

Still He Walked...

Lent Meditation II

Read →

Ponder →

Change gear---

Listen →

Journal →

Feel---

Pray →

Think---

Act →

Jesus walked...the streets in Galilee, Judea and Samaria...
...with those who believed in Him
...with those who did not believe in Him
...with who followed Him
...with those who opposed Him
...with a heavy heart
...with a joyful heart

...till He was crucified for you and me

Day 1 You Have Been with Me so Long and Yet...

Read: Jesus answered Philip with hurt and sorrow...
“Don’t you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time?”

John 14:9

Ponder: How long has it been since you knew Him (e.g. 1 year, since you went to Sunday School, 20 Years, not sure, since Lent 2018, etc.)

Listen: Hymn...

How long has it been since you talked with the Lord
 And told Him your heart's hidden secrets?
 How long since you prayed?
 How long since you stayed on your knees till the light shone through?
 How long has it been since your mind felt at ease?
 How long since your heart knew no burden?
 Can you call Him your Friend?
 How long has it been since you knew that He cared for you?

How long has it been since you knelt by your bed
 And prayed to the Lord up in heaven?
 How long since you knew He'd answer you
 And keep you the long night through?
 How long has it been since you woke with the dawn
 And felt the day's worth living?
 Can you call Him your Friend?
 How long has it been since you knew that He cared for you?

Mosier Lister

Journal: (i.e. write down in a notebook your conversation with God):

Pray: (your response to God's voice):

Act: (put into action your response to Him)

Day 2**Peace in Troubled Times.**

Read: John 14:27

"Peace I leave to you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives (\$, pleasure, broken promises of spouses, family, friends, enemies, government, international organisations, etc). Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John 14:28

Peace in troubled times cannot be manufactured. It has to be received. We need a recognition of our need of peace, a change in thinking, a transformation of life. Is that why Jesus said that the peace He gives is not like the peace which the world gives. In fact, He is our peace, who has broken down every wall between

- Families
- Races
- Cultures
- People of different status, wealth and intellectual abilities
- Faiths
- Neighbours

Ponder: In silence

Listen: *“For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.”*

Ephesians 2:14

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 3 His Siblings
What did They Think of Him and His Life Work?

Read: Matthew 12:46-50

Ponder: They cared for Jesus but did not really understand God’s call on His life. Were they not brought up together? Did not big brother Jesus help care for them till He was thirty? Were they resentful when He seemed to have walked out on them to do God’s will? Maybe they were just unable to see God’s calling for Him? Put yourself in His shoes when Mary and children came looking for Him.

In addition, neither did His neighbours appreciate Him. Maybe He appeared too good for them even though they were from the same social background. It's not easy to live a godly life. Even if one was simply living a daily obedient life to God, others may cause trouble out of envy.

Ponder:

Listen: Mark 6:1-6

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 4 The Boy and Man Jesus

Read: Luke 2:39-52

Ponder: Mother Mary probably pondered alone as only she met Gabriel and heard from Him about Jesus. She must have been lonely to keep His secret for 30 years. Cousin Elizabeth was a great support though, as her yet to be born child, John, seemed to have recognize her when he was 6 months in his mother's womb! Jesus was sometimes too grown up for her... He must have kept her on her toes!

When Jesus was 12, adolescent problems surfaced. She faced a son cleverer than her and talked back to her with astonishing confidence. Her eldest son was experiencing growing like and dislikes that were quite normal for His age though it was hard to accept. But He helped her a lot...essentially a balanced and good son.

She probably had witnessed His miracles at home many times over when she ran out of basic necessities like turning water into wine. How else can we explain her words and behavior at the wedding in Cana; it would have been seen as a foolish order to the servants!

Listen: But we see Jesus, made a little lower than the angels
 For the suffering of death.
 But we see Jesus, crowned with glory and honour
 That He by the grace of God
 Should taste death for every man.

Hebrews 2:9
 Scripture in Song 83 (SIS)

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 5 Gradual Detachment

Read: John 2:1-11

Ponder: Jesus was 30. Mother Mary knew Jesus well but not 100%. The transition period of facing primary loyalty to His God, His Father in heaven, must have been taxing on Mary though she too loved God.

At Cana, Mary seemed to understand the need to let Jesus go to do...God's will. But she had to gently encourage Him to go and rest assured of God's care for both Mary and Jesus. However, she could no longer expect Him to be around to help her any more, to taste her cooking or to be at home to rest. The umbilical cord had to be cut both ways. The wound would eventually heal for the good of both sides. What can we learn from her experience?

