**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 141: The Infirmed Woman**

**Read: Luke 13:10-17**

Guided Reflection:

Luke, being a physician, always notes the hurting and disenfranchised people when the other gospel writers do not. This woman had some kind of physical issue that caused her to not stand up straight. Jesus’ heart was filled with compassion so he touched her and made her whole. BUT, it was the Sabbath, and Jesus dared to “work” (heal) on the Sabbath! Jesus confronts the synagogue ruler with his foolishness: “Who cares what day of the week it is! Let’s just focus doing what is needed!” Are there places in your life where you are making issues out of things that are not really issues? What would Jesus say to you?

Guided Prayer:

*“All wise and knowing God, I admit that sometimes I am a wise guy/gal and a “know it all”, when I really do not have a clue. Help me remember to make what is the most important thing in YOUR book be the most important thing in MY book. And, give me courage to stand alongside others who are trying to do good. Amen.”*

**Day 142: Jesus Departs Galilee**

**Read: Luke 13: 31-33**

Guided Reflection:

 Do you hear the urgency in these few verses? The tension is rising between Jesus,

the Pharisees, and Herod; as well as Jesus and His Mission. Timing is everything. Why do you think Jesus wanted to get to Jerusalem before the “ax’s falls”? What do you think was going on in Jesus’ mind?

Guided Prayer:

“*Loving God, we have no idea what was going on in Jesus’ mind this day, but Jesus kept his mission and his purpose before him. You don’t need me to be a Savior; Jesus handled that, but help me live my life so I am ready to be the right person at the right time at the right place. Use me to your glory. Amen.*

**Day 143: Jesus laments over Jerusalem**

**Read: Luke 13: 34-35**

Guided Reflection:

Read vs 34 and hear the sorrow and disappointment in the people in Jesus’ voice. Jesus, the Messiah, was right under their noses and they did not get it. I wonder how many times Jesus’ face has been right in front of us and we do not see it? I remember a dear friend, Freda, when she was in her chemotherapy, running to me and saying she had just seen the face of God! She explained that she was frightened about the pain of the nurses putting more needles and

chemicals in her veins that day, almost in tears. She looked up and a black man who was walking by, turned and looked at her in the face – she said his face just glowed and she could not take her eyes off him! She quickly looked down to see when they would start and found that while she was gazing into his eyes, the nurse was done and she had not felt it. She could not locate him when her treatment was done. I wonder, does Jesus lament over us not seeing and believing? Have you have seen Jesus’ face lately?

Guided Prayer:

*“I hear the lament of Jesus and wonder if you lament over me. Where have you tried to get my attention and “I would not”? Please open my eyes and my ears. Make my heart understand your love. Amen”*

**Day 144: Jesus heals a man with Dropsy”**

**Read: Luke 14: 1-6**

Guided reflection:

Jesus was a guest at the house of a Pharisee. We do not know if his host was open or hostile, but Jesus was distracted by a man he could see from his seat that had dropsy – today we would call it edema from congestive heart failure – he was swollen with water retention that was life threatening. It was Sabbath meal they were eating, so Jesus puts it to them straight: “It’s the Sabbath, there is a man who needs my touch, I am right here – what should I do?” They said nothing. Was their silence because Jesus had put them in their place or were they adding one more thing to Jesus’ list in their black book? Do you ever put “the right way” over doing the right thing?

Guided Prayer:

 *“I stand in wonder at the love and compassion of my savior. O God, I pray, again, show*

 *me where I am more interested in doing things right, than doing the right things. Amen”*

**Day 145: Humility**

**Read: Luke 145**

Guided reflection:

Jesus gives his slant on going to parties! Every time I am a guest speaker and have to sit on the dais, I am watchful to make sure that I really am to sit there because of this verse I learned in Sunday School! Jesus’ point is that having a party should not be to puff yourself up and look important and get more party invitations; you should throw a party when you are jubilant and invite those who need a party! Now, remember, from yesterday’s reading, Jesus is at one of those affairs! I wonder what the host was thinking. What should we teach our children about this story?

Guided prayer:

*“Well, Lord, I am not sure if I throw good parties or not, but I am so humbled to know that I am invited to your banquet table and I do not have to worry about what I wear, or who will be there too, or whom shall I impress… all I have to do is just come, open and ready to receive from you. Thank you for your love and acceptance of me. Amen.*