

My Life on Earth

As told by Jesus in Prophecy

By Maria Fountain – MLs 3546, 3548, 3561, 3604 7/06



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(Note: All of the text , unless otherwise noted, was given by Jesus in prophecy.)

God's Higher Ways

Was I born in a palace? No, I was born in a stable. Was I a flaming prophet from childhood? No, I took up the humble trade of a carpenter for years and years. Did the world rally to support Me when I began My ministry? No, I was despised and rejected, classed with the harlots and the drunks. Did I have a ministry that reached millions? No, mostly I had the humble ministry of teaching and training My twelve, and feeding the Words I received from God to whoever around Me would listen.

I did have a public ministry at times, when people flocked to Me because they were curious to see miracles or to get a free lunch, after they heard about My miracle of the loaves and the fishes. However, there were many times when My ministry was the quiet ministry of a teacher, just ministering to those who needed to hear My Words and training My disciples to carry on after I was gone. All the popularity was fleeting, and what lasted was the Word that I had sown. It was the teaching and the ministering that ended up bearing fruit in the lives of My disciples and that caused them to change the world and reach millions with My truth.-Humble beginnings, greater ends.

You see, My Father had a marvelous plan for Me, as I have for you. Through My life and ministry, humble, simple, and short-lived as it seemed, God has worked in countless millions of lives through the centuries. He has been glorified, and many have been drawn to Him, because I was willing to be despised and rejected of men. I simply obeyed what God told Me to do, despite the fact that the educated men of My day looked down on My methods. Many wanted to crown Me king and wanted

Me to deliver them from the bondage of the Romans, but it was not to be. They wanted to become a great, powerful, rich nation, with Me ruling over them, but God had a greater vision and plan.

Right Time and Place

I was in the world as you are in the world, a human being, but I was not of the world-and this realization gave Me great faith and conviction. Knowing that I had something far greater, something of great price, something to be treasured above all that any human could ever even begin to imagine or think, was cause enough to keep Me on a straight path. I cherished My place and the mission I had as a human being greatly, and did not want to let My Heavenly Father down, nor you.

I knew I had a mission-that of saving you-and this spurred Me on. My stakes were high, as your stakes are high. I knew that in My frail human hands I held great power, for I held the truth of Heaven. In My human hands was the future of mankind, and this awesome realization kept Me going and desperate to obey My Father's voice, and as I did, I learned and grew in wisdom and in stature.

I was different from others, and this was obvious to those who were of understanding. I was the Light. "The light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" (John 1:5). You, My children, are also different from those of the world, for I fill you with the light of My Spirit. As a city set on a hill, My light in you cannot be hid. I came to Earth on a mission from My Father in Heaven to bring the light to others, just as I send you, My children, on a mission to tell others of the glories of My Heavenly Kingdom that is soon to come on Earth.

I was a man of sorrows because I grieved over the corruption and perversion that reigned in the world. I grieved for the lost and the lonely and the needy in spirit. But at the same time, I rejoiced, for I had the light of Heaven in My heart. I was sorrowful, yet always rejoicing, for I knew the glories of Heaven and I knew that what My Father was asking of Me was worth every ounce of sacrifice required on My part.

I was serious about life, but that doesn't mean I didn't have a joy in serving My Father in Heaven and doing His will. My joy was

true, lasting joy, My fun was true fun, and My pleasure was pure pleasure-unadulterated with the poison of Satan, for by Heaven's grace and intervention I rejected his lies, and he had to flee. I reveled in the freedom of the Spirit, and this is what carried Me through.

As I grew in wisdom, I grew to learn the importance of knowing that there is a time and a place for all things. A time to laugh and a time to cry. A time to let loose and a time to hold back. A time to party and a time to refrain from making merry. A time to relax and a time to be sober and to think about the world. A time to minister to the multitudes and a time to zero in on the individual-attending to someone's personal needs. A time to pour out to others and a time to pull back in solitude and prayer in order to refresh and refuel and receive clear vision and recharging from Heaven.

Strength in Stillness

There is great strength in stillness, for "in quietness and in confidence lies your strength" (Isaiah 30:15b). My children, do not take lightly the great importance of this wisdom, for indeed it is of great worth.

I had to pass time in prayer and in communion with Heaven, seeking My Father diligently, in order to receive His anointing, His holy consecration, the infilling of His power and strength for each and every major task I was faced with.

Why did I have to pass this time in prayer and in meditation, alone and in quiet? Because in Me, that is, in My flesh, I could not win the battle. The flesh was not capable of winning the battle in spirit; therefore, if I was to win, I had to have this time. I had to receive the anointing in spirit first. Only through this time alone with My Father was I able to receive the full strength in spirit that only He could give, to win the battle.

The battles I fought, though manifested in the flesh, were battles in the spirit, just as your battles in this Endtime, though manifested in the flesh all around you, are battles in spirit, and thus they must be won in the spirit. The only way I could win My battles was to draw on the strength of Heaven, and this could best be done by starting out in prayer and in supplication to My Father for the anointing and the power to

carry on.

When I walked on Earth, having this time alone with My Father in prayer and supplication for My needs was the only way I was able to find success, for in My flesh I did not have strength.

This private time to win the battle in spirit first is what caused Me to triumph, and so it is with you, My children. It was in these times alone with My Father that I was able to give Him My full, undivided attention; likewise, in these times I was able to receive more fully from Him, without the distraction and disturbances of others around.

The servant is not above the Master, My children, and if it was necessary for Me when I walked in the flesh, so it is necessary for you.

I had to get alone and quiet with My Father for each commission that He gave Me; otherwise I would not have had the strength to carry it through. I would not have had the anointing and the power to see the purpose and wisdom in what He was asking of Me each time had I not first stopped and received the power from on high. I would not have even known what I was to do. I would not have had the direction. For it was there, in those quiet moments, that I received the direction and My instruction on which way I was to go.

As I was alone in prayer in the wilderness, I received My commission to launch out into My public ministry. It was at the foot of the mount, as I rose up early to pray, that I received instruction as well as the anointing to go and preach to the multitudes. It was there, as I had prayer and held vigil with My Father, that I was filled with faith to work the miracle of the five loaves and the fishes.

It was while I was alone and in the quiet of the early predawn hours that I received the anointing to preach the Sermon on the Mount. It was while I was alone in the Garden of Gethsemane that I was consecrated by My Father, sanctified and anointed with oil from Heaven, which gave Me the power to follow through and die on the cross so that you could be saved. It was in the garden in those midnight hours, as I held vigil with My Father, that I was filled with the faith and determination of God-the faith to stand true, the determination to not falter, the conviction to look Pilate in the eye and not waver in My resolve as I announced that My Kingdom was not of this world.

It was there as I passed the hour in prayer that I received

faith and patience to walk the road to Calvary. It was there in that garden of prayer that My heart was filled with love to overflowing so that I might have love enough to forgive even those who pierced My hands and feet and crowned Me with thorns. It was there in the place of prayer that I received full preparation of faith and strength and power and the full anointing to finish the task that lay before Me.

Everything I did, all My accomplishments, all the victories, every success, began in the quiet moments, in the secret chambers, while I was alone with My Father. Why? Because this is when and where I received not only the commission, but the anointing and the power to go and fight and win the battle.

I did not try to fight the battles by Myself, and neither should you. I knew I couldn't make it on My Own. In the flesh, I knew I was weak, for this is the way of the flesh. In the flesh, it was not in Me, just as in your flesh it is not in you. In the flesh, it was impossible to win the battle of spirit; therefore, if I was to win, I had to have the full anointing and firepower of the spirit first and foremost.

Did I not defy all the power and might of the arm of flesh of man? I did indeed, for I won the battle in spirit first and foremost, so that victory in the battle of the flesh followed. I won the victory in both spirit and flesh. In spirit, by saving your souls through My death and crucifixion and atonement; in flesh, by conquering death itself by rising from the dead.

Only as you reach out for the Spirit of God and the mercy of God will you find success, and this is why you must get alone in prayer and supplication before the battle. I had to do it when I was on Earth, and so must you, My children, if you are to win. As the real battle is waged in spirit, so it is in the spirit that you must receive the consecration from My hand in order to fight through and win. This is why, as I did, you must have this time alone with Me before you launch out on each new venture or mission.

Each time an important task lay before Me, I had to go to My Father and implore Him for His help and His mercy and His strength to carry it out. This was the only way I could make it and the only reason I had success. I had to get alone with Him and win the battle in spirit before I could go out and demonstrate His power before all men.

If the battle were in the flesh, it would be possible for those

strong in the flesh to win. But because the battle is not in the flesh but the spirit, you must come to Me. As I went to My Father for help and mercy, for strength and power to do each major task He set before Me, so must you.

Receiving God's Guidance

How was I able to know what the right decision was in each situation, and then make that decision?-By making listening to My Father the cardinal and unbreakable rule in My life. Every action I took, each choice I made, was the right one, the humble one, the perfect one, because it was the one My Father wanted Me to make.

Although being faithful to ask Me about everything may seem difficult and impractical to you, what you need to realize is that it doesn't have to be a long and in-depth process every time. The Spirit is broadcasting all the time-all you have to do is learn to turn on and tune in. Doing so is vital to the success of your personal mission on Earth, just as it was to Mine.

Of course, learning to hear clearly from Heaven sometimes takes time and practice. It doesn't always come easily; it requires discipline and concentration in order to focus and to receive, and it can sometimes be a real fight in the spirit. It was for Me; that was something I had to get desperate about and fight for too. What do you think I was doing those 40 days and nights after I was baptized by John, other than being tempted by the Devil? (See Luke 4:1-13.) I was getting desperate with My Father and learning to tap into His strength and Spirit. I was learning how to hear from Him; I was learning and practicing the art of full possession.

Full Possession

(Mama:) The Lord wants to live, think, and move within us, and He calls this "full possession." In order for Him to have full possession, we must not only give Him our mind, but also clear our mind and thoughts of all that is not of Him, of all that is of the world and linked to the things of the world or our own worldly nature. This full possession will allow the Lord to use us in the future to perform miracles for Him. He has said that when we allow Him to fully possess us, anything will be possible.

