**I Love to Tell the Story**

**Day 246 Jesus and Thomas John 20: 24-31**

Guided reflection:

I know that Thomas gets a bad rap with his doubting, but goodness – would you have believed? Isn’t it hard to take the story at face value for yourself? Jesus includes us when he tells Thomas: “Blessed are those in the future who will believe but are not able to see!” That’s us! I love it that John not only writes the story but makes sure that future readers are included as well! It is OUR story too!

Guided prayer:

“I *am just like Thomas – I want proof, I want to see before I believe. Help my*

*unbelief! Thank you for the words of this Gospel that help me to know and believe! Amen”*

**Day 237 Jesus comes to the Disciples John 21: 1-14**

Guided reflection:

Peter is tired of all the sadness and sorrow, and just decides to get back to the life he left when he started to follow Jesus. It was a great time, but I blew it… I denied even knowing Jesus… I am just going to let it go and get on with my life. But then, someone shows up and tells him how to fish… they had caught nothing, now this know it all tells him to try again… Peter remembers a similar time with Jesus, so when the fish start to fill his nets, he knows it is Jesus there on the beach! He jumps into the water, naked, and swims as fast as he can to the shore, where breakfast was waiting. This was the 3rd time Jesus showed himself after the resurrection. Can you get into the story… what would you be thinking?

Guided prayer:

“O God, Thank you for showing yourself to these Disciples. Thank you for this story. Thank you for understanding their human limitations. That means you know, love and accept me as well! Thank you! Amen!”

**Day 248 Jesus and Peter are reconciled John 21: 15-219**

Guided reflection:

I am so glad that John included this story. Peter remembers he denied Jesus – three times! Three times Jesus asks him if he loves him…. And Peter responds you know I do! By the third time, Peter is broken… but Jesus keeps calling him… then Feed my sheep, feed my lambs. I think Jesus is saying, Peter, I know you messed up, but my love is greater for you than your screw ups! You are forgiven! You are set free! AS a matter of fact, there is more to your life than just your denial…. I am calling you to build my church. Are you ready to feed my sheep? Do you realize that you are more than your screw ups? Jesus can use your tenderized heart to share His unconditional love with others!

Guided prayer:

*Thank you, God, for allowing Peter to be healed of his shame and his guilt. Thank you for healing me too. Help me see that you have more for me to do if I will only get up off my duff and follow you! Let’s go!”*

**Day 249 John’s last moment to shine John 21: 20-23**

Guided reflection:

Peter has been on the hot seat long enough – he turns Jesus attention away from himself to “one whom Jesus loved”…. John, the writer of this Gospel. Jesus wants Peter to stay focused on his own choice to follow Jesus, so will not be redirected. What Jesus wants with John is not Peter’s business. So, I guess, that is what Jesus would say to us – don’t worry about what I am doing in someone else’s life, just pay attention to following me! Get at it!

Guided prayer:

*“Here I am, Lord, use me. Help me not get off track by focusing on your business with others, help me to keep my eyes on you! Amen”*

**Day 250 John wraps it up John 21: 24-25**

Guided reflection:

John wants us to know that he is telling the truth, because he was there! He knows! He lets us know why he wrote these things - so that we could believe. He also wants us to know that there was so much more he could have written – enough to fill books and books and the heavens… but this will do for now… there is enough for us to know. John was being faithful to Jesus command to “Go and make disciples and teach them to observe all that I taught you.” John did his part. Now it is our job to keep telling the story of Jesus so others may know.

Guided prayer:

*Well, Dear God, I have read all the stories of Jesus… help me to be faithful to observe it all and to live as a disciple. Amen”*

**WE DID IT!!!! WE HAVE COMPLETED ONE YEAR OF READING THE STORIES OF JESUS!!! WELL DONE!!! NOW, LET’S LIVE THEM!**