

“Journey Together”
Discipleship Novena for St. Jude Parish
Chattanooga, Tennessee
November 2009, December 2009, January 2010

Before each daily passage from Sacred Scripture, pray:

‘Lord Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, Open my mind and heart to you’.

After each passage:

1. Silent Reflection
2. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
3. Closing Prayer

Day One: Nov. 16 / Dec. 7 / Jan. 11

John 13:1-17

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus realized that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to the Father. He had loved his own in this world, and would show his love for them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to hand him over; and so, during the supper, Jesus – fully aware that he had come from God and was going to God, the Father who had handed everything over to him – rose from the meal and took off his cloak. He picked up a towel and tied it around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet and dry them with the towel he had around him. Thus he came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered, “You may not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand. Peter replied, “You shall never wash my feet!” “If I do not wash you,” Jesus answered, “You will have no share in my heritage.” “Lord,” Simon said to him, “then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well.” Jesus told him, “The man who has bathed has no need to wash (except for his feet); he is entirely cleansed just as you are; though not all.” (The reason he said, “Not all are washed clean,” was that he knew his betrayer.)

After he had washed their feet, he put his cloak back on and reclined at table once more. He said to them: “Do you understand what I just did for you? You address me as ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and fittingly enough, for that is what I am. But if I washed your feet – I who am Teacher and Lord – then you must wash each other’s feet. What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do. I solemnly assure you, no slave is greater than his master; no messenger outranks the one who sent him. Once you know all these things, blest will you be if you put them into practice.

Closing Prayer: *Lord, enlighten me so that I might serve you and serve others in your name!*

Day Two: Nov. 17 / Dec. 8 / Jan. 12

Matthew 7:7-11

The measure with which you measure will be used to measure you...Ask, and you will receive. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened to you. For the one who asks, receives. The one who seeks, finds. The one who knocks, enters. Would one of you hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf, or a poisonous snake when he asks for a fish? If you, with all your sins, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to anyone who asks him!

Closing Prayer: *Lord, give me confidence in you!*

Day Three, Nov. 18 / Dec. 9 / Jan. 13

Luke 17:7-10

If one of you had a servant plowing or herding sheep and he came in from the fields, would you say to him, 'Come and sit down at table'? Would you not rather say, 'Prepare my supper. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink afterward'? Would he be grateful to the servant who was only carrying out his orders? It is quite the same with you who hear me. When you have done all you have been commanded to do, say, 'We are useless servants. We have done no more than our duty.'

Closing Prayer: *Lord, what a struggle! How can I look beyond my "duty" and see myself as your servant!*

Day Four: Nov. 19 / Dec. 10 / Jan. 14

Matthew 10:7-10

As you go, make this announcement: 'The reign of God is at hand!' Cure the sick, raise the dead, heal the leprous, expel demons. *The gift you have received, give as a gift.* Provide yourselves with neither gold nor silver nor copper in your belts; no traveling bag, no change of shirt, no sandals, no walking staff. The workman, after all, is worth his keep.

Closing Prayer: *Lord, you given all to me. Help me to see how to share these gifts with others!*

Day Five: Nov. 20 / Dec. 11 / Jan. 15

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' instruction and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. A reverent fear overtook them all, for many wonders and signs were performed by the apostles. Those who believed shared all things in common; they would sell their property and goods, dividing everything on the basis of each one's need. They went to the temple area together every day, while in their homes they broke bread. With exultant and sincere hearts they took their meals in common, praising God and winning the approval of all the people. Day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Closing Prayer: *Lord, how devoted was your early church, how self-less in their love for you and one another. Show me how to make their love my own!*

Day Six: Nov. 21 / Dec. 12 / Jan. 16

Matthew 18:19-20

Again I tell you, if two of you join your voices on earth to pray for anything whatever, it shall be granted you by my Father in heaven. Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst.