Being fully possessed by the Lord is not something that happens overnight. It's a step-by-step process and takes time. Here are some of the things that you can do on a daily basis to put you on the path of full possession:

- * Spend time in the Word.
- * When something is not according to the Word, shun it.
- * Be instantly obedient, and stick to your convictions regarding what's right or wrong.
- * Hear from the Lord in prophecy. Let Him speak to you regularly.
- * Be humble, and give the Lord the glory at every opportunity.
- * Don't get sucked into the influences of the world-its media, entertainment, values, materialism, carnal-mindedness, etc.
- * Praise the Lord at every opportunity.
- * Be more loving and giving.
- * Be a faithful witness.

(Jesus:) If you are going to use the full power I have given you, I cannot share your thoughts with the carnal mind. I cannot perform mighty works through you in coexistence with the mind of man-for this hinders, it sets back, it stifles My Spirit from fully and completely performing great feats through you. It prevents you from activating the full capacity of spiritual powers that are at your disposal.

If you are going to work greater miracles, if you are going to fulfill your destiny, you must be Mine. You must be wholly, totally, completely possessed by Me, and in order to do this, you must put on My mind. You must more fully think My thoughts. You must allow the spirit of My mind to become one with the spirit of your mind. Your brain must be My brain. You must put on the totality of the mind of God.

There are no earthly words to adequately describe what I prepare for you who, yielding your all to Me, allow Me to fully possess you. To you is exceeding great and awesome eternal glory! For you I prepare My greatest and rarest rewards and gifts! So stunning are

these rewards that I can only give them to those who pass the greatest tests, who give Me their all without reservation, without hesitation.

(From "Full Possession," ML #3376:35-36, 55, GN 973.)

I knew that if I couldn't tap into My Father's Spirit and receive instruction and guidance from Him, I'd never make it. I knew full well that it would never be possible to accomplish My purpose and perform My Father's will in each circumstance I would be in, in each situation I would be faced with, if I didn't have a direct, strong link with Him.

You may assume that being able to hear from My Father was a completely natural thing for Me, that it was just second nature to Me, a part of My makeup, because I was the Son of God come to Earth. But that wasn't the case. It was very much something I had to get desperate about and work at. The Enemy fought it tooth and nail; it was an intense fight in the spirit and didn't come easy.

Does it seem odd to you that I wasn't always able to hear My Father's voice automatically and without any obscurity whatsoever? What you have to understand is that My Father had to allow Me to feel somewhat disconnected from Him at first, because connecting had to be something that I had to learn how to do, something that I had to fight for. I had to take on your nature and experience your weaknesses to understand the difficulties you'd be faced with, so that I could help you overcome them.

I was working with My Father, just as you work with Me today. I had to tap into His power. I couldn't do it on My Own; I didn't have all of the wisdom of Heaven with Me by osmosis, just as you don't today. I had to ask for it, I had to suck for it, I had to be yielded to receive it, just as you have to do today.

When I came to Earth, I underwent a sort of memory wipe. I couldn't have gone through what I needed to go through, and have learned what I needed to learn in order to be your High Priest, if I had been all-knowing at the time and had never needed My Father's help, and had never felt what it was like to be in need of answers, guidance, and instruction. I had to go through what you go through.

Of course, it eventually came easier to hear from Heaven once I learned what steps to take in order to break through in

spirit and receive. But even when I became proficient in it, there were times when the answer or direction didn't come in an instant, when it was still a battle to receive, and it wasn't just "all clear" the moment I asked.

The first example that comes to mind was when the Pharisees brought the adulterous woman to Me, asking, "Master, what should be done with this woman?" I knew they were testing Me and that they were out to get Me with that question, and I didn't know how to answer it. I couldn't rely on My Own wisdom or experience, nor did I receive the answer from My Father right away, even though I asked. That was the hardest part and was a big test for Me. Would I panic? Would I go ahead in My Own reasoning? Or would I simply not answer and walk away? What was I to do? I did not know. *I will wait. I will be still in faith and wait for My Father, and I will trust.*

Those moments seemed like hours to Me, and to those around Me as well.-To My disciples who wondered inwardly if I had the answer to such a controversial question; it seemed like a lose-lose situation, and their faith in Me was tested. To the scribes and Pharisees, who were impatient and pressed Me, as they were eager to trap Me in front of the people. To the crowd around Me who were keen to mete out judgment. And to the woman whose faith was also deeply tested, as she awaited her sentence.

It was a life-and-death situation, and the pressure was on. I was tempted to give in to the huge amount of pressure I felt to "deliver." But I waited for the guidance of My Father. I waited quietly and patiently for the voice of the Lord. I waited in faith, knowing that My Father would not fail Me if I did not fail to do as He had commanded.

Then the answer came! My Father spoke, and then it was clear, and what a relief that was! It was the perfect answer and was the right thing to do. He instructed Me to say, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." And because no one there was without sin, no stones were thrown that day, and I forgave the woman's sins. (See John 8:3-11.)

You see, much like you, I had no great wisdom of My Own, save that which I received from the Father. For every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of Lights, with Whom can be no variableness, neither shadow of turning (James 1:17).

"Let every man be swift to hear and slow to speak" (James 1:19). Only once you've received My direction, then proceed in faith. Once you're sure it's what I'm showing you to do, don't be afraid to do it. Ask Me for My anointing, and then go in faith, trusting that it will bear the right fruit in your life, and in the lives of those around you.

Simplicity Rules

The best answers are the ones that are the simplest. The truth is always simple. My love is simple. My answers are simple. When you're witnessing, don't be afraid to answer complex questions with simple answers. No one can ever cover all aspects of any given topic in one answer. Many people, in trying to be so complicated, miss the point completely. So it's better to stick with simplicity-that's the way I am.

That's the way I answered when I was on Earth and face to face with difficult, tangled, or even complex questions. I was a witness and sample of My Father's love. I demonstrated My Own love. I told the truth. That kept things very simple, and answered the most important points.

Desperation Gets Results

When the woman with the issue of blood dragged herself through the crowd to wait in anticipation of My passing and reached out to touch the hem of My garment, that was desperation. She had no other hope. All that remained of her faith and strength was focused totally on that action.

Perhaps you don't have a clear picture of that event. This woman was not just being carried around on her bier. She didn't just get up and stroll over, casually waiting to touch Me as I passed by and then say, "Oh, how nice, I feel much better now." This poor woman had been bleeding for many years. Her body was emaciated. Her ability to walk had long passed.

This precious one had to literally drag her half-dead body across the ground, through the thick crowd, in agonizing pain to reach Me. It was frightening for her. She could have easily been trampled upon. All she could think of was the hem of My garment that she was determined to reach. She knew that if she could only touch the hem of My

garment, she would be healed. She was desperate and she had faith.

She had a level of desperation that many have never even imagined. Even to reach out those inches to touch some part of My garment required tremendous effort on her part. It was her sheer desperation, born of faith, that wrought the miracle. Her need was so tremendous. This is why, at her touch, I felt the power of the Father flow through Me and into her. Her desperation evoked an equally strong bolt of the Father's power and Spirit that was channeled through Me, to her (Mark 5:25-34).

It was blind Bartimaeus' pitiful cries which could not be silenced, cries of desperation from a tortured soul, desperate to be freed from the bonds of blindness, that drew Me to him and worked the miracle of his healing (Mark 10:46-52).

It was the desperation of the friends and family of the man with the palsy, watching him slowly shriveling up in agonizing pain, that prompted them to break a hole in the roof when they could not reach Me any other way, using every ounce of effort they could muster to bring him into My presence (Mark 2:1-12).

It was the utter desperation of many down through history who in times of great anguish or trial have cried out in desperation to Me and have received miraculous answers to prayer in direct response to the desperation of their heart.

What People Need Most

There were many times when I wished I could have done more, when I saw the multitudes and was moved with compassion upon them, because they fainted and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd; when I lifted up My voice and cried, "Oh, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how oft would I have gathered you under My wings, as a hen gathers her chicks, but ye would not" (Matthew 9:36; 23:37).

I felt a burden, a despair, a heavy feeling in My heart-longing that all the problems, all the hardships, all the pain, could just be lifted and taken away, but I knew that this was not the answer. Sure, I could heal some, and I could perform miracles to feed the hungry sometimes, but that was not the world's greatest need. These miracles were what they needed to see so that they could believe My Words and know that a prophet had been among them. But their greatest needs were not these physical things, although they certainly seemed the most desperate and immediate needs. Their greatest need was to know that God loved them, that I loved them.

They needed to know that God was not some Pharisee or Sadducee or rabbi who constantly quoted laws and rules and regulations. They needed to see God as their Father, a kind and loving Father, One Who loved them more than they knew, and Who longed to set them free from the dry letter of the law, the ritual sacrifices and ceremonial offerings, and give them the certainty of salvation.

That is why He sent Me to you, to feel your pain, to know your burdens, to be touched with the feelings of your infirmities, and finally, to give My life for you, that by My blood you would live, by My broken body you could be healed, by My sacrifice you could be set free from the burdens of sin, and translated into the Kingdom of God.

This was the salvation you needed most-freedom from that spiritual bondage of the soul, even more than healing from the nagging afflictions of the flesh.

With My Disciples

When I was on Earth, I was a great teacher and My disciples revered My Words. They respected Me and loved Me. However, My Words and My shepherding were not the only things I provided for them. I gave them My heart, I gave them My time, I gave them My friendship. The Bible doesn't record all the times we just enjoyed each other's company.

We had such great times-times of relaxation, times when we would tell stories; times when we would laugh; times when we would talk about their families; the things we liked; the things we wanted to do; our dreams, our aspirations. It was during those times spent together that we grew closer. They saw that I had not come to Earth only to speak My truth and message, but I had come to get to know them, to find out about their hearts, what they thought, how they felt, and to show them that I, too, was a man of similar passions.

My disciples saw that I was someone who could understand their own lacks, failings, and weaknesses. I saw them, understood them, and they were My friends, those I had entrusted with continuing the mission that I had come to Earth to fulfill.

Friendly Treatment

A policy that you should take as your own is one that I personally practiced when I said, "I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth: but I have called you friends" (John 15:15). If you become more communicative, friendlier, and more approachable, you will be more like Me. While I needed time alone with My Father, My disciples knew they could seek out My assistance, counsel, support and prayer as often as they needed it. I was Shepherd and Friend, Savior and Brother.

