**I Love to Tell the Story**

Explore every story of Jesus in this year-long devotional guide. Go at your own pace using the online archive.

**DAY 56 What it Means to be a Disciple Matt 8:18-22; Luke 9: 57-60**

Guided reflection:

Do you know what you are getting yourself into when you say that you will

follow Jesus? This scribe glibly states he will follow Jesus anywhere. Jesus must have seen stars in the man’s eyes because he retorts – “even animals have a place to sleep, but I will not promise you that!” Discipleship involves commitment! We are living in a country where being a Christian is accepted but others have paid the price for our “soft” Christianity. However, saying “yes” to Jesus might be saying “no” to habits, friends who place us in compromising situations. Has there ever been a “cost” to your discipleship?

Guided Prayer: *“Thank you, God, for the many who have gone before me so that now my cost as a disciple is minimal compared with past generations. But, Lord, help me to be honest about the places you would have me choose you instead. Right now, I pray for those who are in harms way because of their faith. Be their comfort and guide. Amen”*

**DAY 57 Jesus Calms the Storm Matt 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25**

Guided reflection:

This is one of the two stories in which Jesus calmed a storm. This time, we find Jesus, sleeping sweetly, as the boat was pounded with waves. When they woke him, he wonders why they are upset – where is the faith, men? Jesus rebuked the storm and all was calm. Can you imagine the awe in that boat – goodness, even storms obey him! Remember they are just beginning this adventure with Jesus. They are collecting “Jesus stories” that will help them when the storms of life hit them. Where are you sleepless and feeling every wave hitting you in the storms of life? Where is your faith?

Guided prayer: *“O God, sometimes when my life is rocking with the waves of a life storm, I forget that I am in your hands. Remind me again and allow me to begin collecting stories of when Jesus calmed my storm. Amen”*

**DAY 58 The Fierce Man Matt 8:28-34, Mark 5: 1-20; Luke 8: 26-39**

Guided reflection:

This must have been some event…each of the gospels tells this story. This

man (in Matthew, it is listed as two men) was a crazy man – folks were scared of him! Mentally disturbed…fierce… naked…the town did not know what to do with a man who could free this scary man. Has there ever been a time when YOU have been the scary person? Do you know that Jesus does not condemn you, but offers you another way of being… a life that is free from the chains that bind you and the chains that cause you NOT to be what you dream of being.

Guider Prayer – *“You are the God of love and of a sound mind… but fear robs me of a sound mind. Heal me and free me from the things that keep me from being God’s dream of me. Set me free. Right now I pray for those who are bound by addictions and mental chains. Set the captives free. Amen.”*

**DAY 59 Healing of a Paralyzed Man Matt 9:1-8; Mark 2: 1-2; Luke 5: 17-26**

Guided reflections. This is a great story… check out the Luke version. Now, that’s what friends are for! These friends drop Jesus right in the middle of a good sermon! Not only is the man healed and able to get up and walk but his sins are forgiven as well! The churchy types get all up in arms as to what right does Jesus have to forgive people OR heal people. Do you have a friend that needs to be plopped right down in front of Jesus? Are you bringing that person to Christ? When has a friend made a way for you to know forgiveness and wholeness? Write them a note right now and thank that person(s) for their love for you! Would any of your friends be writing you a note if they were doing this Bible study?

Guided prayer: *“I don’t even know where to begin on this one, Lord. Where do I need my sins*

*forgiven Where do I need to get up out of my bed and get walking? And who are my friends who need to know the story of your love? Motivate me to get up and do something to help others in need – even raise a roof or two! Amen”*

**DAY 60 Matthew, the Tax Collector Matt 9:9-13; Mark 2: 15-17; Luke 5 : 27-32**

Guided reflection:

Not only are the disciples collecting Jesus stories, but Jesus is collecting disciples as well! Matthew is a tax collector– not a popular professions in that day. But of course, the “holier than thou” types get all bent out of shape because Jesus included such a man – a TAX collector – into his inner circle. Have you ever felt squeamish about the people that seem to want to come to Christ? Are there times you are the Pharisees and you want to say – “Ugh, not THOSE people?”

Guided Prayer: *“Jesus always included folks and widened the circle… and felt the heat. O God, are there people in my life that I do not want to come to our church? Are there folks who need to know Christ, but because of some kind of prejudice or preconceived notion, I do not want them around? Forgive me… and remind me again that you have included me in your circle. I humbly say, “Thank you!” Amen.”*