**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 96: Jesus explains the parable of the weeds**

**Matt 13:36-43**

Guided reflection:

This portion explains the words from day 92. Have you ever had anyone misunderstand your motives? Have you ever done something good but it was interpreted as something bad? It is at those times we have to trust that God knows and that in the end it will all make sense… things will become clear. That is why we cannot judge. Nor can we live for other people… it is for Christ that we live and die. In the big picture, that is all that matters.

Guided prayer:

*“Jesus seemed to have a theme going here, O God. The great commission tells us that we are to learn to observe all Jesus taught. We are in the middle of doing just that… help me have eyes to see and ears to hear so that I can be the person you dream for me to be. Amen”*

**Day 97: Parable of the hidden treasure and the pearl**

**Matt. 13:44-46**

Guided reflection:

Jesus seems to be saying to hold dear to your heart any truth or insight on God’s love that might come your way. A nugget of truth is like finding a buried treasure in the back yard… or going to garage sales and looking for a particular type of china and one day, after years of searching, find just what you need to complete your set! Get the idea? Between the lines I read two thoughts – one: sometimes the nuggets of truth are few and far between, so be patient and keep looking. Two: when you do find something precious, hold on to it, cherish it, celebrate it… for that matter, throw a party! For what are you searching? What has God done in your life that you need to celebrate? Write me a note or send an email (Lynetteshowsup@aol.com) and I will do the dance of joy with you! God is good… all the time!

Guided prayer:

*“Right now, O God, I stop and just celebrate. I have a grin on my face and I clap my hands with joy to know that you love me. That I am not alone… that my sins are forgive… and that I am on a great adventure with you. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your kingdom on earth. Amen.”*

(Maybe you can start a list of the “pearls” that have come your way… and celebrate!)

**Day 98: Parable of the net**

**Matt: 13:47-50**

Guided reflection:

Jesus was in a “heaven or hell” mode on this day. I am not going to focus on or worry about whether there is an actual hell in which I will burn in torment… but I can choose to live my life is such a way that the eternal sorting team will want to keep what I have done with my life. If you were on God’s sorting team, would you keep you or toss you back into the lake? It seems that is not all up to us, but we do own some responsibility on living the truth that we know, or else it will be lost on us.

Guided prayer:

*“Loving God, we are not sure about the heaven and burning in hell business, but we are sure about your love. We want to be worthy of your choosing. We are responsible for our actions. So, take my life, just as it is, and do in me what you need to do to make me into the person you dream me to be. Amen”*

**Day 99: Parable of the householder**

**Matt. 13: 51-52**

Guided reflections:

Remember, Jesus is in his leadership development stage for his disciples. THE MESSAGE puts it this way: *“You see how every student well trained in God’s kingdom is like the owner of a general store who can put his hands on anything you need, old or new, exactly when you need it.”* Jesus wants to impart truth to them so they can pull out from within their hearts what they need – an old truth or a new insight… but to be ready to be used because they have taken the time to understand the kingdom. Jesus still wants that of us… to know and observe all that Jesus taught! Through this Bible Study, it is my desire that you begin to build up your storehouse with treasures. Just like your computer, it is all about input and output! If you have saved your files, they are there to be retrieved when needed!

Guided prayer:

*“Keep teaching me, O God. Help me to begin to develop a heart that is filled with your truth and insight. Help me to not only have insights in my heart, but help me to keep them in my head as I make decisions about life, and in my hands as I do your work. Amen.”*

**Day 100: The Stilling of the Storm**

**Matt 8:18; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25**

Guided reflection:

Here we are at day 100! When a president has been in office the media looks back over his 1st 100 days… well, look back at what you have learned and put into practice in your 1st 100 days in learning to observe all Jesus is teaching you! Today, the disciples are in a boat and a storm comes up… Jesus is found, unafraid, and calmly taking a nap! He is not worried, but they wake him up to worry with them! He just waves his hand at the water and says “Peace, Be still!” Now, dear one, how many times have you wanted to wake up Jesus to worry with you? Remember, prayer is not to inform God of your dilemma, but to allow God to change your point of view to God’s point of view. Jesus is not worried about the storms of your life. Should you be so anxious?

Guided prayer:

*“Oh my, my prayers are really a way to just wring my hands! How funny is that, O God? Help me to change the way I pray so that you have a chance to change my heart so I can see things from your point of view instead of getting you to see things from my point of view! Help me to stop worrying since Jesus is not! Amen!”*