

# Lent Devotionals

## April 3 – April 7

### Day 24 – Read Luke 15

Keys. Books. Clothing. Toddlers. You name it, I've lost it. In fact, if losing things were an Olympic sport, I'd medal in it. And because I lose so much so very often, I completely understand the feeling of sweet relief and jubilation when the lost is found.

One of the greatest examples of this in my life was the day I thought I'd lost my daughter. After several minutes of desperate searching the house and backyard, I began to imagine the worst. Upon returning indoors to a visiting friend and asking if she had seen my daughter, I was greeted with an understanding smile. My friend asked if I was in fact searching for the child who I was carrying on my hip. Sleep deprivation had affected this mommy brain and I had just spent more time than I care to admit searching for someone who'd been in my arms the whole time.

Jesus cared deeply for the lost; that is why he came to earth. His mission in life and death was to seek and save the lost. "I tell you great joy breaks out in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life" (Luke 15:10). May we align ourselves with Christ's mission each day.

1. How do you intentionally practice authentic faith sharing?
2. Prayerfully consider new or additional ways you can diligently seek to share Christ's love with others.

Lord, give me the courage to make the most of every opportunity to humbly share God's love with the people you bring into my life. Amen.  
*- Amanda Rue*

### Day 25 – Read Luke 16

The Pharisees really loved money, so when they heard what Jesus said, they made fun of him. However, Jesus told them:

"You are always making yourselves look good, but God sees what is in your heart. The things that most people think are important are worthless as far as God is concerned." (Luke 16:14-15 CEV)

Lord, show me what I am treasuring that is worthless in your eyes. Lord, forgive me for wanting to have a good reputation, while you made yourself of no reputation. (Philippians 2:7-9) Forgive me for spending money unwisely. Forgive me for not being a good steward for your kingdom knowledge or resources. (1 Peter 4:10) Forgive me for ignoring the needs of others around me, even though you alerted me and gave me the resources to help someone else...but I just prayed, "Lord have someone else do it." (Matthew 25:35-46)

Lord, change my heart so that I step in and do it, without being bothered by what others think. (Psalm 56:4) Lord change me so that when you give me resources for someone else, I do not hoard it in fear that I will not have enough. (Luke 12:22-34)

Lord, teach me which of my "treasures" you find worthless. Help me to treasure what is truly important. (Matthew 6:19-21)  
*- Jen Einrem*

### Day 26 – Read Luke 17

**Servants don't deserve special thanks for doing what they are supposed to do. And that's how it should be with you. When you've done all you should, they say, 'we are merely servants, and we have simply done our duty.'** (Luke 17:9-10 CEV)

When I first read this, I was taken aback. We do not deserve special thanks for doing what we are supposed to do? I have noticed we Christians are willing to wear the badge of "servant," until we are truly treated as one.

We are totally willing to help clean up and do those “extra things,” if people recognize it and thank us. What about when no one even notices, or even worse, when no one says thank you? What should our attitude be?

Christ says, “The last will be first and the first will be last.” Christ bends low, comes off his kingly throne to wash the feet of his disciples (John 13:1-17) and he says he did that to show us what we should do for one another (John 13:15). So, as servants, what are we to do? We are to serve one another with Christ’s attitude.

Lord, help us to have your true servant heart. That which is not looking for special thanks, but that which says, “We are merely servants and we have simply done our duty,” (Luke 17:10) when we have done all that was needed.

*- Jen Einrem*

## **Day 27 – Read Luke 18**

**Then Jesus called them to him and said, “Allow the children to come to me. Don’t forbid them, because God’s kingdom belongs to people like these children. I assure you that whoever doesn’t welcome God’s kingdom like a child will never enter it.” Luke 18:16-17**

The simple things in life. Ice cream on a hot day, dripping down your chin. The feeling of motion as you go up and down, back and forth on a swing. Amazement seeing your first rainbow, as you realize that in the place where you have seen nothing but blue, God can create every color. The freedom to enjoy your day without a single worry. These are common memories for many of us.

But as we grow older, the simplicity of life seems to fade away, and our lives are taken over. As time goes on, we live busier lives with more demands. Your list of daily tasks, from what to make for supper, who needs to be picked up and when, how to accomplish your next big task at work, and when are the bills due can weigh on your body, mind, and soul. But in order to find the balance in life, we need to remember what life was like as a child. To remember how amazing God’s creation really is.

Find time to see life through the eyes of a child. Witness the splendor of God’s creation in a new way. Or, go get an ice cream cone and let it drip down your chin...

*-Aaron Van Ningen*

## **Day 28 - Read Luke 19**

In verse 19:46 Jesus was quoting Isaiah 56:7 when he said, “The Scriptures say, ‘My house should be a place of worship.’”

### **What is Worship?**

To me it is a total surrender that says: “God, you are so great, amazing, and bigger than any of my problems. God, you are so much greater than I. God, I need you in every facet of my life...”

It is a time of praising and singing of His goodness and ability to save me from anything. It is a time of prayer. It is a time to just sit in his presence and feel his goodness. It is also a time of just being in nature, or around people and being in total awe of the uniqueness and creativity that God showed in making the world and all within it.

### **Why is Worship so important?**

This week I had a vision when we were worshiping Jesus together at Legacy while singing the “Revelation Song”. When in the darkness of the worship center, I saw little rainbow colored electric balls of light coming down, falling like snow on all at the service. The falling light balls were revealed to be manna (the sustaining food that God provided the Israelites in the desert after their escape from slavery on their way to the Promised Land.)

That is when I realized that worship is not for God, but rather it is fully for us. When we totally worship Jesus with every part of us in spirit and in truth, we are receiving the sustaining manna from Heaven. It is the need to continually “eat” of this manna that will allow us to make the journey from the bondage of sin to freedom in Christ.

Just like eating, worship is not something we can do once and be done. Rather, it is something we need to do continually to be filled up and strengthened in spirit to make it to the next day.

When I look at this passage, I realize that is why Satan tries all he can to distract us in times of prayer and worship, because that is where our strength comes from. Take a moment now, and worship God. You will be so glad you did.

*-Jen Einrem*