Listen: Exodus 2:9

Essentially, we do not own our children; the Creator does. When human cultures harmonise with the Creator's wisdom, peace prevails. Who does God want Him to relinquish to fulfill His destiny for Him; who does God want me to relinquish? The person may be your parent, your

child or any person of significance to you.

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 6 Papa Joseph had to Go? Why?

Read: Luke 2:39-52

Ponder: No Scriptural record tells of Joseph's demise. But tradition has it that he died young when Jesus was in His teens. The incident in Luke 2 indicate that when Jesus was learning to make decisions for self and family, Joseph was still alive...to nurture Him as a son.

(Author's speculation) Did God take Joseph home because it would have been too difficult to address two fathers simultaneously?? Is it possible to honour your earthly father when heavenly Father asks you to do something which the former disagree? How would Christian parents respond in such a situation? Hold our children loosely and rejoice to let them go obey Him though sometimes painfully? Patience is highly needed at such a junction.

Listen: God's way is the best way, though I may not see
 Why sorrows and trials oft gathered round me;
 He ever is seeking my gold to refine
 So humbly I trust Him, my Saviour divine.

God's way is the best way,
 God's way is the right way
 I'll trust in Him always,
 He knoweth the best.

God's way shall be my way, He knoweth the best
 Am leaning upon Him, sweet, sweet is my rest.

No harm can befall me. Safe, safe shall I be,
I'll cling to Him ever, so precious is He.

Lida Shivers Leech

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 7 He Walked with Single Minded Determination

Read: Matthew 20:18-19

Ponder: Jesus had counted the cost of obedience to the Father above. He did not turn back from fulfilling His Father's will to die for the sins of the world...He had to practice what He taught. Once He had put his hands to the plough, He could not and would not turn back. He will know the joy obedience when His mission is fulfilled

Listen: Luke 9:57-62

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 8 He Came as Man to Fulfill the Father's Will

Read: John 4:34
 Philippians 2:4-11

Ponder: He would implement the Father's will, known and agreed in heaven...before He became Joseph and Mary's son.

Listen: I delight to do Thy will O Lord
 I delight to do Thy will
 And to walk with Thee
 Is not grievous unto me
 For I delight to do Thy will.

Psalm 40:8 (SIS 48)

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 9 The Temptation set to Prevent Him from Obeying the Father

Read: Luke 4:1-13

Ponder: Didn't Jesus have the legitimate human right to basic needs of food, the companionship of a wife, an income generating job like carpentry and a mother's care and comfort, the joy of parenthood, to have possessions at will and be popular and maybe, sensational? Were not these His birth right as a man? Does His receiving of the Father's spiritual birthright mean a giving up of His natural birthright as Joseph's son?

Listen: It may not be on the mountain's height
 Or over the stormy sea;
 It may not be at the battle's front

My Lord will have need of me;
 But if by a still small voice He calls
 To paths I do not know,
 I'll answer, dear Lord, with my hand in Thine
 I'll go where You want me to go.

I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,
 O'er mountains or plain or sea;
 I'll say what You want me to say, dear Lord,
 I'll be what you want me to be.

Perhaps today there are loving words
 Which Jesus would have me speak;
 There may be now, in the paths of sin,
 Some wand'rer whom I should seek.
 O Saviour, if Thou wilt be my Guide,
 Tho' dark and rugged the way,
 My voice shall echo the message sweet,
 I'll say what You want me to say.

There's surely somewhere a lowly place
 In earth's harvestfield so wide,
 Where I may labour thro' life's short day
 For Jesus, the Crucified.
 So, trusting my all unto Thy care,
 I know Thou lovest me!
 I'll do Thy will with a heart sincere,
 I'll be what You want me to be.

Carrier E. Rounsefell

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 10 Long Term Plan needs Divine Enabling

Read: Luke 5:1-11; John 1:43-51

Ponder: How was Jesus to achieve His plan to train 12 men of various backgrounds to carry on His mission of redemption of mankind. There were far less people then compared to the world population in the 21st century. But we would be surprised if it were easier! Fallen human nature merely surface in different clothing. He had three short years to get them ready before He left them on earth. Why did the Father not give Him more time? It's a million dollar question for human resource executives today.

