

4th Day

Morning

Jesus answered him, “If you would be perfect [that is, have that spiritual maturity which accompanies self-sacrificing character], go and sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; and come, be My disciple [side with My party and follow Me].” (Matthew 19:21 AMP)

Do you realize what you just read? Do you know what kind of invitation Jesus is giving you? **The Son of God has invited you to come with Him!**

Think about that. Jesus is inviting you to walk by His side, *wherever* He goes:

To listen to His teaching and ask all the questions in your heart.

To meet the people He meets, to touch their lives as He touches them.

To watch the love grow in people's eyes as they encounter Jesus the Messiah, the King of kings.

To kneel beside Him and pray with Him.

To confess to Him when you feel beaten down by the world, when you lose heart.

To feel His comfort and encouragement.

To hear Him say to you, ***"I love you"*** and to say it right back to Him, over and over.

What an incredible life that would be!

Wait a minute. There's no "would" about it. This is not wishful thinking. This invitation is *real*. It's open. He's offering it to you. *Right now!*

Jesus didn't just speak these words to a few people in a long ago time and place. When He said these words, He thought about you. He wants *you* to come with Him.

You know *His* presence matters to you. It's time to understand *your* presence matters to Him. He's chosen you to be His disciple, and He won't stop speaking these words to your heart until you accept His invitation.

Does that mean you have to give up all that you have, right this minute? That you literally have to go and sell all your possessions? For most of us, the answer is no. But Jesus is asking you to consider what possessions, what obsessions, what aspects of your life stand in the way of your accepting His invitation. *What is holding you back from walking freely with Him?* What fears and doubts are getting in the way?

Jesus doesn't expect you to answer those questions by yourself. You need **Him** to show you what stands in the way. *Ask Him* – and don't be afraid of the answers!

Jesus won't turn your life inside out overnight. He knows exactly how to lead you, to take you gently through the changes you need in your life, so that walking forward in His invitation will come easily.

He won't drag you away from your life, or make you miserable! Jesus walks in **joy** and in the fullness of our Father's blessings! He wants you to walk with Him – *in the same blessings, the same joy!* He knows just how to make that happen for you.

All you have to do is tell Him you're ready!

*Lord Jesus, I want to walk by Your side, and be with You every minute of the day. I want to experience life through **Your** eyes, and I want to feel with **Your** heart. Whatever is holding me back from living completely in You, Lord, reveal those things to me through Your Holy Spirit. Open my eyes and my heart as only You can!*

I give my life to You, Lord Jesus. I trust You with my heart! I'm not afraid to be vulnerable to You, because You will never hurt me or abandon me. I'm asking You to start making changes in me, so I can walk more closely with You. Jesus, I love You! Thank You for being my Savior and my King. Amen!

For Reflection

1

What if you were there, when Jesus lived on the earth? What if He asked you to leave everything behind and follow Him? Describe what that might have been like for you.

2

List some of the areas in your life that are holding you back from completely giving your life to Jesus and following Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you which area you should work on next.

What are some of the ways you see this area affecting your daily life?

Start asking the Holy Spirit to show you how to grow in this area. *Remember, growth doesn't happen overnight.* Keep asking Him, and keep letting Him work in you. When He reveals a problem, it's not to condemn but to teach and help you to grow. ***It's okay to grow!*** Though the revelations might be painful, accept them with **joy** and thanksgiving – and with a humble heart that's ready to learn.

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“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message... Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” (John 17:20,25-6 NIV)

Jesus is calling you to kneel before Him – not in worship, but because He wants to pray for you. Let Him put His hands on your head. Look up at His face, look into His eyes. Let His love surround you. Listen to His words.

Jesus is praying for you!

Lift your hands and receive the blessing He gives you. Then reach out and touch your hands against His heart, and feel His love move through you.

If you still aren't sure Jesus thought about you during His life on the earth, let this one prayer erase your doubts forever. Before His Crucifixion, before his hours of agony praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, before He was beaten, before He bled His life out for you, Jesus called out to the Father on your behalf.

Jesus prayed for you.

Prayer is the most powerful thing anyone in this world can do. Prayer opens the way for God to work in your life, to do mighty things, to bring you into the fullness of what He created you to be. Prayer is faith and communion with God. Jesus knew that. And before He left this world, *He purposely prayed for you.*

Let that sink in.

Jesus, the Son of God. He was born into this world by the Holy Spirit. As He walked in this world, He was God in the flesh. He was resurrected and lives in eternity with God the Father. Jesus is divinity. He is the King of kings. He is perfect, He is Love, and He is forever.

His prayers are more powerful than anyone's. He knows the power of prayer. How prayer builds faith and brings life. How prayer changes *everything*. No one can pray for you like Jesus can. And while He was in this world, when He knew He had little time left, He spoke the most heartfelt and powerful prayer... for *you*.

Do you ever stop to think how many blessings you've received in your life, how much agony you've survived, or avoided, how many things have gone right that could have gone wrong, all because Jesus prayed for you?

Jesus prayed for you.

What does that mean to you? Have you told Him?

Read Jesus' prayer again – the whole prayer. Open your Bible to John 17 and read verses 20-26. Receive the words He prayed to the Father for you. Listen with your heart. Ask Him to show you how He interceded for you in that moment – and intercedes even now.

