

## Introduction To This Guide

These daily devotions are provided to encourage you to listen and reflect on how God is speaking to you during this Season of Lent. The question at the end of each day's contemplation is intended to foster further reflection and prayer throughout the day. In addition, space is provided for you to document your thoughts on how you hear God speaking to you at this time. May you be blessed and transformed through the Holy Spirit as you ponder God's word during this most holy of seasons. ++ *Provided by:* Community Missions Inc., 1570 Buffalo Ave., Niagara Falls, NY 14303, Phone: (716) 285-3403, [www.communitymissions.org](http://www.communitymissions.org)

### *Where Do I Begin?*

Begin each day with the Prayer of Illumination to help, prepare your heart to hear God's word for you. Read "to be formed and transformed rather than to gather information...Read with a vulnerable heart. Expect to be blessed...Read as one awake, one waiting for the beloved. Read with reverence."

Let us Pray a *Prayer of Illumination*:

All-Seeing One, above me, around me, within me —

**guide my vision as I engage with your sacred words.**

Look down upon me, look out from within me, look all around me.

**See through my eyes, hear through my ears, feel through my heart.**

God of Wisdom, touch me where I need to be touched;

and when my heart is touched, give me the grace to lay

down this Holy Book and ask significant questions:

**Why has my heart been touched by you?**

**How am I to be changed through your touch?**

All-Seeing One, I need to change, I need to look a little more like You.

**May these sacred words change and transform me.**

Then I can meet You face to face...when I shall be healed forever.

Your Word and the touch of your Spirit bring healing...

a healing that will last.

**O Eye of God, look not away.**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,**

**and put a new and right spirit within me. Amen.**

Adapted from *A Tree Full of Angels* by Macrina Wiederkehr [As quoted in *A Guide To Prayer For All God's People*, Job & Shawchuck, The Upper Room]

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT - Day 19

### *STAND FIRM*

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 8-10, 12-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did...We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer...So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

### *WILDERNESS WARNING*

The Apostle Paul reaches back into Israel's history to the event that defines them: their deliverance from Egypt and the 40 years of wilderness wandering that followed. Imagine being there and witnessing all of the plagues that God brought on Pharaoh, then the Passover, the parting of the sea, the water from the rock, manna, quails, the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. All of it, and yet they grumbled against Moses and tested God.

And God got totally fed up and told Moses his plans to "disinherit them" (Numbers 14:12) Moses pleaded with God to forgive them, and "then the Lord said, 'I do forgive, just as you have asked; nevertheless - as I live...none of the people who have seen my glory and the signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have...not obeyed my voice, shall see the land that I swore to give to their ances-

tors; none of [them] shall see it.’” (Numbers 14:20-23) They wandered in the wilderness and died there because they tested God too many times.

It is the same with us, our life goes better when we trust God. Then when trouble comes our way, God strengthens and guides us so that we are able to endure it. Paul warns, *Do not do as some of them did....don't spend your whole life in the wilderness, trust God and it will go well with you.*

### PRAYER

Help me Lord to trust in you, and when temptations come my way help me to lean on your wisdom and strength, and remember your faithfulness and love for me. Amen

### FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

When were you tested and God provided a way out?

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Visit [www.HopeForNiagara.org](http://www.HopeForNiagara.org) for more spiritual resources.

# Lent 2022 – Day 19

## A Guide for Devotion and Prayer



Return of the Prodigal, Rembrandt (1663-1669)

### THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT - Day 19 STAND FIRM



This week's devotional resource was written by Rev. Wendy Depew Partelow, President of the American Baptist Churches of New York State Board of Missions, and edited by Rev. Mark H. Breese of Community Missions. The content was created specifically keeping in mind the populations served by Community Missions.

#### REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

Scripture Verses are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), HarpurCollins Publishers, 1989.

The choice of Daily Scripture texts are taken from Lent & Easter, Wisdom from Thomas Merton, Linguori Publications.

<sup>i</sup> Paula Ripple, Growing Strong at Broken Places, as quoted in A Guide to Prayer for All God's People, Job & Shawchuck, The Upper Room, p. 255-6.

<sup>ii</sup> James M. Efird, in Jeremiah Prophet Under Siege, Judson Press, Valley Forge, 1979, p. 100.

<sup>iii</sup> Charles de Foucauld, Meditations of a Hermit, as quoted in A Guide to Prayer for All God's People, Job & Shawchuck, The Upper Room, p. 111.

<sup>i</sup> Richard J. Foster, Prayer, HarperCollins Publishers, 1992., p. 2-3

<sup>ii</sup> Henri J. M. Nouwen, Beloved: Henri Nouwen in Conversation, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007. p. 46,48,18.

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