Standing Out from Society

During the 40 days I spent in the wilderness (Mark 1:13), I fought one battle that was not recorded. One of the things I had to fight the hardest during that time was the realization that as I stepped out to serve the Father and fulfill My destiny, I would be placing My earthly family in an awkward position. I knew My mother would stand by Me in the end, but I also knew that she would be torn. I knew My brothers would have to turn away from Me in order to save face in their community. And I knew My mother would be torn between what they complained about concerning Me and what she knew was God's will in My life.

It is not unusual for only one or maybe two members of a family to rise above the norm and be different and unique. I often have allowed this type of situation to sift My children. I was sifted in the same manner, so I understand how difficult and trying it is. I know how to overcome, because I fought this discouragement in the desert, and with My Father's help I won. And now I wish to give you that strength of vision as well.

In the wilderness I cried out to My Father to renew My vision and bolster My faith. I asked Him to show Me what would happen if I yielded to My brothers and the way they were pulling Me. He did. He showed Me clearly. One was a path that led to eternal life for My brothers and all of My loved ones, including you. The other was a life of clay, being one of the ants in the anthill, not making enough difference to be remembered for more than a generation after I died.

Priorities - Putting God First

When I was on Earth and I was full swing into My ministry, I had to seek My Father for the right attitude on how to interact and communicate with My earthly mother and father, and My brothers and sisters. I found that a prophet has no honor in his own land and among his own kinsmen (Mark 6:4). The familiarity was strong with those who watched Me grow up, and when the Holy Spirit descended upon Me and I received the anointing for My ministry, it was still difficult for those who had known Me all my life to look beyond the flesh. They had always thought of Me in a certain way, as a lowly carpenter and nothing more. Their unbelief was great, and because of this I couldn't do mighty works among them (Matthew 13:53-58).

I tried to deliver the message to My Own kin, but when it became apparent they were not going to change, I had to seek My Father for the right perspective regarding My flesh-and-blood relations. He helped Me see that "My mother and brethren are those who hear the Word and do it" (Luke 8:21). When I came to this realization, I was then able to establish My priorities. There were times when I simply had to tell My relatives that I had to be about My Heavenly Father's business.

As My Father told Me, I tell you today: If you don't love Me far more than your own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, or sisters-even more than your own life-you cannot be My disciple (Luke 14:26). And to love Me far more than all these others is to put Me first in every area of your life. It's to do My will-to preach My Gospel and be about My work, rather than spending too much of your time socializing with those who have no intention of doing My will, or who want to pull you away from doing it.

With few exceptions, those of your flesh and blood will be a pull in the wrong direction. Mine were, and in getting My priorities straight, I had to often put off seeing them, as you can see in My Word. My mother and brethren came to Me one day while I was preaching to a large crowd, and My disciples told Me that they wanted to speak with Me. I responded that My mother and My brethren were those who hear the Word of God and do it, and I went about My more important work of preaching the message I was sent to preach (Mark 3:31-35).

It's not that I didn't love My mother and My brethren. I loved them dearly. But I knew that what was most important, even more

important than My fleshly ties, was obeying My Father in Heaven, doing His will, proclaiming His truth, and fulfilling the mission I came to Earth for.

Honor Your Parents

Even though I had difficulties with some of My family, others of them came through and supported Me. At times My mother did not understand why I did not give her more honor, the kind of honor that other sons bestowed on their mothers. My mother did not understand why I did not honor her by being more of a support to her in the natural, as other sons were.

The care that sons gave to their -mothers was a sign of their honor. So because I had to be about My Father's business, and was called to travel around in service to Him, I wasn't able to serve her and be there for her as she would have liked Me to. But because of the sacrifices she made in allowing Me to serve My Father in Heaven, she received greater honor from Him.

Honor your parents for their sacrifice in giving you to Me, even though they might not understand or totally agree with you on some things.

Strengthening a Family

My Own flesh family had to go through persecution with Me. They had to hear the accusations of My accusers. They witnessed the progression of My ministry, heard My words of truth, saw the miracles and healings and deliverances at the hand of My Father, all the way up to My persecution, betrayal, and execution. They suffered when I suffered because of their love for Me, but it was necessary so that they could be firmly convinced in their own mind that I was the Son of God. They were given the privilege of witnessing My persecution for their own sake, for their faith's sake, because no one else would have been crucified for the sins of the world, except He Who was destined to as the Son of God.

Persecution was a testimony to My flesh family that I was Who I said I was. It hurt them, it caused many troubles in their life, but in the end it strengthened their faith more than ever.

Mary and Martha

Mary sat at My feet, hearing My Words and loving Me. Martha meanwhile was rushing about. I said to her, "Thou art troubled with many things" (Luke 10:38-42). What did I mean? The many things were all the jobs and busy things she had her eyes on-so much to do, and the work never -ended! Why was she troubled by them? Because she thought in her own carnal reasoning that if she didn't do it, who would? No one. Thus she needed to do it.

She left Me out of her reasoning. She gave her work top priority, so she had to trust in her own logic about the situation. She left out the fact that through the workings of the spirit, I and My heavenly helpers could intercede and come to her aid and work out what I call those "other things," and what she called "priorities."

She had her eyes on the flesh and her mind in the carnal realm, and she forgot about the spirit. How could she forget about My marvelous Spirit after all the wonders of the Spirit she had already seen? Because she got her eyes and mind off Me. She was looking at everything else around her, and getting herself in a tizzy about things-caught up in a whirl of her own righteousness, of how she thought things should be, and even how she thought I wanted things to be-but she wasn't attuned to what I really wanted: her time and attention.

Martha did have the right idea about caring for others and loving them, and wanted to show Me that love through her works-except that I had something very new and special that day to add to the depth of her faith and spiritual experience.

As I shared with Mary about how important it was that we not get entangled with the things of this world so we can keep our eyes on Heaven and rise above, Martha was running around being the dandy bad example of everything I was teaching Mary that day. As Mary gazed into My eyes in wonder and understanding, swimming deeply in the cool waters of My Spirit, never wanting to leave that place in time or space-that's when Martha could stand it no longer and interrupted-"Jesus, ask Mary to help me! She's just sitting there. Don't You care about me?"

Our dear sweet original Martha has learned so much since that famous example that has gone down in history-both on Earth and since

coming to Heaven. She is now one of My many "Marys" in Heaven. She doesn't feel bad when people quote the example of her mistake from the Bible, because she wants to do anything possible to help others not to make the same serious mistake of putting the Master's service before the Master. You'll be so amazed when you meet her Here-you'll wonder indeed, "Is that you, Martha?" for she has overcome. She puts loving Me and spending time with Me in first place. She's a wonderful example to many.

The Dark Roads

What gave Me the compassion, the understanding, the desire to be your High Priest? How could I have ever totally understood what you go through each day? How could I have understood the pain of loss, of defeat, of the frustrations you feel over your own weaknesses and failings? How could I have understood the depths of sorrow and loss over losing one you care deeply for? I loved you from the foundation of the world, but I never fully grasped the depths of what you went through until I came to Earth and I lived that life and felt those agonizing lacks.

It was not until My heart was shattered at feeling cut off from the One I loved above all-My Father-that I fully understood your need and the battles you face. This is something that you cannot gain through observation. Such total comprehension of this comes only in the depths of your heart, and you can only gain this by personal experience. When you weep in anguish at what you see as the loss of the things most dear and precious to you, you then understand the full meaning of loss.

But there's a bright side to this. I went through the experience of being separated from My Father, yet in the end I became closer to Him than ever before, just as you will grow closer to Me as a result of the difficulties you face in life, or your failures. Through these times, I give you the privilege to gain the most priceless gifts: true depth of compassion, the full understanding of the heart, and the ability to relate in a way that can only come from the deepest reaches of your spirit.

Don't you think that if He could have, the Father would have come down and taken My place on the cross? The agony He felt at seeing what I had to suffer was every bit as painful for Him as it was for Me. But had He done so, He would have robbed Me of My bride-you! He would have taken away My crown, because it was in going through what I went through that I am now able to rule and reign and love you in a way that I

could not have otherwise.

Did I not take some of My greatest disciples down some of the darkest roads in preparing them to do mighty things? Did I not take Peter down the road of the ultimate shame in denying he even knew Me, before turning him into a fearless witness and worker of miracles in My Name? Were not Mary Magdalene, Matthew, Zacchaeus, and others, at the extremes of being far off in sin and failure in the eyes of man? Yet I turned them into great testimonies of faith and transformation in My time.

I can do the same today. Those who are sinners and failures in the eyes of the world are not beyond hope and My transforming power. And even when you're in the depths of despair, going through dark and difficult experiences, I can bring you through and make you an even better follower of Me, closer to Me than you have ever been before.

Visions of Victory

As I launched out in My ministry, as I went around everywhere trying to do good, as I was faced with the need, My faith was tested. I continually had to look to My Heavenly Father for answers, for solutions, for leading and guidance, and this is what kept Me strong.

In the midst of battle was when My faith flourished and I grew in stature and in wisdom. I grew to love the battle, because I knew I was fighting for you—for your heart, for your soul, and for your life, and no price was too high to pay. I knew it was a battle worth fighting. I knew it was a battle for all eternity, a battle for keeps, and I knew the rewards were worth it all.

It was a battle for love, a battle for the right, a battle of the worlds. I was in the war of the worlds and I knew I was on the winning side. It was a battle between good and evil, a battle to defeat Satan and his horde of demons, and this drove Me to victory. I liked to fight the Enemy when I walked on the Earth, because I knew I was fighting for the right, the side that cannot lose. Each time I looked to My Father, with each victory won, I grew to love the fight. I liked defeating the Enemy.

When Satan would try his tricks of twisting My Father's Own words on Me, I loved to wield My spiritual weapons right back at

him. I delighted in watching him turn tail and slither away in shame and disgrace, for he had to flee. It was a thrill to My heart every time the angels came and ministered unto Me, and this encouraged My faith.

As I kept My eyes on Heaven, I knew all of Heaven was on My side, and I could not fail as long as I did not give up. As long as I kept fighting, I knew I couldn't lose. It didn't matter what I was feeling, for I learned that feelings were not a proper gauge. My faith was fixed on Heaven, and this is what brought Me through.

