



Daily Lenten Meditations Scriptures and Prayers for April 3-April 8, 2017 (Prepared by Rev. Karen Nyhart)

Monday, April 3

Scripture Verses: Luke 15:25-32

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Prayer:

Lord, I can see something of myself in that older son, and I don't like it. Fill my heart afresh with your joy and help me get rid of my anger and thoughts of how it is just not fair that others get all of the attention. Forgive me of my complaining and whining, and help me to be more welcoming and joyful for others just as you are. In your name I pray. Amen.

Tuesday, April 4

Scripture Verse: Jeremiah 29:4-11

“Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, ^[a] ⁹ for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD.

¹⁰ For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon’s seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

Prayer:

Patient Lord, it is so easy for me to whine and complain bitterly about all those things in my life that are difficult. I focus on them as though they were the only things that ever happened to me, forgetting the many blessings that you have given to me and the opportunities you give me to serve you. I feel alienated - you call me beloved. I feel lost - you seek me. Help me to always look to you for healing and to return thanks to you by praise and serving others in your name. In your name I pray. Amen.

Wednesday, April 5

Scripture Verse: Isaiah 41:10

“do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”

Prayer:

Lord, help me to always remember that you are with me wherever I go. When life is hard, I know that I can always count on you to guide me and direct me and give me strength. Amen.

Thursday, April 6

Scripture Verse: Revelation 21:1-4

The New Heaven and the New Earth

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

Prayer:

Lord, you know how easy it is for me to sit here, holding on to my darkness and fear. I get bound up by chains of mistrust. I dare not to hope, for so many times before I have been disappointed. So I sit here and wonder where you are. Flood me with your powerful light of love and mercy and help me to open my eyes to your good news of love and grace. Amen.

Friday, April 7

Scripture Verse: Habakkuk 6:17-18

Trust and Joy in the Midst of Trouble

“Though the fig tree does not blossom,
and no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails,
and the fields yield no food;
though the flock is cut off from the fold,
and there is no herd in the stalls,
¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
I will exult in the God of my salvation.”

Prayer:

Lord, there are times that it seems like I am all alone and that no one cares. There are times when life seems too hard and unfair. Help me in those times to remember the blessings you have given me so I can stand strong and rejoice in you. Amen.

Saturday, April 8

Scripture Verse: Ecclesiastes 9:11-12

“Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to the skillful; but time and chance happen to them all. ¹² For no one can anticipate the time of disaster. Like fish taken in a cruel net, and like birds caught in a snare, so mortals are snared at a time of calamity, when it suddenly falls upon them.”

Prayer:

Lord, life isn't fair. None of us can predict when disaster or hard times will hit in our lives. When they do, may we hold on to your promises and know that you will see us through. We may not be able to see the light in the midst of our darkness, but we know that we can trust in you and that you will help us to find a way out of our hardships and troubles. Help us to see your path and to put our trust and faith in you. Amen.