Four men He called were fishermen used to handling fish, winds and waves. Matthew was used to collecting taxes like a typical civil servant. Nathaniel was without guile, simple and straight forward, probably easily taken advantage of by less gullible people of the world. Thomas' lack of faith in Him might slow down the others in revival phenomena. Philip tended to challenge Jesus to show His divinity when He had several times shown the Father to them already...through His works! Jesus needed divine advice.

Listen: Luke 4:42-44; John 20:24-29

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 11 Peter

Read: Mark 14:29; John 6:60-69

Ponder: Peter, after 3 years with the Master, was still arrogantly over-confident. He thought he could protect the Master. But Jesus knew better and had to tell him the truth about himself for his good. But Jesus prayed for

him...and he was transformed to fulfill God's purpose through him.
Peter became a pastor par excellent - humble, gentle, determined to be faithful to his Saviour, even through martyrdom in the end.

Listen: Luke 22:24-34; 1 Peter 5:6-11

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 12 **John**

Read: **John 13:21-26**

Ponder: John sounded too quiet, too homely and full of feeling. Would he last when suffering came? Perhaps he daydreamed too often to feed his natural imagination and his sensitive personality. What hope did Jesus have to train such a worker for hardship and endurance!?

John was later given the honour of receiving revelations when an old man exiled on the island of Patmos. He was given the privilege of passing Christ's important messages to the seven churches in ancient Asia. He saw a vision of the new heavens and new earth! John had leaned close to Jesus' heart ...he had learnt to use his gift of intuition which was transformed into an accurate receiving of His deep messages of the future of the temporal world and glories of His eternal Kingdom!

Listen: Jeremiah 29:13

And you shall seek Me and you shall find Me
When you shall search for Me with all your heart
And I will be found of you
And I will be found of you

When you shall seek Me with all your heart.
 And I will be found of you
 And I will be found of you
 When you shall seek Me with all your heart

(Key C SIS 44)

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 13 Something in Jesus attracted Judas

Read: John 12:4

Ponder: How was Judas chosen? The Gospel accounts did not say. Did he volunteer, thinking that Jesus could fulfill his purposes against the Roman regime? Here was a Rabbi who could speak well and perform miracles. Money was needed to plot and plan. There was hope of changing the government of the day. Further, Judas may be a devout Jew waiting for the Messiah to free the Jews from the Romans? But He seemed to be taking too long to appear; there was no harm to give Jesus a try. We do not know the real dynamics of his motive to be a disciple.

Do you remember your initial motive for following Jesus or is it too insignificant to recall?

Listen: Hebrews 3:7-19

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 14 So He Walked

Read: Luke 22:1-6; Mark 14:55-59, 63-65

Ponder: It was possible that Jesus had flashbacks during His agony at the Garden of Gethsemane. There were the faces of those who believed in Him...He would die for them. But there would also be flashbacks of those who persecuted Him, those who paid fellow Jews to tell lies about Him even though many were healed by His miracles. As a man, He could not be crucified for them, not them! But He saw the Father's eyes of compassion reminding Him of the purpose He became man; He persuaded Him to fulfill His *dream* which had become His *vision* which had become His beloved Son's *mission*...

Listen: He could hear the crowds screaming "crucify" "crucify" ...
 He could hear the hatred in their voices,
 These were His chosen people.
 He loved them,
 And they were going to crucify Him.
 He was beaten, bleeding and weakened... His heart was broken,
But still He walked...

He could see the crowd as He came from the palace.
 He knew each of the faces so well.
 He had created them.
 He knew every smile, laugh, and shed tear,
 But now they were contorted with rage and anger...His heart
 broke,
But still He walked...

Was He scared?
 You and I would have been
 So his humanness would have mandated that He was. He felt
 alone.
 His disciples had left, denied, and even betrayed Him.
 He searched the crowd for a loving face and He saw very few.
 Then He turned His eyes to the only one that mattered
 And He knew that He would never be alone.
 He looked back at the crowd, at the people who were spitting

At Him, throwing rocks at Him and mocking Him and He knew
That because of Him, they would never be alone.
So for them, He walked...

Quote

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 15 The Broken Bread on the Cross

Read: John 6:33-52

Ponder:

Jesus said, *“I am the bread of life....”* Which means *“I am your staple food, your regular sustenance which is available daily to feed you...reliably delivered to you, faithfully...constantly. I have to be broken, literally broken, in order to feed you.”* But we have to want Him enough to open our mouths. This is a symbolic truth that is seldom taught to us. Hence we continue to hunger for Jesus!

