**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 76: Jesus heals a man with a withered hand**

**Matt 12:9-14, Mark 3: 1-6, Luke 6:6-11**

Guided reflection:

Oh, these Pharisees were tricky ones! They set Jesus up on this one… is it OK to

heal on the Sabbath? If he said YES, they could get him on the fact that you can’t work on the Sabbath and that would be work. If he said NO, then he did not care about the man. But Jesus set the record straight – it is proper and Godly to do good on the Sabbath. Jesus is angry at their hard hearts and their tricks… and they are angry with Jesus because he confronted them. Now, to relate this to us, we have to, again, see if we are acting or speaking like a Pharisee! Are you tied up in the rules of being religious? Let them go! Choose Grace!

Guided prayer*:*

*“Today I pray for those who are being stifled and judged by those who try to use*

*rules to control them... O God, am I one of them? Set me free to be the voice of openness and grace. Amen*

**Day 77: More Healing stories of Jesus**

**Matt 12: 15-21, Mark 3: 7-12, Luke 6:17-19**

Guided reflection:

These verses try to give us the picture of how quickly word had spread about

Jesus healing people and setting them free. If someone you loved was ill and there was someone who could help them, you would go too! The crowds were so great he asked the disciples to have a boat ready to free him from being trampled! Instead of some great truth today, just imagine watching the crowd and enjoy seeing people be excited about being in Jesus’ presence.

Guided prayer:

*“I want to be excited about Jesus too! If I had been there I would have brought the*

*following people to Jesus: (list the names of those you know who would want Jesus’ touch) . In my minds eye, I imagine Jesus reaching out and touching them and healing them and making them whole. Make it so, dear Lord. Amen.”*

**Day 78: The Widow’s Son**

**Luke 7: 11-17**

Guided reflection:

WOW! What a thrill to be a part of this scene! A widow has lost her only son and she is sobbing as they carry his body in a funeral procession. But the funeral procession is stopped in its tracks when Jesus shows up! He heals the boy and raises him from the dead and gives him back to his mom. What a mother’s day gift! Oh, to have walked with Jesus on earth… Oh, yes, I forgot, *I* walk this Jesus on this earth!

Guided prayer:

*“Thank you for the stories of Jesus and his wondrous miracles. All these years later, I still*

*rejoice for this dear widow who had lost it all… until Jesus came. Today I pray for the mothers who have lost their children. Jesus, be their comfort. Amen. “*

**Day 79: The Grateful Woman**

**Luke 7:36-50**

Guided reflections:

 I love this story! A “street woman” had been set free by Jesus. She was so filled with

gratitude she did not worry about protocol… she just wanted to show Jesus how much she loved him. He was not embarrassed – he understood her heart… and he understood the jaws that were dropped at her actions! Yet he takes her gift and makes it into a holy offering. Then tells the parable about two who owed debts and the lender forgave the debt. One owed lots, the other just a small amount. Jesus asked: “which one would be the most grateful?” The obvious answer – the one who was forgiven the most. And he forgave the woman… and started another big discussion about how he could forgive someone’s sins… and the beat goes on. Let’s forget about Simon and his guests, let’s concentrate on the woman. Now, for what are you most grateful? How has God blessed you? Have your sins been forgiven? How do you respond to Christ’s love?

Guided prayer:

 *“Forgiving God, let me be like the woman… my heart filled to overflowing with*

*gratitude. Right now, I make a list of my blessings (go ahead, make a list!)….I do not have an alabaster box, but what do I have that you would want me to offer to you as my gratitude offering? Show me, I am open! Amen”*

**Day 80: The Women Disciples**

**Luke 8: 1-3**

Guided reflections:

Now here is the first women’s group of disciples! And sure enough, they took care of the needs of Jesus and the Disciples. They must have married well, because it is inferred that they had “means”. So, here is to the women who love Jesus! You go, girls!

Guided prayers:

“*Thank you God for the women of Jesus day and of our day. Thank you that we have the rights to serve you with no restrictions. May women everywhere be filled with gratitude and praise to you. Thank you for the women who have blessed my life. (Name a couple and send them a note or flowers from your grateful heart!)*