



Daily Lenten Meditations Scriptures and Prayers for March 13-18, 2017 (Prepared by Rev. Karen Nyhart)

Monday, March 13

Scripture Verses: Luke 4:16-24

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

“When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ²³ He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” ²⁴ And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.”

Prayer:

O God,
in the midst of the discord of voices that crush my spirit and deny my calling,
voices that say, “Who do you think you are?” I come in prayer to hear your voice of affirmation;
I come to hear your voice calling me to be and do what you have called me to be and do. Let
this time of prayer and meditation, quiet my fears, soothe my bruised soul, and energize me for
ministry in and with your beloved world. Let faith abide. Let hope abide. Let love abide. In your
name I pray. Amen.

Tuesday, March 14

Scripture Verse: 1 Peter 2:1-10

The Living Stone and a Chosen People

“Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵ like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,” ⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.”

Prayer:

In you, Lord, I have taken refuge. Let me never be put to shame.
Deliver me in your righteousness. Turn your ear to me.
Come quickly to my rescue. Be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.
Since you are my rock and my fortress, lead and guide me, for the sake of your name.
Let your face shine upon your servant. Save me in your unfailing love! Amen.

Wednesday, March 15

Scripture Verse: Romans 8:31-39

God's Love in Christ Jesus

“What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Prayer:

God, Help me to remember this scripture from Romans when I feel like the world is condemning me or rejecting me. Help me to fix my eyes on you so that I know without a doubt your love, and your grace and your mercy. Trouble nor hardship nor persecution nor famine nor nakedness nor danger nor sword can separate me from you. Since, nothing can separate us from you, we are more than conquerors. Help me to always remember this. Amen.

Thursday, March 16

Scripture Verse: Luke 10:16

“Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

Prayer

Gracious God, mend my brokenness and my sadness. Give me a spirit of joy and enthusiasm for service to you by serving others. Lift me and place me on your pathways of peace and hope, that my life may be a witness to your redeeming love. AMEN.

Friday, March 17

Scripture: John 15:18-21

“If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, ‘Servants are not greater than their master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. ²¹ But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.”

Prayer

Teach us your wisdom, O Lord, that we may live wisely, not foolishly.
May your love and wisdom flow through us, into this world of hatred and mistrust,
that we may sow the seeds of peace. Illumine our hearts to the path of truth that we may
celebrate the ways that lead to life. Amen.

Saturday, March 18

Scripture: Luke 6:22-23

²² "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

Prayer

Lord, help me to be a person who brings your blessings to others. May that be true in my casual encounters with others during the day. May it be true of those with whom I share faith. May it also be true when I find myself under attack. May my life always reflect the love and grace that has been shown to me through you Lord. Amen.