Listen: This is My body
Broken for you
Bringing you wholeness
Making you free
Take it and eat it
And as you do
Do it in love for Me.

This is My blood
Poured out for you
Bringing forgiveness
Making you free
Take it and drink it
And as you do
Do it in love for Me.

Jimmy Ownes Key: E Flat (SIS 284)

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 16 Doing The Father's Will

Read: John 4:31-34

Ponder: 30 years of Jesus earthly life was spent nurturing that vision and mission of loving obedience. Joseph and Mary did a good job, imperfect as they were. No wonder that Jesus had a sense and ability to submit to the Father's will...which satisfies.

For the salvation of mankind, heavenly Father gave Mary and Joseph the task of bring Him up...pending on their willingness to submit. They did.

Listen: How many of God's blessings have we missed because we did not submit to Him?

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 17 What Do You Think of the Carpenter's Son?

Read: Mark:6:1-3

Ponder: Jesus was familiar to the Nazarenes. He was known as a good eldest son who worked with Papa Joseph to support the family. He honoured God

religiously but with a difference - He was a humble man of His word, hardworking and He helped take care of His younger siblings...His responsibilities heaped up after Joseph's untimely early death.

Listen: He was in every way tempted as we are (e.g. to run away from family duties to claim our right to 'freedom', marriage, financial rights, etc) and yet without sin.

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 18 Familiarity Breeds Contempt

Read: Luke 4:14-30

Ponder: Some of the neighbours had grown up with Jesus in ordinary families too. Some could have remembered Him as the illegitimate son of Mary, betrothed to Joseph. Others were kinder and gave credit to His words that Sabbath day. But when He claimed to be the Messiah described in the Scriptures, they could not accept the possibility. It was too far-fetched! However, one who merely spoke the truth need not fear. He calmly walked away without trying to prove Himself. We must learn from Him.

Listen: We could also learn how not to treat our church friends like they treated Jesus, whatever their behavior, appearances or smells. They may need God's help, like we do. Instead of reacting, let us stop and think and ask... "*What would Jesus do if He were in my shoes?*"

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 19 Business is Often More Important

Read: Luke 8:26-39

Ponder: Why are the people fearful when good things happen to one in their community? Is it for their own livelihood which might be affected by their reputation of having unclean spirits?

Listen: Whispers that might have circulated in the town after the incident...

” That Rabbi is a trouble maker... Too free-ahh...champur tangan...for the sake of one strange man, He spoils the reputation of our whole peaceful and prosperous region! Better He gets lost!

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 20 A Mother’s Heart Hopes On...

Read: Luke 2:19

Ponder:

“Many things the angel declared to me happened. He seems to be following an inner voice ...otherwise He is normal, very normal...a perfect boy and now a man...I don’t know where this will lead to... Will if He leave me for God’s sake...to die for the sins of the world? He must be sure of what He wants...painful though it is for me...I will surely miss Him then.”

(Author)

Listen: God's way is the best way, tho' I may not see
 Why sorrows and trials oft gather 'round me
 He ever is seeking my gold to refine,
 So humbly I trust Him, my Saviour divine.

God's way is the best way,
 God's way is the right way,
 I'll trust in Him always,
 He knoweth the best.

God's way shall be my way, He knoweth the best,
 And leaning upon Him, sweet, sweet is my rest.
 No harm can befall me, safe, safe shall I be,
 I'll cling to Him ever, so precious is He.

Lida Shivers Leech

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 21 **Still He Walked...**

Read: Matthew 16:21

Ponder: It may not be on the mountain's height,
 Or over the stormy sea;
 It may not be at the battle's front
 My Lord will have need of me;
 But if by a still, small voice
 He calls to paths I do not know,
 I'll answer, dear Lord, with my hand in Thine,
 I'll go where You want me to go.

*“I’ll go where you want me to go dear Lord
O’er mountain, or plain or sea;
I’ll say what” You want me to say, dear Lord,
I’ll be what you want me to be.”*

Perhaps today there are loving words
Which Jesus would have me speak;
There may be now, in the paths of sin,
Some wand’rer whom I should seek,
O Saviour, if Thou would be my Guide,
Tho’ dark and rugged the way,
My voice shall echo the message sweet,
I’ll say what You want me to say.