As I looked on the multitudes, I knew it was worth it all-every test, every temptation, every battle, every trial. Just thinking about others, just thinking about you, made it worth it all, and I knew that My sufferings were not worthy to be compared to the payoff-the glory that would be revealed in Me.

The thought of suffering in vain, of having to come to Earth and take on human flesh and give up all the glories of Heaven's reward if I did not run the race and win, was more than I could bear, and this realization helped Me to press on. Would I suffer so much in vain? Having come all that way, to give up would have been defeat-to quit just before final victory.

The mere thought of this gave Me courage to cry out to My Father, "Nevertheless, not My will but Thine be done!" (Luke 22:42). At that point, in My flesh, I felt like giving up, but I knew I could not trust in My feelings. I knew in My heart what I had to do, and by calling on My Father for help, I received the strength to carry on, and His Spirit in Me carried Me through.

Yes, this was the secret to My victory, as it will be the secret to your victory-call on Me and ask Me to help you keep the vision. Keep your eyes on Heaven. Keep the heavenly vision. Live in the vision of Heaven and be strengthened. For as I knew My sufferings were not worthy to be compared to the rewards ahead, so you, My children, can know the same (Romans 8:18). All that I have promised unto you I will perform, just as My Father has done for Me. As I am glorified in My Father, so you will be glorified in Me.

Therefore, be encouraged as I was encouraged when I walked on Earth. Walk on, knowing that there is a plan and that you have a purpose, a reason to live and a reason to fight. Let this thrill your hearts and cause you to hold on to Me, to stand up and be counted in spite

of setbacks, to not let seeming failures get you down, but rather let them spur you to action as you glory in the battle, wielding the most powerful weapons this world has ever known as you defend the faith and answer Heaven's call!

Peter and the Keys

When I asked My disciples who they thought I was, dear Peter responded, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." I then told Peter that on this rock, this fact, I would establish My church-the body of those who believe in Me-and that the gates of Hell would not be able to prevail against it. The gates and all the forces of Hell, all the demons, all the archdemons, and even Satan himself would not be able to stand against the mighty power of the church that I unleashed when I was on Earth!

And then I gave My disciples the keys of the Kingdom (Matthew 16:18-19). These were spiritual keys that enabled Peter (and those like him who were living in faith, expressing their faith, and obeying Me by faith) to bind whatsoever they needed to, on Earth, in Heaven, or in Hell, in order to advance the church.

The power of the keys is what I gave them, and what I have given you now as the Endtime approaches, in a new, enhanced sense. You can lock up the demons of Hell and all the bad influences and work of Satan. And you can unlock all the wonderful, mighty, invincible and incredible power of Heaven with the keys that you hold in your hand.

Peter received the infilling of the Spirit, he experienced My forgiveness for his denial of Me, he found his calling, and he let it rip in great power and anointing!

Spiritual Energy

When I walked the Earth and saw the frailty of man, and experienced men's suffering and pain and afflictions, as I was touched with the feelings of their infirmities, I was moved with compassion upon them (Matthew 9:36). I was moved to help them and to reach out to them, to touch them and to heal them. But in order to accomplish My mission on Earth, I learned that I needed to spend time with My Father, time in prayer and in earnestness of spirit to make the connection and to receive from Him in order to be able to give to those in need.

Likewise, when I sent My disciples, My followers, out into the highways and the byways-not only to seek and to save that which was lost, not only to preach the Gospel, but to heal the sick-they learned that they needed to partake of the Father's Spirit in order to have the power to release many from the plagues which bound them. There was a time when they tried to cast out the demons, but learned that their own anointing and gifts were not enough. I explained to them that that kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:14-21).

They found that it wasn't enough to preach in My Name, but they also needed to spend time in prayer and in desperation in order to make the connection and to keep the connection with the spirit strong. For My gifts are given in different degrees according to the need and the urgency of the situation, and the strength of the battle in the spirit, as well as My disciples' desperation and faith.

Healing is spiritual energy. For instance, when I was touched by the woman who reached out with faith to stop her bleeding, she drew from Me virtue, the power and energy of the Spirit (Mark 5:25-30). For this reason, I had to spend time in prayer, drawing from the power of My Heavenly Father before I was able to minister to the people. It was as if during those times alone with My Father I was being recharged with the virtue of the Spirit that I needed in order to go out and minister to the multitudes.

I drew from My Father's source of energy, and the people in turn drew from Me what I had received from the Father. My physical body had no power of itself to heal, neither did My physical mind. But My Spirit was the relay station for power from on High, which was converted to healing energy in those who reached out with faith and

desperation.

Because of My divine nature, I was blessed with all that the Father had to give-what you call the gifts of the Spirit. I had the gifts of wisdom, healing, miracles, and prophecy. However, of My Own self-that is, of My human nature-I had nothing. It all came from the Father and His hosts of ministering spirits who were at My disposal. That is why I said that there was none good except the Father, and that the works that I did were not My works, but the Father's, and the Words that I spoke were not Mine, but from the Father (Mark 10:18). Because I was in the flesh of man, all that was of the divine nature had to be given to Me from the Father, and to get it I had to spend time with Him.

I would have you follow My lead while I was upon Earth.

Battles of the Mind

You know that I was touched with the feeling of your infirmities, and was in all points tempted as you are (Hebrews 4:15). Let Me tell you about My experience with a near mental collapse when I was a young man on Earth. I experienced the torment of the Enemy's voice. I understand the feeling of being overwhelmed and not in control of yourself. The Enemy tried to kill Me, not only mentally, but he tried to kill My body by tempting Me to jump off a mountain.

I suffered mental exhaustion almost to the point of collapse. I not only wanted to please My Father in Heaven, but I wanted to be a good son to My earthly parents, a good brother, a good friend, a good example, a good everything. I was driven in My fleshly mind by a sense of responsibility. I knew the power wasn't in Me, that it had to come from God, My Father, but I struggled with My human mind at times and with the attacks of the Enemy. I had to learn to fight him and fight the temptation to lean to My Own understanding. I was the Enemy's main target and he tried everything he could think of to get Me to give up My crown and yield to him.

When people today read about how the Devil tempted Me in the Bible, they assume because I was the Son of God and I had all power, I could just lift My little finger and destroy the attacks of the Enemy, but they don't stop to remember that I was also a man. I had to learn to fight the

Enemy as a man, like you, using the weapons of the spirit that I had-prayer, the keys, calling on the help of My Father and spirit helpers, rebuking the Enemy and his demons and quoting the Word. I learned that when I fought in the spirit I would win.

Sometimes the Enemy's attacks would frighten Me so much that I thought I was going insane. Here I was, the Son of God, so why was I having such a spiritual battle? What was wrong with Me? Where was My power? Those were the times I experienced fear in My human mind, fear that I was sinking, fear that rescue wouldn't come, fear that My Father would not save Me. I had to learn to overcome human fear, to depend on the Spirit and the Word of My Father. I had to learn, like all men of faith, to stand on the Word and not allow the Devil to steal away My faith in My Father's promises. The Word and the weapons of the spirit were My source of strength and overcoming, and they will be yours, too.

As long as I looked at Myself in the flesh, as long as I tried to fight My way out of the attacks of the Enemy with My Own two hands, I felt I was only sinking deeper. But as soon as I started fighting in the spirit with My spiritual weapons-calling on the keys, asking My spirit helpers to come to My rescue, and fighting in prayer and praise, the Enemy had to leave Me alone. Then My angels would come and minister to Me. They'd come to encourage Me on behalf of My Father. They'd bring Me His message of encouragement, they'd tell Me He was proud of Me for fighting. They'd lift up My face and kiss My tears away and encourage Me to keep going.

Worth the Struggle

I understand the weakness of the flesh. There were so many times when I felt like it was all too much and that I just didn't have the strength needed to go on. It was in times like these that I had to cry out even more desperately for My Father to give Me the supernatural strength that I needed to accomplish My tasks, to fulfill the job He had for Me.

At times I was tempted to wonder why it seemed so difficult. Couldn't He have made things a bit easier for Me? It was hard enough being in a physical body, enduring pain and hunger and tiredness through lack of sleep, but to have to endure the difficult spiritual battles as well-to have to rebuke demons, to have to fight for others and their healing, and to have to endure the temptations and difficulties the Enemy kept throwing My

way-were real tests.

I'm so thankful I was able to cry out to My Father for help, and that He always came through for Me in the end! Sometimes it was a test; I couldn't see how things were going to work out in the flesh, so I had to trust that My Father knew best and that He had everything under control.

At times it was difficult to hang on, knowing that further battles and tests and difficulties awaited Me. However, for each moment of time, My Father would always come through for Me, until I was able to say, at the end, "It is finished!"

I never received much thanks or appreciation while on Earth, but when I rejoined My Father, I was more than repaid for every sacrifice, every difficulty, and I would gladly do it all again if I needed to. It was worth it-every trial, every difficulty, and every temptation. It was worth it all. So My message to you is to hold on. Keep on keeping on day by day!

Significant Choices

There will always be too much to do. There will always be something you aren't getting to, and there will always be more you wish you could do. I know the feeling; it was often like that for Me too, but that's why it's all the more important that you have your priorities straight and that you **know** that the things you're doing are the **most** important, because those are the things that will bear lasting fruit.

You won't always know yourself what's more important or what's most timely, and that's why it's so important that you ask Me. When I was on Earth I wasn't always sure either, so I asked My Father, and He helped Me with My priorities. As you'll notice from My life's sample, some of the things I chose to take the time to do weren't always the more obviously important or timely things, like healing someone or raising the dead, for example. I knew I **had** to be led of the Spirit, I **had** to listen to My Father, because time was short and I needed to make the very most of the time I had.

There was always the press of the people. I felt it even more than you do, and yet I took time to go fishing with My disciples, to talk with the woman at the well, and to spend time with the children, etc. Many of the decisions I made were contrary to the natural mind of man, but I was

obedient to the leading of My Father. Some of the seemingly "smaller" decisions I made, or the ones that seemed the most illogical and contrary to natural expectations, were sometimes the ones that had the biggest impact in the lives of others and on history.

Follow My sample of listening to My Father each step of the way, and you too will hit the mark and will be the most effective you can be.