Closing Prayer: *Lord, as I join with others in prayer, let me know your presence!*

Day Seven: Nov. 22 / Dec. 13 / Jan. 17

Matthew 6:19-21 and Luke 12:32-34

Do not lay up for yourselves an earthly treasure. Moths and rust corrode; thieves break in and steal. Make it your practice instead to store up heavenly treasure, which neither moths nor rust corrode nor thieves break in and steal. Remember, where your treasure is, there your heart is also.

And -----

Do not live in fear, little flock. It has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom. Sell what you have and give alms. Get purses for yourselves that do not wear out, a never-failing treasure with the Lord which no thief comes near nor any moth destroys. Wherever your treasure lies, there your heart will be.

Closing Prayer: *Lord, help me to trust in your guidance. Show me my true treasures!*

Day Eight: Nov. 23 / Dec. 14 / Jan. 18

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

He said to me, "My grace is enough for you, for in weakness power reaches perfection." And so I willingly boast of my weaknesses instead, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I am content with weakness, with mistreatment, with distress, with persecutions and difficulties for the sake of Christ; for when I am powerless, it is then that I am strong.

Closing Prayer: *Lord, Paul is so courageous in his weakness; give me grace!*

Day Nine: Nov. 24 / Dec. 15 / Jan. 19

John 20:19-22

On the evening of that first day of the week, even though the disciples had locked the doors of the place where they were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood before them. "Peace be with you," he said. When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. At the sight of the Lord the disciples rejoiced. "Peace be with you," he said again. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Closing Prayer: *Lord, breathe on me!*

Other Possible Readings:

Mark 10:17-27

As he was setting out on a journey a man came running up, knelt down before him and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to share in everlasting life?" Jesus answered, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.'"

He replied, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my childhood." Then Jesus looked at him with love and told him, "There is one thing more you must do. Go and sell what you have and give to the poor; you will then have treasure in heaven. After that, come and follow me." At these words the man's face fell. He went away sad, for he had many possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" It is easier for a camel to pass through a needle's eye than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

They were completely overwhelmed at this, and exclaimed to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus fixed his gaze on them and said, “For man it is impossible but not for God. With God all things are possible.”

Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to give me my share of our inheritance.” He replied, “Friend, who has set me up as your judge or arbiter?” Then he said to the crowd, “Avoid greed in all its forms. A man may be wealthy, but his possessions do not guarantee him life.”

He told them a parable in these words: “There was a rich man who had a good harvest. ‘What shall I do?’ he asked himself. ‘I have no place to store my harvest. I know!’ he said. ‘I will pull down my grain bins and build larger ones. All my grain and my goods will go there. Then I will say to myself: You have blessings in reserve for years to come. Relax! Eat heartily, drink well. Enjoy yourself.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life shall be required of you. To whom will all this piled-up wealth of yours go?’ That is the way it works with the man who grows rich for himself instead of growing rich in the sight of God.

Tobit 4:11-19 (edited)

Alms are a worthy offering in the sight of the Most High for all who give them. “Be on your guard, son, against every form of immorality...

If you thus behave as God’s servant, you will receive your reward. Keep a close watch on yourself, my son, in everything you do, and discipline yourself in all your conduct. Do to no one what you yourself dislike. Do not drink wine till you become drunk, nor let drunkenness accompany you on your way.

Give to the hungry some of your bread and to the naked some of your clothing. Whatever you have left over, give away as alms; and do not begrudge the alms you give.

Seek counsel from every wise man, and do not think lightly of any advice that can be useful. At all times bless the Lord God, and ask him to make all your paths straight and to grant success to all your endeavors and plans. For no pagan nation possesses good counsel, but the Lord himself gives all good things...So now, my son, keep in mind my commandments, and never let them be erased from your heart.”

1 Timothy 6:6-12

There is, of course, great gain in religion – provided one is content with a sufficiency. We brought nothing into this world, nor have we the power to take anything out. If we have food and clothing we have all that we need. Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which drag men down to ruin and destruction. The love of money is the root of all evil. Some men in their passion for it have strayed from the faith, and have come to grief amid great pain.

Man of God that you are, flee from all this. Instead, seek after integrity, piety, faith, love, steadfastness, and a gentle spirit. Fight the good fight of faith. Take firm hold on the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your noble profession of faith.