There’s surely somewhere a lowly place
In earth’s harvestfield so wide,
Where I may labour thro’ life’s short day
For Jesus, the Crucified.
So, trusting my all unto Thy care,
I know Thou lovest me!
I’ll do Thy will with a heart sincere,
I’ll be what You want Me to be.

Listen: John 14:31

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 22 **The Pharisees and other Jewish Leaders**

Read: Luke 13:31-35

Ponder: Hatred, fear of exposure of personal sins with public positions taken

away, resulting in loss of face and respect...these were of primary importance to many of the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders then.

Listen: Luke 11:37-12:12

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 23 **Zacchaeus**

Read: Luke 19:1-10

Ponder: Do you ever wonder how Zacchaeus could have felt near the end of Jesus' earthly life? Was he grieved at such unfair treatment of his Lord and Saviour, the one who did not look down on him or ridicule him? Instead, Jesus had given him his self-respect and treated him as a friend in inviting himself to stay at his humble house. However, on recalling Jesus' words to him in his house not so long ago, rekindled hope of seeing Him again. *"The Master, who cannot lie, promised!"*

Listen: Titus 1:2

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 24 The Seeker**Read:** Luke 7:1-10

Ponder: We wonder what happened to the centurion who crossed his Roman Culture to Jewish culture in order to seek the Rabbi's healing for the servant whom he valued. It showed the genuineness of his care and respect for one subordinate to him. He was also humble, in spite of his higher public status, to consult Jesus who belonged to the colonized Jewish nation. Knowing Jesus was a man of God, would he not long to be able to set Him free from injustice (not knowing that He willingly suffered injustice so that mankind could be set free from eternal spiritual oppression and death.) One good deed truly deserves another! But he could not interfere. Meanwhile he was deeply sorrowful.

Listen: Feel with the centurion in his frustration and sadness.

Journal:**Pray:****Act:**

Day 25 The Convicted, Repentant and Forgiven**Read:** John 8:1-11

Ponder: The repentant woman – who was she going to go to for future needs? Jesus, sinless, was about to be condemned for the sins of the world and crucified. If He had not forgiven her, she would be the one to be condemned. We can imagine her loneliness and sense of loss...

"If only You live on... You are the only one who understands me and yet forgives me; my pain was Yours... Master, if only you live on, women like me won't be scorned... You would teach them how to live all over

again. At your feet they too will be forgiven. They will then live with dignity and hope of a renewed life where there's no shame or blame. Master, make what You promised real... O, to meet You alive again!"

Listen: *"Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"*
"No one Sir," she said.
"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared.
"Go now and leave your life of sin."

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 26 The Grateful Woman at the Well

Read: John 4:1-42

Ponder: Like the woman at the well, I was seeking
 For things that could not satisfy.
 And then I heard my Saviour speaking:
"Draw from my well that never shall run dry,"

Fill my cup, Lord,
 I lift it up, Lord.
 Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.
 Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
 Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

There are millions in this world who are craving
 The pleasure earthly things afford
 But none can match the wondrous treasure
 That I find in Jesus Christ, my Lord!

So, my brother/sister, if the things this world gave you

Day 28 Peace, Be Still!**Read:** John 14:27

Ponder: *“Master, the tempest is raging!
 The billows are tossing high!
 The sky is o’er-shadowed with blackness
 No shelter or help is nigh;
 Carest Thou not that we perish?
 How canst Thou lie asleep,
 When each moment so madly threat’ning
 A grave in the angry deep?”*

**“The winds and the waves shall obey My will,
 Peace...be still!
 Whether the wrath of the storm tossed sea,
 Or demons or men or whatever it be,
 No water can swallow the ship where lies
 The Master of ocean and earth and skies...
 They all shall sweetly obey My will;
 Peace, be still! Peace, be still!
 They all shall sweetly obey My will;
 Peace, Peace, be still!”**

*Master, with anguish of spirit
 I bow in my grief today;
 The depths of my sad heart are troubled;
 O waken and save, I pray!
 Torrents of sin and of anguish
 Sweep o’er my sinking soul!
 And I perish! I perish, sear Master;
 O hasten, and take control!*

*Master, the terror is over,
 The elements sweetly rest;
 Earth’s sun in the calm lake is mirrored,
 And heaven’s within my breast.*

*Linger, O blessed Redeemer,
Leave me alone no more;
And with joy I shall make the blest harbor,
And rest on the blissful shore.*

H.R. Palmer

Listen: While we face the storms of life, we wish He’s alive...
(before the resurrection over 2000 years ago)

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 29 I am for Him

Read: Matthew 12:30; Mark 9:39-41

Ponder:
”I am no fanatic, but if He is alive, I will follow Him...it is too late now, His enemies are determined to kill Him...”