The Right Words at the Right Time

I know what it feels like to be lied about. I know what it feels like to be challenged to your face. I know what it feels like to be threatened. I was threatened many times. But do you recall the stance I took in those situations? When the elders of the synagogue would question Me in such a way as to try to trap Me in My words, how did I answer? I often answered with a question, or with a parable. Sometimes I even ignored them!

Many times, especially during the earlier years of My ministry, those were not My reactions of choice. At times I was tempted to feel like dishing out to My enemies a little of what they gave to Me. I was not brash or easily angered, but there were times when I was tempted to react with a little more fire. But each time I asked My Father about what reaction I should have, in the majority of cases His response was "love," which always proved to be the greater wisdom.

Like My Father, I am going to counsel you to do the same. In asking you to show love to your enemies I am not asking you to be namby-pamby, with a string for a backbone. I was anything but a weakling when answering My enemies' accusations in love and wisdom. Through reacting the way I did, I proved to be the more powerful one. I showed them that I was above their attacks. I showed them that their words couldn't affect Me or harm Me, because I had a greater power than they did. And when they heard Me, they didn't know what to say. They had no comeback to offer. They were embarrassed and ashamed at their folly, and would more often than not quickly leave Me alone.

You, too, can have the very same tact and wisdom that I had when on Earth. In fact, you can have it in even greater abundance--through the keys! Call on the keys for My spirit of tact and

wisdom to empower your words, to enlighten your mind, and to show you just how and what to say or write to those who stand up against you.

Living with a Traitor

I spent My entire ministry with a traitor amongst My closest disciples. Judas didn't just suddenly make his choice. He had been recruited by his former friends, the Zealots, early on, to give them information on My every move and word. At first it was supposedly because the Zealots wanted to be sure that I was the Messiah. As time went on, the Zealots became more convinced that I was not going to lead them in a physical army against Rome, and finally that I was actually a threat to their plans because I was drawing away many who might otherwise have resorted to supporting them in their violent attempts at a revolution.

Judas was not always a snake in the grass. At first he thought he could convince the other Zealots to follow Me. He thought he'd found just who they were looking for and was there to make sure they knew as much about Me as possible. At first he felt he was loyal to both Me and the Zealots, but as time went on and they turned further and further away, his allegiance to his old compatriots became stronger than his loyalty to Me.

He became more and more critical of My actions as his Zealot friends clouded his vision with their interpretation of everything he reported, until in the final months he was convinced that I was a traitor to what his friends believed in, and therefore what he believed in. At this point he began interpreting everything I said and did by Satan's standards and perspective, and began disseminating it to the Zealots and even the Sanhedrin. He knew that the Pharisees and the Zealots were both looking for a way to rid themselves of Me and he enjoyed what he thought was his brilliance in pulling the wool over My eyes by being so close, when inside he'd chosen the darkness.

When I told him to go and do what he had to do, he suddenly realized that I had known all along who he was and what he was up to. This infuriated him, and in his rage he went and gave the last bits of information he had to those whom he was pretty sure would put an end to Me.

Afterwards, it began to sink in that for Me to have known all he was doing, I had to be who I said I was. He began to see things as they

truly were, and then he tried to undo the horrors he'd unleashed. When he saw that he couldn't, he chose the coward's way.

Grace for the Difficult Choice

That night in the garden, before I went to the cross, I had to make the choice to willingly give My life. As I had told the people earlier, no man was doing this to Me, but I had made the choice Myself (John 10:17-18), and if I hadn't made it, My Father would have instantly sent a legion of angels to deliver Me. And, yes, He would have delivered Me. But I wouldn't have accomplished His highest will, and I would have failed in My mission to win you, My lost brethren.

I, the Lamb of God, was the only One Who could pay the price. I knew this, yet even then it was still difficult to give Myself as a sacrifice. It was still hard! As many times as I had made the decision to yield to My Father's will, the choice was still not easy. I had found out through experience that the choice to do My Father's will brought the highest results, so I knew which would be the right choice. But I asked My Father if there was any other way. When I received His answer, I bowed My head and asked for the grace to obey His will one more time (Matthew 26:39).

Losing a Loved One

Many people think that because God is omnipotent and omniscient, that My Father and I did not experience the separation that humans experience when a loved one passes on. It can be understood that while on Earth I had to learn to connect fully to My Father again, as I had in Heaven, but most don't realize how it truly was a separation for us both.

Though We knew the other was close by, there was still an emotional separation, and the emotional separation is the hardest part of having a loved one pass on. My Father and I fully experienced this. We went through a period when I was dying where I was cut off from emotionally feeling My Father's nearness and He was cut off from feeling His Son's nearness. It was brief, but it was agonizing. So yes, we have fully experienced the battles of losing that close emotional connection with a loved one.

We also had to learn to experience our emotional connection and oneness on a different plane. When I came to Earth and took on fleshly form, we had to reconnect. That's how it is for you on Earth when your loved one leaves for Heaven; you have to reconnect, for one of you is still on the fleshly plane and the other is now on the spiritual plane.

I and My Father experienced this type of separation and had to learn to fully connect on a different plane. Because We experienced this, We are able to comfort you and encourage you, and also guide you in how to reconnect.

I Took Your Pain

I do not leave those who trust in Me comfortless (John 14:18). I will help in the hour of pain. I will help your infirmities, for I do make intercession for you.

This is one of the reasons I came to Earth, to live among you, to suffer and to die for you, that I might make intercession for you; that I might intercede for you in your sufferings, in your sickness, and in your pain. I will not suffer you to be tempted above what you are able to bear, for I made the way of escape when I took the infirmities of your bodies upon My Own shoulders and received in My Own body your pain. I suffered for you when I died on the cross, and this is the escape route that I have provided for you, for I have already paid the price. Therefore know that if you will cast your burdens on Me, I will sustain you. (1Corinthians 10:13; Matthew 8:17; Psalm 55:22).

Many a man and many a woman in the world have given their life for another. Many have suffered and died for a worthy cause--yet when I gave My life for you, I did not merely die for **you**. I not only suffered My Own hurt and pain, but it was given to Me to also take on **your** sufferings and pain. I came in the flesh that I might taste death for **every** man. I died more than a thousand deaths on that cross; I suffered more than the pain of one man. I died for every man, woman, and child who has ever walked the face of the Earth. I bore the pain of each one. I not only suffered My pain, but I felt your pain also, so that through My stripes you might be healed (Isaiah 53:5).

I took the pain, My children, of each of you, the suffering of each of you. I did not die for only one or feel for only one, but I died for

all, I felt for all--each one's pain, each one's suffering--so that you could have a way of escape. When you cast your burdens, your cares, your sufferings on Me, I will sustain you, because I already bore it for you. I already took on your pain and your sufferings, so that you, through My suffering, may be healed and delivered and find relief in your hour of need.

When I hung on that cross, I paid it all. I endured your suffering that you might be freed, that you might never have to know death--and that you might also be relieved of pain in your hour of need. Therefore, My faithful ones have only to cast their burdens on Me. I already paid the price; I already bore the pain and the suffering upon My shoulders.

Therefore you have only to stand steadfast and know that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that I will reveal in you (Romans 8:18). This is the strong consolation that I give to My children--that should you suffer for My Name's sake, you will also receive great grace and glory to endure hardness, for I will keep you in your hour of need with the power of Heaven, and you will be crowned with glory and honor!

Single Mothers

You ask, "You've been touched with all infirmities ... but what about my infirmities?" Do You know the pain of a single mother? Do You know the pain of loneliness? Do You know the pain of fear of rejection, despair, and hopelessness? Did You ever suffer **this** on Earth?"

I do know your feelings. My very Own mother on Earth was a single mother, a widow, after her husband died. I saw her crying at night when she thought all were asleep. I saw her struggle with the daily cares of life without someone there to support her, bear the load with her, lift the burdens she felt too weak to bear. I felt her pain. I saw her tears. I even heard the silent heartcries of her prayers.

It was mainly through that experience on Earth that I realized the full beauty, pure strength, and depth of character that is only found in the heart of a mother who finds herself alone. When I returned to Heaven, I chose to reexperience those moments on Earth, and I took the pain of the single mothers upon Myself--the pain of their loneliness, the pain of their sufferings, the pain of their trials. I placed that

portion of their heart in My Own so that I would always understand and always be touched with the feelings of their infirmities.

(Question:) In those days, wasn't it a Jewish custom to help the widows?

(Jesus:) It was not easy being a widow then, just as it is not easy now. There was a sort of welfare system instituted by the Mosaic Law, but it covered the meager necessities of life, just as your modern welfare systems do, and it was still difficult for the widow. Mary also had few members of her physical family who provided for her. Some were elderly and poor, and others had little regard for her, because they considered her promiscuous, having gotten pregnant out of wedlock, as well as irresponsible and flighty for having taken off to Egypt for years, and for what they considered her "delusions of grandeur" for Me and My future. A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and among his own brethren (Matthew 13:57).

The Essential

Why do you think I went up to the mountain? I had to get away from it all in order to do that which was most important, and that was to be strengthened and renewed so that I could run the race and finish the task (Matthew 14:23).

I had to take it all the way to the end. If I had died by the wayside before I got to the cross, or if I had fainted in My mind spiritually and given up before My time, I would have failed. I would have failed you, I would have failed all mankind, I would have failed My Father, and I would have failed all the host of Heaven. I would have failed the whole purpose of creation! I was running a marathon. I saw the goal ahead, and I knew beyond the shadow of a doubt what that goal was and what I had to do to pace Myself to reach that goal.

If I hadn't reached that goal, it would have been in vain. Yes, I would have shown love to a few or even many people. I would have been the sample of love they needed to see. I would have fed them spiritually with My Father's Words. I would have healed many and convinced them that I was the Son of God. I would have done great works and encouraged many and been their friend and lifted them out of the

doldrums. I would have made them happier and changed their lives and outlook for the better. But if I had failed to make it to the cross, it would have all been in vain!

I was the Lamb of God. There was no one else who could be that. If I had not made it that far, I would have failed in the one priority that was absolutely necessary, the one thing that had to be done even if nothing else was accomplished--to reach that cross and die for you. I had to put all else aside that in any way hindered that. Everything I did had to be in the direction of that goal.

