw in him that made him ask “do you want to be healed?” Are there things you have been praying and praying about for years – what would you do if Jesus answered those prayers? Do you really want to be healed? What do you get out of your “illnesses” or dysfunction? Can you be gut honest with Jesus?

Guided prayer:

*“Goodness, I think I want to be healed and made whole. Although sometimes I get comfort or strokes for enduring not being whole… help me face myself, Help me have the courage to hear Jesus ask me “Do you want your prayers answered?” Amen”*

**Day 225 Jesus’ Authority John 5: 19-29**

Guided reflection:

This is a great passage to help us understand how God (in heaven) worked with Jesus (God on earth)… they are one! They do not do things apart from each other. Vs 24 – if we believe in the words of Jesus, then we do not have to worry about judgment, we are forgiven and set free! These words are our source of life! Again, we do not have to focus on being afraid to be condemned if we can focus on falling in love with Jesus and believing that He is Immanuel, God with us! Do you believe? Have you read enough to believe that Jesus was sent by God to be our savior? Then, hold on to that! That is your source of life!

Guided prayer:

*“Loving God, I accept Jesus to be my savior. I want to be forgiven and to believe in Jesus. I want the source of life living in me! Help my unbelief! Amen!*