**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 151: A Servant’s wages**

**Read: Luke 17:7-10**

Guided reflection:

This story is hard for us to comprehend because we do not treat people as

servants; but in Jesus’ day, a servant put the needs of his master before his own needs and thanks was not necessary. I think Jesus wants us to face the “it’s all about me – look at me, I am being so faithful – wonderful me” mentality. Have you ever been ticked that you worked at a mission project and no one gave you thanks? Did you do it for Jesus or to get recognition? We do not need rewards for doing what is expected of us. We are faithful because we have offered ourselves to be God’s humble servants. Jesus is not focusing on God’s response, but ours.

Guided prayer:

*“Well, Lord, it does feel good to know we are being the hands and feet of Jesus… but help me be willing to be faithful even if it does not feel good even if no one says ‘thanks’. Loving God, show me where I think I am doing things for you but really, it is all about me. Forgive my self-centeredness. Amen.”*

**Day 152: Jesus Heals 10 Lepers**

**Read: Luke 17: 11-19**

Guided reflection:

This is the perfect Thanksgiving Day gospel lesson. Lepers were outcasts and not

allowed near others lest they infect innocent people. These l0 outcasts begged Jesus to heal them and he did! They went rushing back to the priest to have their ban lifted… and one stopped… turned around… and ran to Jesus. “THANK YOU for healing me and changing my life!” and Jesus not only healed him, but restored what the leprosy had eaten away. Funny, yesterday Jesus said we were to do things without thanks… but when we offer genuine, grateful thanks, Jesus opens even more to us. Have you stopped to thank God for your blessings?

Guided Prayer:

Today, make an inventory of your grateful heart. Stop and offer thanks to God for each. Then consider how God has shown love to you through the lives of others – who cooked your breakfast? Who delivered your paper or your mail? Who waited on you at lunch? Who sacrificed so you could eat today? May this list be your grateful prayer.

**Day 153: On the Kingdom of God**

**Read: Luke 17: 20-21**

Guided Reflection:

For the Jews of Jesus’ day, the coming Kingdom was something everyone

anticipated – but did not really expect to happen on that day. The messiah would come so when folks asked Jesus his thoughts on the subject, he surprised them by saying it is not a future contemplation, but a present reality! And, it is not that kind of physical kingdom, but a spiritual one. Do you look to the future for God to come into your life, or do you see that God is here right now?

Guided Prayer:

*“Ever present God, help me drop my fantasy of you in my future and help me come to face the reality that you are an ever present help in times of trouble, my present source and my present strength. I do not have to wait for heaven; you are with me right now. Thank you. Amen”*

**Day 154: The Day of the Son of Man**

**Read:Luke 17:22-37**

Guided reflection:

This passage continues the conversation of yesterday’s readings. Jesus goes back over their Jewish history and reminds them that there have been pivotal times when, at a moment’s notice, something happened. Jesus wants us to be ready – at any time and any place – for God to act... or for that matter, for life to happen! Jesus’ point: “If you try to hold on to life in fear, you will lose it. If you live life in a sense of expectancy, holding it loosely, you will be ready to respond without regret.

Guided Prayer:

*“Am I ready, Lord? What if this was my list day – would I have regrets? Show me where I can make strategic change to live life, holding it loosely, each day as a gift. Amen.”*

**Day 155: The Unjust judge**

**Read: Luke 18: 1-8**

Guided reflection:

Is Jesus saying that if we keep praying, that our much praying will make God

respond because we will wear him out? Or is Jesus saying that an unrighteous judge would do that, but God is not like that, won’t a loving God respond to our cries? When it is my time for Christ to come for me, will I be found faithful?

Guided Prayer:

  *“Loving God, hear my prayer. Listen to what my soul needs to say today\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

 *(what do you need to say?) Hear my prayer, O Lord. Amen.”*