

Daily Family Devotions

please take the time to read it first.

FRIDAY

“JESUS OF NAZARETH — JOEY OF
WATTS — JOSE OF SOHO”

SCRIPTURE:

Psalms 118:5-14; Philipians 4:12, 13

How much impact do you think Jesus would have had as a spiritual leader, if He had been made to feel angry at the world, resentful because of His lack of opportunity, hostile because of the kind of town in which He had been forced to live . . . trained in revolt and revolution instead of being trained, as He was, in the things of God? Would these things have given Him the spiritual depth, the inner resources to rise above His surroundings and not be polluted by them?

It is very probable that God chose to have His Son develop under the most meager of environments so that none of us could hide behind such an excuse . . . Success in the midst of! How? Jesus was born in a borrowed manger, grew up in the home of a laborer, and was reared in a filthy, immoral town in which cleanliness and morality were virtually unknown. He never knew the security of wealth, higher education or a degree — yet who can match His life for power and sweetness!

If ever God had wanted to show us where the power and strength of living comes from — He did it once and for all through this Son of His! So why do we not recognize this truth? Why do we continue to try to change society, twist the arm of a perverse generation, work futilely in Satan’s own realm to change what can- not be changed? Christ concentrated on the individual hearts of men and gave them God.

Prayer: Lord, help me to follow Thine example and lead people to the power of the love of God in their lives. AMEN

SATURDAY

“ADDERS WHICH CANNOT BE
CHARMED”

SCRIPTURE:

Jeremiah 8:8-17; Acts 28:1-6

*(I Corinthians 10:13)

Sometimes it would seem that walking through life today is like moving through an acre of snakes. It is almost impossible for us, or our children, to escape an occasional “bite.”

The adder, unlike the cobra, apparently is not subject to mesmerization or “charming.” And the evils into which we go today, seem to be of the same brand: nothing we do seems to have any deterring effect on them: Is there no protection?

God always provides a means of escape* for those who trust Him, and in this case He has made provision, too.

We read as far back as Genesis — “the seed of the woman (Jesus) shall bruise the head of the serpent (Satan).” The first prophecy of Christian victory over evil. And this is precisely what Christ does for us!

If you desire immunity from a fatal disease, you accept the inoculation that gives protection. In much the same way, we accept the power of God’s Son in our hearts to give us immunity from the deadly effects of sin in our soul. This may seem too intangible, too mystical — but it works. It does not keep you from exposure to sin; it simply keeps you from its ability to destroy your soul, to become a part of you. Have you experienced it yet? It is there for you.

Prayer: Lord, for so long these words have meant nothing to me personally. Give them real meaning now that I may receive Thy blessing. (John 3:16, 17) AMEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2021

“CAN ANY GOOD COME FROM
NAZARETH?”

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 2:25-40; John 1:43-49; Hebrews 4:15

Few people today realize the irony in the title which Jesus bore: “Jesus of Nazareth,” the infamous town of such corruption that it was known through all Asia-Minor. Yet it was here God chose to place His young teenage Son. Why? And how did He survive to become such an example of strength and power and purity?

Our success does not depend upon the stress of outward pressure, but upon the inner strength and resiliency of the soul. Just as the body — or another vessel — can sustain great external pressure if the inner pressure is maintained in ratio, so the soul of any man can withstand incredible outward pressures of society or evil as long as his spiritual vitality is maintained.

God intended for Christ to prove this, and it was from *experience* that Christ continually stressed the heart (soul) of man, not the environment around him. You will notice that through His Son, God proved this over and over. He was born in poverty, raised in the midst of corruption, yet without sin.

And this same Christ in us can be all we need, can match pound for pound all the world may throw to us.

Prayer: Lord, every portion of Your life proves the power and beauty of a spirit committed to our Father. We long for such strength, for the clarity of soul, the single-minded abandonment to God in this chaotic world. AMEN

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TUESDAY

“THE TEST OF A MAN’S GOD”

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 10:16, 28-33; John 15:5-16

Most other major religions are religions of “withdrawal.” Christianity is one of involvement — totally.

Christ says, “I send you out, as sheep in the midst of wolves . . . in this world you shall have tribulation *but* — be not afraid; I have overcome.”

Yet isn’t it strange how often we pray for God to keep us from pain or financial disappointment and other feared situations? It is natural for us to seek protection from such calamities.

Yet Christ does not promise such protection; He does promise His presence in the midst of anything which might touch our lives. Peace in the midst of chaos; divine love in spite of social hostility; His comfort in the midst of pain . . .

And after all, isn’t this a more practical kind of faith? What good is a faith if in order to be effective, it must be removed from the human equation?

No, the Christian faith is based upon man’s utilization and acceptance of God’s power. It is a religion attesting to the power of its God, not the power of men. Other religions do stress man’s capabilities; Christianity affirms Christ’s sufficiency and a God who dared to become man in order to show His power *can* work today through ordinary lives in everyday living.

Prayer: Lord, as a child who learns to trust his father, so may I learn to trust Thy faithfulness and sufficiency for me. May I face anything with confidence because of You. AMEN

WEDNESDAY

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 1

“He walks in the presence of God —

who converses with Him in frequent prayer and daily communion;

who runs to Him in all of his necessities;

who asks counsel of Him through all his doublings;

Who opens all his wants to Him;

who asks remedy and support for his weakness;

who accepts His forgiveness, and who follows His commandments.”

Too often we stress God’s availability to us as though His love were fickle or inconstant, forgetting it is man who continually wanders away, man who hides, and then in his lostness and loneliness cries out against a God who was absent.

Man, in his indifference to that divine law and authority, time and again smashes the ship of his life on the rocks of disobedience and selfishness — and shakes his fist at a God who did not care.

It is never God who hides from us. He is always available to the man or woman who seeks His guidance and wisdom, who trusts His compassion and omniscience and who is not afraid to rest his life in the arms of such a God as ours.

Prayer: Lord, it is never You Who fails or proves unfaithful. May I always be aware of my position to Thee so that I may never wander from Thee or refuse Thy hand. AMEN

THURSDAY

“THE CAUSE OF THE WOUND”

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 14:1, 2; 10:4-11; Jeremiah 29: 12-14

If you were to describe the condition of the world today and what the major cause of its chaos is — what would you say it was?

You could agree with the majority of the people and say, “Poverty.” If you wanted to be classed with the intelligentsia, you might say “Ignorance and lack of education.” Or you could cast your vote with still others, to say that “environment holds the key.”

If you were a follower of Christ, you would say, “Separation from God”; you would recognize the state of the world as being one of spiritual sickness and starvation — for the chaos and misery extends deep into the classes of wealth and education.

But it isn’t easy to go against the sophisticated opinions of the crowd, is it? It is difficult to stand firm in the face of taunts of “old-fashioned, mid-Victorian, religious bigot.”

Yet if we are to read and re-read the admonitions of Christ, we must eventually come to the same conclusion: it is not “in the abundance of things which a man has” — but the condition of his heart or soul. The hopelessness and indigence, the inability of people to respond are merely symptoms of the deep spiritual malady of a people who do not know they are needed by God — *where they* are as what *they* are, as *who* they are. Unless we can give them this sense of spiritual prestige, we offer them nothing worth having.

Prayer: Lord, it is my relationship with You that makes the difference in my life. Help me to share this with men. AMEN