Compassion for Others

I was a Man of passion and drive, and I gave My all wholeheartedly toward any task My Father set before Me. I was willing to die daily for the sake of My Father's will. I counted it a privilege and blessing.

One day I saw the discouragement in Peter's eyes because he couldn't live up to My same passion and drive. We'd walked a day's journey in the heat, and even though it was late and most people were in bed for the night, I was set on doing one more thing. But when I saw the look in Peter's eyes, how that usual spark was missing, and heard the discouragement in his voice, I felt that if I pushed further I would be pushing beyond My Father's wiser judgment. I heard My Father's voice, "Son, it's time to relax. The work will be there tomorrow and I will give You the strength for it. Tonight I want to reward You for a job well done."

So we went to a friend's house and had a feast with wine and merriment. Instead of talking about the work ahead of us, I told Peter how much I needed him and appreciated his help and counsel, how I depended on him and valued his wisdom. You should have seen Peter's eyes the next day--bright as a shining star--and he was practically singing. The work was still important, but I couldn't do it without My valuable right arm--My disciples.

Grace for Persecution

"There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man" (1Corinthians 10:13). When I was there in the flesh, I was a man of like passions, similar to you. Everyone is fearful of the future to some extent. It's much like the story of D. L. Moody, when he was asked if he had dying grace. He answered, "No, because I'm not dying yet!"

Do you have the grace for persecution? Right now, no. If you meditate on it and think of all the terrible things that could happen, you would say you don't have the grace for persecution, because you aren't going through it yet.

So, as I said, everyone has a measure of grace, and when the time comes for great grace, you will be given it. I had a lot of it on the eve of My crucifixion. I prayed, "If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me!" My Father allowed this test, and I told the disciples, "Don't you think at this moment I could pray and bring more than twelve legions of angels to My rescue?" (Matthew 26:53). They had seen the miracles, and that was the kind of power they were used to seeing. But they were fearful. They even ran away. As it says, all forsook Me and fled (Matthew 26:56).

They saw that I wasn't going to use the power that was given to Me to call for the angels. I told Pilate the same thing, "But now is My Kingdom not from hence." I told him that he had no power over Me except what was given to him from above (John 18:36; 19:11).

I had to be cautious during My life on Earth, the closer it got to My seeming end. I didn't walk openly amongst the Jews, because they sought to kill Me (John 11:53-54). But I was in tune with the voice of My Father, Who told Me when to be open, when to hide, and when to pass by.

Just as I weathered life on Earth in service to My Father, and endured all of the persecution that came with it, so will you. You will be able to weather whatever I bring your way. As it has been said, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2Timothy 3:12)--But you won't just "suffer" it, you'll be delivered from it. One way or another, you'll be victorious, just as I was! You'll have the grace for it, just as I did!

Impartial Love

I am not selective in My love, as My Father is not selective in His love. Be followers of Me, and follow the example I left you when I walked on Earth.

As I became flesh and dwelt among you, this itself was proof of My Father's impartiality. My Father did not show Me favoritism by giving Me special treatment as a human. He did not show Me favoritism by putting Me in a comfortable position, raining down earthly wealth and riches. He did not show Me favoritism by giving Me any other earthly powers that are not made available to you.

I walked the dusty roads. I had no earthly possessions to speak of. I was a stranger and a pilgrim. My Father allowed Me to be tested and tempted the same as you. I felt the things that you feel. I had to face the same decisions that you face. I had to deal with the majesty of choice. I had to make My Own decisions. I had to learn obedience through the things I suffered. I hungered. I thirsted. I was afflicted. I knew what it was to have a broken heart. I was despised and rejected of men. I was weak and weary and footsore. I battled with the flesh as you battle. I was tempted in all points as you are. I was the same as you. I had no special dispensations in the flesh that you don't have. I know what it is to feel forsaken, lonely, weary, and destitute.

As Pilate questioned Me, and the crowds jeered, asking why, if I was the King of kings, did not My armies fight; why, if My Father was Who I said He was, did He not send legions to rescue Me on the spot? "Why?" they wanted to know. It was because it was not My destiny and My Father did not play favorites. I had to fulfill the role, My particular role that was Mine to fill. I had to fill the role and pass the tests without any special help or favoritism from above. I was not favored over you. I had to go through the same things, feel the same feelings, pass the same tests--for I was a human as you are a human, the same in all points.

As My Father above has set the ultimate sample in not showing favoritism, and I have followed, I say to you, follow also. I went around everywhere doing good, loving and showing impartial love to all those who crossed My path (Acts 10:38). Do likewise.

I Couldn't Let You Down

The secret of My victory, what helped Me to keep the vision and press ahead to win victories and continue on in the fight, was when I looked around at the people that surrounded Me. Getting out among the crowds, being faced with the needy situations and having to fight the battles, was what spurred Me on to keep fighting and not give up.

I didn't give up!--Because of others, because of you, because I knew I could not let you down. And even though at times it looked like I was failing, I had to press on. I had to simply trust My Father above, knowing that He could not and would not fail. Knowing that **your** salvation was at stake was what kept Me trusting and kept Me desperate and militant in spirit, determined to not let go.

Had it just been for My Own sake, My Own victory, it would have been much more tempting to give up the fight. But every time I lifted My eyes and looked upon the multitudes, the needy souls, the hungry hearts, the sorrowful ones, the desperate and the destitute, those dying without answers--this was what compelled Me to fight on.

Knowing I had to fight for others' sakes was what compelled Me to put aside Satan's temptations to lean to personal, selfish desires and carnal lusts. As I lifted My eyes and looked upon others, their need was etched in My mind and burned in My heart and soul, and I felt that driving desire to fight and win and defeat Satan once and for all. I knew I was fighting for the lives and hearts and souls of men and women who were worth it all.

My children, if you would be strengthened to fight the battles at hand, I say lift up your eyes, look on the fields that are white and ready to harvest, and be encouraged, knowing that you hold in your hand the keys to freedom that can soothe their troubled minds, bring them peace and comfort and good cheer, heal their weary bodies, and set them free.

The need at hand, the lost and lonely around Me, drove Me and compelled Me to march on to victory. This is what made a fighter out of Me, willing to fight and die for you, that you might be free. When Satan tempted Me and offered Me all his worldly kingdoms, it was your need, the needs of the lost and dying world, that kept Me strong, so

that I did not accept his offer, nor entangle Myself with the affairs of the world.

I say to you, My children, if you too would follow in My footsteps, if you would be strong, keep your eyes on Heaven. The only way the Devil can win is if you quit, if you give up, if you accept his lying vanities (Jonah 2:8; John 8:44). Therefore, be not entangled with the affairs of the world, as I did not entangle Myself with the affairs of this world, but look to Heaven. Hold on to your faith. Let it grow. Allow it to flourish by getting out and exercising it. Lift up your eyes and look on the fields. Get out and face the need. Give to others what I have given to you.

Spiritual Healing

It wasn't just My enemies that hurt Me. At times I felt that My Own disciples or those of My flesh-and-blood family didn't understand Me, or the things that I said, or the calling that I was given. There were times when those whom I loved the most forsook Me and left Me alone.

So I know the deep hurt and anguish that you feel when it seems that others have failed you. But I had to fight on despite the hurts I felt. I had to follow through on the calling that My Father had given Me, even though just before I was to make My greatest sacrifice, I felt that My disciples and loved ones forsook Me and that My Father Himself turned His back on Me.

What a terrible defeat it would have been if I'd harbored the hurt from the words of others or the accusations of My enemies. What a triumph it would have been for the Evil One if I had nursed My wounds or expected others to come and make things right before I went on with the calling that My Father had given Me of giving My life so that the world might be saved.

I had a mission to fulfill, just as you do. I was working in a pretty tight timeframe to complete My mission, just as you are as the End draws nearer. And know that the same supernatural strength that was given to Me to put all the hurts, the accusations, and the sting of others' words and actions behind Me, is available to you in the hour that you call upon Me, so that you can fulfill the calling that I have given you. Don't allow these things to hold you back, for if you do, there will be a loss--not only to you personally but also to the progress of My work overall.

I love you and I need you--just you. So cast off the weights that do so easily beset you, and run with patience the race that is set before you, looking unto Me, the Author and Finisher of your faith (Hebrews 12:1-2). I will be right by your side and I will give you the grace, the forgiveness, and all that you need so that the healing balm of My Spirit may go to work in your life and make what was once a broken and crushed heart into one that is bigger and more beautiful, for it will be melded together with Mine.

Learning Wisdom

I didn't have wisdom from the time I was born. I had to learn wisdom through the things that I went through (Luke 2:52). I wasn't all-knowing or perfect. If I had been, I never would have understood what it's like for you to learn, to discern, to mature, to be tested. I had the wisdom of My Father that I could tap into, but so do you. The knowledge of everything I knew in Heaven, however, was veiled; otherwise, My time on Earth would not have been a true test.

And, yes, I did learn things on Earth that I didn't know in Heaven. Before I came to Earth, I didn't know what it was like to live as you do. I didn't know what it felt like to go through the things you do, to make the decisions you do. If I had known everything before coming to Earth, then there wouldn't have been much of a reason for Me to live out 33 years. I did that so that I could learn what it was like to be a human. If that hadn't been an important part of My mission, I could have appeared on Earth at the age of 30, lived a couple of years, and then died for your sins. Obviously there was more to My life than that--more that I had to learn and experience. That's why I spent all those years on Earth.

While I was on Earth, I had to know what it was like to be like you--to not have all the answers right off, but to have to pray and get answers and wisdom from Heaven. I wasn't meant to go to Earth with all the knowledge of Heaven, knowing everything, so that I could answer all the questions people had and solve all the problems of the world on My Own. That was not the point at all. I was working with My Father, just as you work with Me today.

I had to tap into His power, the power of the spirit world. I couldn't do it on My Own. I didn't have all of the wisdom of Heaven within Me, just as you don't today. I had to tap into it, I had to ask for it, I had to

suck for it, I had to be yielded to receive it, just as you have to do the same today.

It's hard to put some of these concepts into earthly words.