Will we be too late to be on Jesus’ side? Check our hearts...

Listen: Matthew 25:31-46

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 30 The Threatened Wished Jesus Killed**Read:** John 8:31-59; 11:45-57**Ponder:** Some people commit murder when they feel threatened that their sins will be exposed. But sin is like a pet cricket hidden in a school boy's desk; it will soon crick in the dark...letting the boy's secret out! Pets are not meant to go to class...he will be punished before his classmates!**Listen:** John 12:37-50**Journal:****Pray:****Act:**
-----**Day 31 The Fence Sitters****Read:** Mark 15:6-15**Ponder:** Luke 19:37-38

*“Hosanna in the Highest!
Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!”*

Luke 23:20-21

“... “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”

Listen: Am I one of them?**Journal:**

Pray:

Act:

Day 32 Indifferent Onlooker Embarrassed: Herod

Read: Luke 23:6-12

Ponder: Herod was indifferent while Pilate avoided the responsibility to judge and act with a good conscience. In such a setting, the blame game is played and justice is thwarted. Weak leaders can cause havoc to truth! Former enemies became friends and Jesus was victimized.

Listen: 1 Peter 2:18-25

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 33 Who is Jesus to You?

Read: *“Who do you say that I am?”*

Ponder: The *tidak apa* man in the street...
“Jesus is freed, ok. Jesus victimized, also can...its irrelevant to me...”

The cowards...
”I don’t know Him!”

To the forgiven sinners...

"Today you will be with Me in paradise..."

Listen: *"Who does Jesus say I am? A sheep or a goat?"*

Matthew 25:31-46

Pray:

Act:

Day 34 Regret or Repent? Definition Critical

Read: Matthew 26:14-16; 47-50; 27:3-5

Ponder: Did Judas follow a different savior than the Christ before him?

Listen: Did Judas regret or repent from his sin of unbelief?

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

**Day 35 He kept walking When Many would have Stopped
...A Final Human Duty**

Read: John 19:25-27

"Dear woman, here is your son."

"Here is your mother."

Ponder: Where were Mary's other sons?

Listen: *"Honour your father and mother..."*

Exodus 12

Jesus was before Confucius; and He was there at creation

Proverbs 8.

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

**Day 36 The Ultimate Prayer Not to Succumb to Suffering
in the Garden of Gethsemane (or Garden of Destiny)**

Read: But He said to disciples...

"Sit here while I go over there and pray."

"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me."

"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from Me. Yet not as I will but as You will."

"Could you men not keep watch with Me for one hour?"

(Many things e.g. online reading, line dancing takes longer than that)

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

...He prayed a third time, saying the same thing.

"My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may Your will be done."

Ponder: Disciples scattered; they were shocked, confused and fearful after Jesus was captured. Would they have been more prepared if they had watched and prayed?

Listen: **STILL HE WALKED**

The sounds of the hammer striking the spikes echoed through
 The crowd. The sounds of his cries echoed even louder,
 The cheers of the crowd, as his hands and feet
 Were nailed to the cross, intensified with each blow.
 Loudest of all was the still small voice inside his
 Heart that whispered "*I am with you, my Son*",
 And God's heart broke.

He had let His Son walk...

Jesus could have asked God to end his suffering,
 But instead he asked God to forgive.
 Not to forgive him, but to forgive the ones who were persecuting
 him.
 As he hung on that cross, dying an unimaginable death,
 He looked out and saw, not only the faces in the crowd,
 But also, the face of every person yet to be,
 And his heart filled with love.
 As his body was dying, his heart was alive.
 Alive with the limitless, unconditional love he feels for each of us.

That is why He walked...

When I forget how much My God loves me,
I remember his walk.
 When I wonder if I can be forgiven,
I remember his walk.
 When I need reminded of how to live like Christ,
I think of his walk.
 And to show him how much I love him,
 I wake up each morning, turn my eyes to him,
And I walk...

