

**Devotions – March 1-7, 2015**

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**Sunday, March 1**

Text: James 4:7b (NRSV)

**“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”**

I went to the County Jail for the first time in my life today. A friend and I met with a young fellow who may have been there more than once. This is one of the verses I felt led to share with him. In that much-loved hymn, “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”, we sing: *“One little word shall fell him.”* So, we have this super power at our beck and call. How often do we use it?

Let us pray: Dear Lord, You are always present in our lives. Right now. Never let me forget that your power is at hand. I only have to ask. Amen.



**Monday, March 2**

Text: Romans 8:28 (NRSV)

**“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”**

I love this verse! God can use EVERYTHING that has been, is and will be in my life! I should not fear anything. Not anything about me. Not anything that happens because of me or to me. What more redemptive thought could there be?

Let us pray: Precious Lord, I give it all to you. Use everything in my life, about my life, through my life as you wish. Amen.



**Tuesday, March 3**

Text: Matthew 11:28 (NRSV)

**“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”**

What is your first reaction when you are over-loaded with life’s cares? Sometimes, I sleep a lot. Sometimes I do everything but deal with them. I faithfully read my scripture each morning but keep mulling over my burdens. Just mulling. If only I could leave them with Him!

Let us pray: Dear Lord, You are so willing to carry my cares and woes! You know what to do with them! Help me come to you. Take them, Lord. Take them. Amen.



**Wednesday, March 4**

Text: John 11:35 (RSV)

**“Jesus wept.”**

Oh, those tears! They were for me. They were for you. Tears of love. Tears of grief. Tears of sadness. Can you feel them now, in this season of Lent? Let them wash over you, cleanse you from all unrighteousness. Then, look into our Savior’s eyes . What does He have for you there?

Let us pray: My Lord and my God, wash me. Set me free to live as You would have me live this day. Amen.



**Thursday, March 5**

Text: Romans 3:10 (KJV)

**“As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one.”**

One of the most impactful sermons I heard as a young teen humbles me fifty years later. “The foot of the cross is a level field, not a hill or a mountain,” Pastor Erickson explained. “We are all sinners in need of redemption.”

Let us pray: Dear Lord, Thank you for seeing us as all the same—sinners in need of redemption. Thank you for freeing us all the same. Amen.



**Friday, March 6**

Text: John 8:36 (NRSV)

**“So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”**

So, what does “free” here mean? What does “free” mean to you? It sounds good. It should be GREAT! But, consider this: if you are indeed “free” you might have to give up some old grudges, let go of some protections you have set up for yourself or cancel some debts that are owed to you. Do you still want to be free?

Let us pray: Precious Lord, I DO want to free. Show me how I can be free. Amen.



**Saturday, March 7**

Text: John 8:32 (NRSV)

**“...and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”**

On the surface, this sounds plausible and like a good thing. What if it means that you face the truth of some awful things that happened in your life? The truth is, Jesus can help you through it all.

Let us pray: Dear Lord, are there truths You want to set me free from? Walk through them with me, Lord. Set me free. Amen.

