

## **Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent, 2024**

### **Day 34, Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Centering**

Welcome to Daily Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent.

Today is Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Thank you so much for joining us for a moment of centering and prayer as we hear God's Word read from the Old Testament, the Psalms, and the New Testament every day of Lent.

Take just a few moments to gather and focus yourself.

Stop what ever else you have going on.

Close the door, turn off the TV, mute the cell phone...make these next few moments about you and the Lord.

Take 3 deep breaths, each time, holding the inhale for 5 seconds, then slowly exhaling.

When you are centered, begin to read.

#### **Psalm 119:9-16 (New King James)**

9 How can a young man cleanse his way?

By taking heed according to Your word.

10 With my whole heart I have sought You;

Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

11 Your word I have hidden in my heart,

That I might not sin against You.

12 Blessed are You, O Lord!

Teach me Your statutes.

13 With my lips I have declared

All the judgments of Your mouth.

14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies,

As much as in all riches.

15 I will meditate on Your precepts,

And contemplate Your ways.

16 I will delight myself in Your statutes;

I will not forget Your word.

#### **Isaiah 43:8-14 (New English Translation)**

8 Bring out the people who are blind, even though they have eyes,  
those who are deaf, even though they have ears!

9 All nations gather together,  
the peoples assemble.

Who among them announced this?

Who predicted earlier events for us?

Let them produce their witnesses to testify they were right;  
let them listen and affirm, "It is true."

10 You are my witnesses,” says the Lord,  
“my servant whom I have chosen,  
so that you may consider and believe in me,  
and understand that I am he.  
No god was formed before me,  
and none will outlive me.

11 I, I am the Lord,  
and there is no deliverer besides me.

12 I decreed and delivered and proclaimed,  
and there was no other god among you.  
You are my witnesses,” says the Lord, “that I am God.

13 From this day forward I am he;  
no one can deliver from my power;  
I will act, and who can prevent it?”

### **2 Corinthians 3:4-11 (Easy To Read Version)**

4 We can say this, because through Christ we feel sure before God.

5 I don't mean that we are able to do anything good ourselves. It is God who makes us able to do all that we do.

6 He made us able to be servants of a new agreement from himself to his people. It is not an agreement of written laws, but it is of the Spirit. The written law brings death, but the Spirit gives life.

7 The old agreement[a] that brought death, written with words on stone, came with God's glory. In fact, the face of Moses was so bright with glory (a glory that was ending) that the people of Israel could not continue looking at his face.

8 So surely the new agreement that comes from the life-giving Spirit has even more glory.

9 This is what I mean: That old agreement judged people guilty of sin, but it had glory. So surely the new agreement that makes people right with God has much greater glory.

10 That old agreement had glory. But it really loses its glory when it is compared to the much greater glory of the new agreement.

11 If the agreement that was brought to an end came with glory, then the agreement that never ends has much greater glory.

### **Prayer**

*(Pray this prayer or use your own words.)*

Almighty, to Whom no god was created before and Who will outlive all,  
I come to you during this season offering my whole heart.  
With my whole heart, I have sought You.  
With my whole heart, I have hidden Your Word inside me.  
And now, with my whole heart, I claim Your infinite mercy and never-failing love.  
These are two realities that bring my endless joy!  
As I take delight in You, O God, You also take great delight in me.  
Even greater!  
So thank You for Your Words.  
Thank You even more for Your love.  
Amen.