Yes, I came and lived as a man--but that was as much for your sake as for Mine. The main reason I had to come was so that you could know Me as a man of flesh, you could know that I went through everything you'll go through, to some extent, and thus you can have faith that I understand you. It's not as if in coming to Earth I relinquished all My heavenly rights as the Son of God. I chose to have some things put behind a partition, you might say, in My Spirit, so that I could experience things more in the way that you experience them--without a full knowledge or understanding of past, present, and future. That way I gained deeper understanding for you.

But I always had unconditional love. That's why I came to Earth in the first place. And I always had the knowledge and understanding that I was there, as God among men, to help you, to save you, to show you My love. I am and always have been your God, your Savior, and deeply in love with you. I know everything, and even if I chose to come to Earth to experience some things Myself, that doesn't mean that I didn't know them before, or that I don't know now about things that didn't exist in those days. But what I came to Earth to experience was the full range of human emotions--and as I said, I did that as much for your sake as for Mine.

Because I did that, you know that I'm not a high priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of your infirmities, for I was in all points tempted like you are. So the balance is found in the best of both worlds: I came to Earth to experience things like you must experience them, but I was then and always will be all-powerful, all-knowing, and loving you unconditionally. If I chose to block some of that power when I was on Earth so that I could experience human emotions more clearly, that's just part of My love for you.

The Opinion that Counts

I know what it's like to feel unappreciated. I went through the same things you're feeling now about some people not appreciating Me and what I was trying to do for them. I came unto My Own, and they didn't receive Me (John 1:11). I came to heal the sick, and many didn't want to be healed, especially not in heart. I suffered the pain of rejection, and felt the pain of My love and sacrifices not being returned, but rather thrown back in My face. I was made of no reputation, and was called a sinner, a winebibber, and even a devil (Philippians 2:7; John 9:16; 10:20; Matthew 11:19). I was slandered and hated without cause, and they finally put Me to death out of hatred and fear of Me.

I know how it feels when people don't think well of you. But I realized that that was one of the prices of giving My all to My Father and of following and obeying His will. I had to decide in My heart that "none of these things move Me" (Acts 20:24). I was willing to pay the price that not all would receive Me or My help, or appreciate what I was doing out of love for them. And that's what I ask of you.

I know it stings and hurts your hearts, but please don't let these things offend you or pull you off the wall. Rather let it soften and break your hearts in a way that will propel you forward spiritually more than ever, by driving you to Me for My perspective, My view, and My comfort and instruction during these times of growing and stretching.

I don't want you to have to suffer from the opinions of men, My darlings, and if you're humble enough, it won't bother you that much. Rather, just be happy and thankful that I'm the One Whose opinion of you **really** counts--and that you know what I think of you!

The Happiest Place

My ministry on Earth from your point of view now looks glorious, for you can see all the good fruit that it bore and how I changed the world. But if you were to see things the way they were during My time, you would get a much different perspective. I had to learn to be a servant. I had to learn to do My Father's will--both My earthly father's as well as My Heavenly Father's. I had to endure and suffer the afflictions and emotions of the flesh so that I could truly understand and relate to each person. I had to forsake My heavenly powers to become human and to endure many, many battles, for this was all a part of My training (Philippians 2:5-8; Isaiah 53:3-9; Hebrews 5:8-9).

Like you, I wanted to do great things, to start healing the sick and delivering the good news of salvation. But I had many lessons to learn first, so I submitted and became a servant, a carpenter, a nobody in the eyes of men. To go from being the King of the Universe to being a lowly carpenter was a pretty big change! But it was all for a purpose, for I had to learn what it was like to be human and to not rely on My Own strength, but to find My strength in coming to My Father.

There were many lessons that I had to learn that are cornerstones in your lives today. But if I had not gone through those things, I would not have been able to relate to and instruct you in the way I can now. But I can now truly say I understand, for I have been there Myself.

So learn to trust Me and to believe that whatever I bring into your life is for your good and will strengthen you. Even if I bring you into a desolate place, a place that you feel has no "potential," or a ministry [or job] that seems simple or unchallenging, know that I have a plan and a purpose, and that as you find out what that plan is, you will in turn find the happiness and fulfillment that you seek.

There is no happier place to be than in the center of My will. There is no greater thrill in life than to know that you are pleasing Me and that I am in first place in your life. All other things will pale by comparison when you find the happiness and contentment that comes from doing My will.

When you can truly let go of all that you hold dear--whatever it is that you're desiring or wanting Me to do for you--and you place it in My

hands and give it freely to Me, then I in turn will fill you with the true riches and desires that you have only dreamed of!

Prayer Makes the Difference

Follow My example. What did I do when the Enemy was attacking My Apostle Peter with all of his might and furor in order to try to defeat him before he had even really begun his ministry? I prayed for him. I prayed earnestly and desperately, and My Father answered My prayer. Though Peter still had his tests and battles, things that he had to personally fight and overcome, My prayers for him had a tremendous effect; they made a huge difference (Luke 22:31-32).

The battles that Peter had to face and overcome were very big and daunting for him. They were extremely intense battles. The Enemy was pulling out all the stops to try to defeat him, because he knew what a detriment Peter would be to his plans. He knew what an effect Peter would have in his lifetime and through the work he began--a work that is carried on even to this day.

It was a fierce attack, and I prayed desperate, fervent prayers on his behalf. I battled for him in prayer, for his strength and protection, for his service to Me. I petitioned My Father on his behalf, I claimed him for My service in wholehearted prayer, and My Father did not fail to answer My prayer--just as I will not fail to answer the prayers that **you** pray for those who are being buffeted by the Enemy. Of course, the person will still need to make their choices; it's ultimately up to them! But oh, what a tremendous force for good you can be through prayer.

I spent many, many hours in prayer during My time on Earth because I really understood how vital fervent prayer was, how incredibly powerful it was, how it was able to make all the difference in the world. It's a basic spiritual principle; it's not a new concept. And yet all too few of you use this weapon as often as you should. I got up early in the morning and communed with My Father in prayer. I knew that if I was going to be successful in My mission--My huge mission with so much to be done in so little time--I had to take that time. I had to get up early and lick the Devil first in prayer.

And now you have the power of the keys, which enhances your prayers and their effect many times over. My loves, you must

see the awesomeness of this weapon and you must use it so much more than you have been. If each Family member would use the weapon of prayer more actively and more skillfully, you would be an unstoppable force!

Follow My example, My brides; do as I did. When I was faced with the impossibility of raising Lazarus from the dead, what did I do? I lifted up My eyes and heart to My Father in prayer and I praised Him for hearing Me. I praised Him for the answer even before I had seen it. I said, "Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard Me. And I know that Thou hearest Me always" (John 11:41-42). Just as My Father always heard Me, so do I always hear you, My brides.

Humility Levels

I am humility, and the more you make the humble way your way of operating, the more you have of Me. I am satisfaction. I am fulfillment. I am the all in all. And all of this will be yours, as you follow in My footsteps and walk the humble road.

Here is a simple practice that will be a help and safeguard to you: Ask Me at the start of each day if there is anything in particular I want you to do that day that will help you to be more humble. Check in with Me each morning and ask, "Is there anything You want to tell me regarding my humble walk today, dear Jesus?"

Then at the end of each day, as you retire, check in with Me again. Take a moment of silence to touch base with Me specifically on your humility and ask if there is anything I want to point out to you regarding your humility push. Ask Me if you missed the mark during the day, or if there is anything you should do differently, or anything specific I want you to do the following day, etc.

These two daily times to check in with Me on your humility level do not need to be long sessions of hearing from Me in prophecy. They can be short! Ask Me while you are in bed, or while you're getting dressed for the day, or tag it on at the tail end of your praise time or prayer vigil, but make them **definite**. Stop, quiet your spirit, and ask Me the definite question, wherever you are, or no matter what else you're doing. Ask Me what I want you to do that day, and how you fared that day.

It's a simple practice, but one well worth your while to make a habit.--Just like brushing your teeth! In fact, you can ask Me these questions while brushing your teeth if you like. As you make this a routine practice, I'll show you more and more. I'll fine-tune your "humble walk" and draw you in ever so much closer to Me. I'll be deeper inside you, like never before--so close, so intimate, so one with you, and you with Me. You'll walk right in step with Me every moment of every day. You won't fall or falter, because I will be holding you up.

And I'll tell you a little secret: This is how I was able to walk in humility when I was on Earth. This little habit I have described to you of checking in with My Father on My "humility level" twice a day--in the morning and before I retired at night--was what did the trick. I had the gift of humility, just as you can have the gift of humility, but the flesh wars against the humble way. My flesh was no different; it also warred against the gift of humility that was Mine.

As I carried on My public ministry, I found I had to be desperate with My Father as to how to rise above this warring of My flesh against My Spirit, for the temptations to pride were strong. It was after the marriage at Cana, when I performed My first outstanding public miracle (John 2:1-11), that I asked My Father for direction regarding My humility, and He gave Me this little plan, this simple routine, this good habit to establish in My life. It took a little time to get the habit down pat, but with persistence and the help of My heavenly helpers, I soon got it down, and it carried Me through the rest of My earthly life.

Touched with Our Infirmities

Look back for a moment to the hours before My death on Earth. As I sat with My disciples, My greatest pain was not that I would have to suffer and die, for I had been given the grace to endure what I was to face. But even greater at that moment was the pain in My heart for two who sat with Me. One was Judas--who I knew would betray Me, and when faced with what he had done, would choose to give up and take his own life rather than turn to the Father and cry out for forgiveness. And the other was Peter.

I knew the terrible test Peter was to face. My struggle would have seemed the greater one to his mind, but I understood the depths of despair he would face, the floods of Satan's lies that would be poured upon him, and how weak and confused he would be. For him, the testing was in some ways as great as My time in the garden that I faced some hours later. I understood that, and My heart broke for him. I saw his agony and felt its sting every bit as intensely as My Own.

If I could have, I would have taken his burden and tried to carry it Myself. But I knew that he had to pass through that time of agony if he was to become all that he needed to be. My agony, which was Mine to bear, gave Me understanding and compassion for man even as he wallowed in sin; My dying on the cross was the ultimate sacrifice to save man from those sins and set him free. But My whole life on Earth was what taught Me compassion. Each one I taught, each one I healed, each one whose life I touched, I felt their pain, I experienced their suffering, I understood the battles they faced.