Author unknown

There were those who were upheld by the Father's love and sent to minister to Him...as He walked, as He was nailed on the cross, as He cringed in pain and agony, as He took His last breath for you and me...and for the world.

Listen: Jesus was faithful till the end...

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 37 **The Watershed of History Took Place at Gethsemane**

Read: Matthew 26:36-46

Ponder:

He ministered with a heavy heart and yet joy, He was self-controlled as He submitted to the Father's will for the higher purpose. What He felt was irrelevant. He was not psychotic or masochistic; He made the choice of history!

Listen: What if Jesus had not changed His prayer? What if Jesus did not die – what would the world be like, without God's presence and redemption? Where would you and I be...at home, church and in society?

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 38 Saturday Night – Behind the Scene

Read: Ephesians 4:7-11

Ponder: The believers of Christ grieved on Good Friday night; they celebrated on Easter Sunday morning. What happened on Saturday night? An Orthodox Rabbi preached a sermon to help us meditate on that question:

After Christ died on the cross, thus completing His mission of becoming the atonement for the sins of the world, He descended into hell's prison where the Old Testament people were held. He had in His hand an empty cross which He used as the key to open the prison's door. Jesus hurried to rescue as many as would allow Him to bring them out...it was like running from the trap of a house on fire. Most wanted to be saved. However, He grieved for those who stubbornly stayed behind. That, the Rabbi ended, was what happened on Saturday night.

Listen: If you were one of the people trapped in hell's prison of sin, what would you do when Jesus comes to rescue you today?

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

**Day 39 Didn't you hear?
...He is Alive!!**

Read: John 20

Ponder: What's your response that will affect the rest of your life?

Worship the Son of God...adore Him...love Him...serve Him...
or ignore Him?

Listen: In silence

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

Day 40 He is Coming soon!

Ponder: If no one (your family, Sunday school teacher, your friend, etc...) has told you about the God who waits to save you eternally, where would you be? Jesus said,

“Follow Me and I will make you a fisher of man...even in the 21st century!”

One woman one obeyed God's call to China and did exactly that...

She starved so little hungry children could feed

She died so the dying could live.

She quietly walked in the step of her Master and many children were saved just as China was declared a democratic nation (by Dr. Sun Yet San). Lottie Moon's love for God and China left a footprint to follow for those who knew of her in the Southern Baptist Convention. She literally starved to let children eat during a severe famine at the end of the war against Manchurian rule. She eventually died due to the effects of starvation while on her way home aboard a ship to Britain.

(Message recorded after reading Lottie Moon's biography at 5 a.m. Sunday, 5 Aug 2012 in PJ.)

If you who have ears to hear, then hear...

Listen: What is God saying to the church in(put in your area of residence e.g. Kuala Lumpur?)

Journal:

Pray:

Act:

.....

Suggestions within our country of residence

God has started the work, we follow

- East Malaysian Pastors and families’ need for basic food, clothing, health care and housing. You may like to go see for yourselves how they live. They need to be strengthened so they can help their own people in such a time as ours. They need to know that God cares and loves them too, not just us.
- Educational needs e.g. schools, books, stationery, transport related facilities. hostels for older kids. Teachers...may be you or your children.
- Fellow children of God, friends of Jesus, to live with them for friendship and imitation of biblical lifestyle, not necessarily middle-class...but is your life worth imitating?
- Check your bank accounts. Pray. Keep what you may need... Give the rest to those you may safely say as needing it more than you...laying treasures in heaven is money converted into His currency... human lives made in His image but have been stolen from Him.
- Pray with all your might for God to awaken your hearts with joy!

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

*“Lord, You have come to the lakeshore
Looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
You only asked me to follow humbly,*

(Refrain)

*O Lord, with Your eyes You have searched me,
And smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat’s left on the shore-line behind me;
By Your side I will seek other seas.*

*You know so well my possessions;
My boat carries no gold and no weapons;
You will find there my nets and my labour.*

(Refrain)

*You need my hands, full of caring
Through my labour to give others rest,
And constant love that keeps on loving.*

(Refrain)

*You, who have fished other oceans,
Ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
My loving Friend, as thus you called me.*

(Refrain)

Methodist Hymnal 344 Read John 15

We shall meet again at the foot of the cross...
Ask if you do not know where it is?

The lower you are, the more likely you will find Him.
The Lord waits for you there!

May Christ’s joy and His intimate fellowship
fill and surround you each day!

Shalom