**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 136: The Rich Fool**

**Read: Luke 12:13-21**

Guided reflection:

Another of Luke’s aside stories: Two brothers are fighting over an inheritance and one wants Jesus to make his brother divide it. Jesus is not the judge over inheritances, but he does know that a question like this, before a group of people, has a root of envy and covetousness in it! So, instead of doing what the man wants, he speaks to what the man needs to hear. Life is not about who has the most stuff! Then Jesus tells the story of a man who had so much stuff he had to build a bigger garage for all his stuff! And the man loves to look at his stuff and he fills satisfied – “wow, I am so lucky to have all this stuff!” but Jesus calls him a fool – if you focus on the stuff of this world, you cannot be focused on heavenly treasures. OK, look at your stuff. Do you have lots of stuff? Now, imagine your investment account in heaven – do you have a list of heavenly treasurers or are all of your treasures in your stuffed garage? Gulp! Are you more a consumer or are you a creator?

Guided prayer:

*“Well, Lord, this is where the rubber hits the road. I like my stuff and I wish I had more and better stuff. I think all my stuff makes me a cool person. How foolish can I be? Show me what is more important to you and help me to let go of my covetousness, my desire to know who has more and if I will get my share of the inheritance… help me to seek you first. Amen”*

**Day 137 : Being watchful and faithful**

**Read: Luke 12: 35-46**

Guided reflection:

Have you ever had a job where you would slack off when the boss was not around? We recently had a big wind storm. If you had been killed by a falling tree or a loose electric wire, what would you have been “caught” doing as you passed from this life to another? (This was one of those scriptures my mother would use when she thought I was doing something I should not be doing. She would ask, Lynette, what if Jesus came at this time?) Jesus reminds us that we are to live each day as though it is our last on this earth. May we be found faithful and busy for Christ when our time comes.

Guided prayer:

*“Dear God, if I knew when my time would be up, I would be able to do what I want and then at the last minute ask for your forgiveness and I’d be off the hook – right? No, I know that is not the way to live my life. Help me to see that I need to live my days with fullness and passion and doing what you have called me to do. So, Lord, are there things that are distracting me from my real purpose? Are there things I am doing that would make me ashamed if Jesus walked in the door in the flesh? Help me remember, you are here, at all times, in all places, no matter what I am doing. Find me faithful, dear*

*Lord! Amen”*

**Day 138: The servant’s wages**

**Read: Luke 12:47-48**

Guided reflection:

These two verses are a part of yesterday’s conversation. If a servant is insubordinate and does not do what his master has required, in Jesus day, they were not fired, but beaten! Now, if he did not know what he was to do and did not do what the boss wanted, he would be reprimanded but not to the extent as the one who defied his boss. If we know what to do and do not do it, then our Lord has the right to be disappointed with us! Don’t worry about the things you don’t know to do, make sure you are doing the things that you do know to do!

Guided prayer:

*“I may not always know the right thing to do, Lord, so guide me and show me the way. However, there are many things I do know to do that would please you and bring honor to your name. Help me focus on doing those things. How am I doing? Is there any place you would like to show me a different way? Help me be open to your guiding light. Amen”*

**Day 139: Settling disputes**

**Read: Luke 12: 57-59 (Matt 5:25,26)**

Guided reflection:

Do you think that we sometimes cause our own messes? In Jesus day, they had lawsuits too – they would take a person to the magistrate to help two people figure out who is right and who is wrong. I think that Jesus wants us to face our messes, we know what is right and what is wrong – we do not need someone else to get us off the hook. Jesus wants us to be honest and get on with doing what is right before God and our brothers and sisters. Are you pretending that you do not know what you did wrong to someone else? Come clean – you know the truth.

Guided prayer:

*“Dear God, help me not to try to pull the wool over others’ eyes. Help me face up to the truth. Help me be honest and have the courage to do the right thing. Amen”*

**Day 140: When destruction comes, it is God’s revenge?**

**Read: Luke 13:1-9**

Guided reflection:

This must be a conversation about some local news – evidently some violence happened to innocent people and folks were wondering if those people were destroyed because they were really bad and God just used Pilate’s hand to punish them; or were they innocent victims? Have you not heard people say that hurricanes or other disasters have been the hand of God punishing people? Jesus is comforting their hearts and minds and saying that God was not behind it. However, Jesus uses this bit of news to remind them that repenting and getting right with God is an important thing to add to your agenda!

Guided prayer:

*“Like the fig tree, Dear God, please prod and prune me, so that the places where I am not fruitful can become alive and vital, producing much fruit for you. Help my life mean something – help me not to waste it. Today I pray for others who might be perishing at the hand of injustice. Amen”*