

**THE RESURRECTION JOURNEY**  
**WEEK #4 – JOURNEY OF REDEMPTION**  
**May 4 – May 10, 2009**

**MONDAY – May 4<sup>th</sup>**

**CENTERING BREATH PRAYER: Guide my feet...along the rocky path of life.**

*God of my salvation, your Son paid the supreme penalty for the remission of my sins. Guide my feet along the rocky path of life. Grant that I may not stumble or fall. Give me the grace to be your witness to those I meet on my journey and I will give you all the glory and honor. In your Son's Holy name, I pray. Amen.*

**SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:26-40**

**KEY VERSES: Acts 8:34-40:**

**(34) “The eunuch asked Philip, ‘Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?’ (35) Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. (36) As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?’ (38) And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. (39) When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. (40) Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea” (NIV).**

During the Lenten season, I read a Daily Devotional that really spoke to me called, Different Shoes, A Common Path. Matthew Harper, the author, is serving two concurrent sentences, a thirty-five year sentence for murder and a twenty-year sentence for arson, at the Greensville Correctional Center in Jarratt, Virginia. Matthew states, “though we walk in different shoes, we walk a common path.” Most of us will never be in Matthew’s shoes. I cannot even comprehend what would lead a nineteen-year-old man to murder his twenty-year old sister and then set fire to the house. Does this make me less sinful in the eyes of God? Not at all. My sins carry the same magnitude in God’s eyes that Matthew’s do. All who have accepted Christ are on a journey to redemption, the price of which has already been paid. Like Philip, in the text above, we can be open to opportunities to share the gospel with our fellow travelers even if it means taking some time from our own journey. Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He leads us to those to whom we can share our witness.

**ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES: Genesis 24:40a; Deuteronomy 2:7; Romans 3:23-24**

**QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND/OR JOURNALING:**

1. What temptations in my life cause me to stumble?
2. Have I been open to opportunities to be a witness for Christ?

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION:**

1. Spend some time reflecting on your areas of weakness. Are you tempted to stray from the path before you when you are with certain friends?
2. Ask God to open your eyes to areas of your life that may be hindering you in your walk of faith.
3. Ask God to put opportunities to witness in your path.

*Jesus, live in me daily. Sustain my faith when the path is rough and the journey is long. Remember me as you remembered the ancient Israelites in the wilderness. Cover my sins with your redemptive blood and I thank you for your sacrifice. In your sweet name, I pray. Amen.*

## TUESDAY – May 5<sup>th</sup>

**CENTERING BREATH PRAYER:** I will praise your name forever...my God and my Redeemer.

*God of my joy and my life, may I never forget to sing your praises, to thank you for your goodness and your mercy. I will proclaim your righteousness for all to hear. You are my source of life and the God of my salvation. May I dwell in your house forever. In your Son's Holy name, I pray. Amen.*

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 22:25-31**

**KEY VERSES: Psalm 22:30-31**

**(30) “Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. (31) They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn— for he has done it” (NIV).**

The Triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, alone is worthy of our praise and adoration. We were created to worship God and to be in relationship with him. Because of the saving act of Jesus on the cross, we are called to spread the Good News of salvation through Jesus the Christ and to continue praising God through all generations. If we stop spreading the Good News, how will future generations be told about the Lord? We need to be diligent in our mission that that the people yet unborn will have the opportunity to proclaim His righteousness also.

During this Easter Season, while the victory won on the cross is still on our lips, let us shout to the Lord all the praise that is due Him. Darlene Zschech's song: Shout to the Lord, expresses this beautifully,

“Shout to the Lord, all the earth,  
Let us sing  
Power and majesty, praise to the King;  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
At the sound of Your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,  
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand,  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.”

Hallelujah! Christ is risen! May we shout his praise forever!

**ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES: Psalm 71:23; Psalm 95:1;**

**QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND/OR JOURNALING:**

1. Reflect on all the blessings in your life. Make a daily list of the joys that you have through your relationship with Jesus.
2. Do you live your life in an attitude of gratitude?

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION:**

1. Commit to becoming a more joyful person.
2. Read one of the Psalms every day. Many of the Psalms express joy in the Lord and joy in our salvation.
3. Let those around you see and know the reason for your joy.

*Sweet, precious Lord, you fill my life with joy, in spite of the pain. I praise you because you are God and you alone are worthy of my praise. Fill me with all joy and peace that comes from knowing you. Let my life reflect the source of my joy. In Your Holy Name, I pray. Amen.*

## WEDNESDAY – May 6<sup>th</sup>

### **CENTERING BREATH PRAYER: By your grace, help me...to love as you love.**

*God of everlasting love, without your power, we can never love our neighbors as you have called us to do. Grant that we may find the grace to see others through your eyes and to love them with your heart. In your Son's Holy name, I pray. Amen.*

### **SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:7-21**

#### **KEY VERSES: 1 John 4:13-16**

**(13) “We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. (14) And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. (15) If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. (16) And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him” (NIV).**

Unless the Holy Spirit resides in us, we do not really know God. It is his Spirit that reveals the Word to us and gives us the power to live in relationship with Jesus. Without this relationship, we cannot love as we should. Sadly many of us, me included, are all too often, not loveable. Without the Spirit of God we will choose not to love those who may be difficult to love. It requires an inhuman love, one that you and I cannot work up without God. If you read 1 Corinthians 13, you will find that joy comes out of love and peace comes out of love. Verse 14 is the gospel witness. This message is the purpose of our love... “*we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.*” Christian love is not sloppy or sentimental. That kind of love belongs in romance novels. Christian love compels us to take Christ to a lost world. I have seen that on a Valentine’s card. Our journey to redemption calls us to a love beyond ourselves. It calls us to the love of God made manifest in us. Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He calls us to love as He loved us.

### **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES: 1 Corinthians 13; Galatians 5:22-23**

#### **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND/OR JOURNALING:**

1. Do I find myself showing love only to family and friends...those who love me?
2. What can I do to be more loving?
3. Is my life a ‘witness’ for Christ?

#### **SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION:**

1. Read The Four Loves by C.S. Lewis.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13 and see if you can see yourself in the verses.
3. Reach out to someone from whom you are estranged.

Loving Father, whose love has sent his son into the world to be our example of perfect love. Please grant me the best of your gifts, the power to love. Teach me to love, Lord, as You love, Make my love for others be greater by far than any love that is offered to me. Fill my heart with love for others. In Your Son’s Holy Name, I pray. Amen.