Ask Him to show you how He lifted you up to the Father. Held back the darkness with His own life. Said for every angel to hear: ***“This one is Mine!”***

Praise God for the love, mercy and grace that brought you to Jesus – *and that led Jesus to pray for you!*

*Jesus, my precious Savior... it blows my mind every time I think about how You prayed for me. You had so much on Your heart that day. Yet all You could think about was stopping to pray to the Father for **me** – that I would know His love forever, and be with **You** forever!*

Lord Jesus, I can't tell You what the words of Your prayer do to my heart. I love You, Jesus! As simple as my prayer is, I hope it will touch Your heart too. Thank You for praying for me. Amen.

For Reflection

1

How does it feel to know that Jesus prayed for you? Write your thoughts!

2

Who do you think Jesus prayed for when He was in this world? Think about the people close to Him. The people who tried to challenge Him. The people who hurt Him. Think about how He might have prayed for each one of them, and why. Write your thoughts.

3

If you knew you had only one day left in this world, who would you pray for today? What would your prayers be like? Will you pray for one of those people right now, letting the Holy Spirit guide you?

4

Is there someone in your life that is difficult to pray for? Will you ask the Holy Spirit to start guiding you in prayer for that person?

5

Have you thanked Jesus for praying for you? Will you take a few minutes to thank Him, and tell Him what His prayer in John 17:20-26 means to you? Just a few words from your heart, right now, will touch His heart more than you can imagine.

Evening

“Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.” (John 14:21 NLT)

With His words in this Scripture, Jesus gives amazing assurance. He promises God will love you, just because you love Jesus. What an incredible gift!

How does Jesus know you love Him? For one thing, you tell Him – as often as you can! More importantly, you show Him your love, in the way you keep His commandments.

It's not always easy to obey everything He teaches. The world gets in the way. Sometimes it takes all you've got just to get through the day. Jesus knows that. Whatever you experience in this world, He lived through it. He knows that without His help, you'll have trouble obeying His teaching. *He wants to help!* You have to let Him.

Nighttime is an excellent time for Jesus to work in you. He'll use your dreams to teach you His Father's ways. Through His Holy Spirit, He'll take you through situations and confront you with areas where you need growth. Whether you remember the dreams or not, they will shape the way you respond to Jesus when you're awake. They will deepen His work in your heart.

Jesus will use your sleeping time to strengthen you in spirit, to meet every need in your heart. You have needs so deep inside that you haven't discovered them yet; you only know the hurt, the confusion, the fears they bring. Jesus knows where those needs are. He knows how to walk you through them. He'll use your time of rest to do this. But you have to invite Him.

In His words above, Jesus promises to reveal Himself to those who love Him. *That's an awesome promise.* Start by letting Him reveal Himself to you as you sleep tonight. You will be amazed at the changes you see in yourself each day. You'll start to be more like Jesus in all that you do... all because you give your sleeping time to Him.

Lord Jesus, thank You for loving me first, before I ever loved You. Thank You for Your unconditional love. I know that when I fall short of the way You want me to live, You still love me; You are there to teach and correct, to help me grow to be more like You.

I also thank You, Jesus, for the chance to grow in my love for You, as I follow Your commandments, with Your help. I can't do it without You, Lord. Thank You that I don't have to do it alone. You are always there for me, Jesus. I am so humbled that You've invited me to follow You, and that You've given me all I need to become more like You. In Your awesome name I pray. Amen.

For Reflection

1

Jesus said, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”¹ In what ways are those two commandments difficult for you to keep? Look at the Ten Commandments (see Exodus 20) for examples of how these two commandments might be broken. Give a few examples.

¹ Matthew 22:37-39 NLT

2

Re-read the Scripture verse for this evening (John 14:21). The implication is that if you don't follow His commandments, you don't love Jesus. *How does that make you feel?*

Now read Jesus' words in John 15:16. *Jesus knows your heart.* He knows you *want* to love Him, but it's hard sometimes to obey all that He commands. You can't do it without Him – *He knows that!*

Take a few minutes right now and tell Him what's on your heart and why you need Him. If it's easier, write Jesus a note and tell Him how you feel. Be more honest with Him than you've *ever* been in your life. Then let Jesus speak to your heart and show you the depths of His eternal love for you. Remember, *He knows your life is hard.* Let Him guide you, so you can grow in your love for Him and grow in your ability to follow His commandments – *with His help.*

There is no greater feeling of freedom than walking in His love!

3

Are you willing to be completely vulnerable to Jesus, as He teaches you and transforms you through His Holy Spirit? What are some of the reasons you're afraid to be completely open to Him? Will you ask Him to minister to you in those areas? Will you trust Him with that?

4

Before you go to sleep, re-read the three Scripture verses for today. Listen to Jesus' words. Look into His eyes as He speaks them to you. Write down what He is saying to you.

5

Ask Jesus to protect you as you sleep. Ask Him to keep your dreams in His hands, and to use your dreams to reveal His wisdom and His love to you. Keep a journal by your bed, and when you wake up, write down what Jesus showed you in your dreams. Ask Him for understanding... and wait for it.

About the author

Janet Eriksson is a Christian inspirational writer, publisher and intercessor. She is active in [Dahlonega United Methodist Church](#), a Spirit-filled place of worship, fellowship, missions and outreach in north Georgia, where she is involved in intercessory prayer and worship dance. She is also active in the [Georgia Foothills Walk to Emmaus](#) community. Janet recently completed Lay Missionary Training with the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church, and [Elijah House School for Prayer Ministry](#) training at Dahlonega UMC; read her [Elijah House testimony](#), about the life-changing work our Lord Jesus did through this program! Janet leads workshops for Christian writers and is preparing to work in youth ministry through the United Methodist Church. You may contact her at jllynn.erik@gmail.com.

Jesus said, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you." -- John 15:16 (NKJV)