I couldn't live as a blind man from birth. I couldn't be the woman with the issue of blood who endured great pain and agony of the flesh. I couldn't be the leper who had endured years of being an outcast and watched in agony as his flesh slowly died and fell away. I couldn't watch My child die before My eyes and feel the hopelessness of being unable to prevent it. I could not have lived all these things in just one body. But what gave Me the compassion and the understanding, what made Me your High Priest Who is touched with the feelings of your infirmities and was in all points tempted as you are, is that the Father allowed Me to supernaturally experience the pain, the suffering, and the struggles in each life I touched (Hebrews 4:15).

I couldn't actually live through them all in real time. My physical body could not have borne that and still fulfilled My purpose on Earth. But I was allowed to feel each person's loss, to feel their sorrow and suffering, and to understand, so that I would have the motivation to fulfill My task. Each experience helped to strengthen My conviction that following through with what My Father had commissioned Me to do was the only way to deliver you.

Great and Mighty Things

I know it's a challenge to use your gift of prophecy; it was for Me too at times when I was on Earth. There were a lot of distractions and it took a lot of faith and stretching on My part to receive from My Father. That's why I got alone and went on a mountain sometimes, just to have some time to sit still and hear His voice. I got up in the early morning hours, before everyone else got up, and I just took that quiet time alone with My Father. You could try that too, if you like, and see if it works for you.

Don't let the Enemy discourage you about your gift of prophecy; know that I want to speak to you. Just keep tanking up on My Word, and fill your heart and mind and spirit with My promises. Like the verse, "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3). And here's another one: "Ye shall seek Me and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13). Remember My promises; they were written for you.

So when the Enemy comes in with his lies and discouragement, making you feel like you just can't hear from Me, or that it's your own thoughts that you're thinking, rebuke him with these scriptures and with My keys. Really set him back on his heels. Trust that after you have prayed and asked Me to sit and talk with you, I will "show you great and mighty things which you know not." I promise to do so, and I never break My promise! (Numbers 23:19).

Stepping Out into the Unknown

I know how it feels to step out into the unknown. It's just plain scary at times. I felt that way when I launched out into My public ministry. I had My Father's promises, I had guaranteed help from Heaven, and My Father had given Me ample inner peace and faith that **now** was the time, but still it was scary. So I understand.

Well, you're in the very same position that I was. Of course, you're not the Son of God, but you're My bride, and you have the very same power and anointing and help from Heaven available to you that I had. I knew when it was the right time--just as you do--and I knew it was My Father's highest will, calling, and destiny for Me--just as you do, and there is **nothing** that will be withheld from you as you step out into your new realm and calling by faith.

It was tough for Me to leave My familiar surroundings, My mother and My siblings and cousins whom I loved. It was difficult to step out of what had become My "comfort zone" into something new. So there will understandably be a little trepidation at first on your part--and that's natural. But as you step out by faith, all of My power and spiritual help **will** meet your faith, I promise you.

It's All by Faith

I came in swaddling clothes. And then in My public ministry many years later, I entered not as one who was brought up in a king's house, as the crown prince who had been groomed for power and responsibility, but rather as a humble hewer of wood. That was My "clothing," so to speak, so that when people saw Me, they didn't see the great crown prince that I was; no, what they saw was a carpenter's son, simple as that, so that I was easy to approach and ask for help.

They loved to laugh with Me and joke with Me, to drink with Me and to play with Me. I was one of them. I wasn't above them in spirit in how I related to them. I was very relatable.

Yes, I had to forsake all in order to enter the body of that little baby. I literally had to forsake all--except what I was, My very Own Spirit. But all else I laid aside so that I could become one of you. **That's** how much I loved you--enough to leave My Own thoughts aside, My Own

Wisdom. Everything that I had garnered about Me for eternity I took off, I laid aside, and I took on **your** robes, your human flesh.

I was not even born in a room, let alone a household or a grand mansion. There wasn't even room for Me in the house; they had to stick Me out back in a barn with the animals. That's how humble and how lowly My entry to your world was. It couldn't have gotten any humbler. And why? Because I had to relate to you and to all of mankind with humility and lowliness, as servant of all.

I had never done that before. I had never gone to Earth in that capacity before, not for the real thing. Yes, I had made some visits, but in a way those were trial runs assisted by My angels and others. But this was the real thing. I was going it alone this time without even My previous thoughts and knowledge, and this would be a great test of My faith while in human flesh. Would I be able to make it?

I forsook all My thoughts, all My heavenly wisdom, all that made up what I was, and entered the house of My fleshly body as a human being, bound in the limitations, pains, and sufferings of not only the flesh but of the emotions and spiritual warfare that it brings on, and it was a great test. Would I stay true and faithful to My Father and make it?

The only thing I really knew was that My Father could make it through Me if I called out to Him and depended on Him. It was all by faith--faith in My Father that He would come through. Just as it's all by faith for you now--faith in Me that I will come through for you. And I will. My Father gave His best shot for mankind, and that was Me; He trusted that I would not lose faith and that I would come through and win in the end.

Well, you know the story. I managed to stay faithful unto death and I won the prize in the end--and the prize was you, My loves. I won you back to My side, and I opened the gates of Heaven for all eternity to all who will take it. I defeated Lucifer.

Before I entered that great courtroom of the trials on Earth, I was in great trepidation as to how I would do. But once there, and once I got My footing and the time was right, My Father's Spirit came down upon Me, and I followed and obeyed.

It will be the same with you. For My Spirit to come down upon you, you must be very, very low. You must have no confidence in yourself. When you walk with this mindset, knowing that you are nothing, then what that means is that you have made room for Me, and at the appointed time I will enter and I will lead.

"Rest in Spite Of"

"Rest in spite of" is the quality I had, and what I manifested when I heard that one of My closest friends on Earth neared death. When I heard of Lazarus' illness, I was tempted to be beset with the burden and the weight and the sorrow of it all. I was tempted to rush to his side and give him My healing power. I was tempted to tend to the matter immediately; he was so close to My heart.

But My Father brought this quality to the fore in those pivotal moments, and that is how, despite the gravity of the physical situation, I was able to take My time, to rest, to relax, to eat with friends, to continue to witness, to even wait a few days before making My way to tend to this very desperate situation. This is how I was able to portray a spirit of peace, trust, and calm, even though the throngs around Me were frantic and seriously judgmental of My decision.

And then, even when I arrived at the scene, the multitudes accused Me of not caring for My friend, of purposely delaying My journey so that Lazarus would die. But despite the tears of Mary and Martha, despite the doubts of My disciples, My faith remained strong, because I had rested in My Father prior to tending to this matter. I had yielded to His timetable. I had "rested in spite of" all the turmoil that surrounded Me. And because of this, I had the faith that the miracles that I needed that day would be performed.

Of course, I was still moved, and I wept. I didn't weep out of doubt, but I wept out of emotion, out of deep feeling for My loved one. But more so for those who doubted Me, who doubted My love, and who accused Me without knowing the full matter.

And that's when the miracle happened. That's when I brought life to the dead. That's when I proved, once again, the power of My Father, and that's how many more came to know of His love and His salvation.

And this gift will bring the same results to you. This "rest in spite of" will teach you to rest even though the throngs press about you with their needs and their emergencies, and yes, even their grave situations. And as you rest, My strength will be poured through you and will be transformed into miracle-working power, so that when you set out to see to those situations, miracles will happen at the touch of your faith. This is a gift that I want to give you, because it will make your life easier, and it will bring miracles.

Do you believe? Thank you for your belief, because this quality is very special to Me. Without it, I could not have performed My mission on Earth, and I know the same is true for you too. So I give it to you, from My heart to yours. I give you the gift that carried Me through. Let it carry you too.

Lessons of Faith Learned by Mary and Martha

If you find yourself in a trying situation where progress seems to be at a standstill, stagnated, or moving very, very slowly, the best thing you can do is to detach yourself from it emotionally and ask Me to help you rise above it and see the big picture. Ask Me to help you see it through My eyes, objectively and rationally.

Many times your emotions play a big part in the way you look at a situation and how you handle it and take care of it. This is just human nature. But the best thing is to detach yourself from the emotional aspect and ask Me to help you to see things the way I do.

Remember, I had to do this when I was there on Earth. When I heard the news that Lazarus was dead, I did not immediately jump up and run back to Mary and Martha in Bethany. I stayed two more days in the city I was in, as My work there was not yet finished. As you know, this deeply disappointed Mary and Martha, to the point that both Martha's and Mary's first words to Me when they came out to meet Me were accusatory, indicating that if I had been there, Lazarus would not have died (John 11:1-32). But as you know, and unbeknownst to Mary and Martha, God had an even more spectacular event in mind, which could only be accomplished by Me not running back to heal Lazarus while he was sick. All things did eventually work together for good, and a great victory was gotten out of a seeming impossibility.

But put yourself in the place of Mary or Martha. Those four days they waited for My return were very trying for them. Not only was their brother dead, but to them, I appeared to be uncaring and unsympathetic to their plight. As they saw later, I did have everything under control and all things did work together for good.

How well do you think you would have done under similar circumstances? Would you have continued to trust Me, that I had everything under control and that the situation was going to turn out victorious--whether it was My will for Lazarus to die that day, or to be raised from the dead? Or would you have fretted, doubted, and gotten upset, and greeted Me with stinging words as Martha and Mary did? I do not blame them, and they felt very bad afterwards and apologized again and again when they finally realized what My plan was, and that all things turned out even more victorious than they could have imagined.

Having your faith tried in a difficult situation is never easy and never will be, and not something one looks forward to or would wish upon themselves. But it is during those times that you have to remind yourself over and over again that I am in control. I love you. You are My bride, I am your Husband, and I will never abandon you or desert you. I am with you through all things, both the good and the bad, and during those times of trial and tribulation I am right by your side, no matter how much you may think or feel I am not, or whatever lies the Enemy whispers in your ear.

This is when praise becomes your most powerful tool and weapon against the Enemy. Praise will lift you above the clouds and help you to see the situation more from My perspective than your own human earthly one. It sounds like an impossibility, but it is a promise that you can stand on.

I ride upon the wings of your praise. Therefore claiming the keys and praising in any situation, especially a negative situation, brings **Me** right to the forefront of the battle, where I draw out My sword and cut the Enemy to the heart.