

At the Feet  
of  
Jesus

*Daily Meditations*

by Samantha Chambo



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## Preface

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This little devotional is the result of my own personal time with God. I read through traditional Lenten scriptures and was blessed by their wonder.

I realized that the suffering of Christ did not start on the road to Calvary. It started way before that, when he had to endure severe mental and emotional and physical distress in the wilderness where he was tempted for days; when he was rejected by his own people in Nazareth; when he was confronted with the hardness of heart present in those who were supposed to be spiritual leaders of Israel.

I also saw Jesus taking on the suffering of those he ministered to; I observed his compassion and empathy, his tears with those who mourned, and his desperation for the people he loved so much to accept the truth. My experience made me realize one thing: Jesus really understands all we encounter because he endured it all. This truth has been a source of great comfort to me, and I pray that it will be the same for those who choose to pick up this devotional.

May the realization of Christ's solidarity with us help us to show greater solidarity with those for whom he chose to die.

## Scripture Reading: Luke 4:1–13

*Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. (Luke 4:1–3)*

## Devotional Reflection

Jesus was tempted for forty days! I always read this passage thinking he only had to endure the three temptations mentioned in detail. However, the Holy Spirit has brought to my attention that Jesus was actually tempted for forty days and that the three temptations we read about are only the culmination of all he had to endure.

He was alone, hungry, and tired. This was forty days of severe mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual testing. Yet he did not relent or give up. He endured all that he needed to until the devil had to admit defeat and leave him for a season.

To me this speaks to endurance and perseverance in temptation. Satan will always hammer on the same spot, until we are left drained and ready to give up. But here we see our Savior as the perfect example of perseverance under temptation.

This perseverance is only possible for those who are “full of the Holy Spirit” (Luke 4:1). Even Jesus, the

Son of God, had to be full of the Spirit before he could brave such severe testing. Apart from the Spirit we will fall.

Sometimes we just need to resist the devil a little longer, and he will flee from us.

### **Prayer**

*Lord, we know that you are faithful and that you will strengthen and protect us from the evil one. Please direct our hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. Amen. (2 Thessalonians 3:3, 5)*

### **Meditation**

1. What situations in your life are currently requiring perseverance?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is God challenging you to do?

## Scripture Reading: Luke 4:14–30

*Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.  
(Luke 4:14)*

## Devotional Reflection

Jesus was still filled with the power of the Holy Spirit when he returned to Nazareth to minister to his own people. Yet this did not guarantee his success. Jesus was rejected by his own people in spite of the obvious power of the Holy Spirit that was in and over him. They talked about him, and some even praised him, but Jesus knew what was really in their hearts.

It is the common expectation that the presence of the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives will ensure success for any endeavor we may be led by the Holy Spirit to undertake. However, we see from this example from the life of Jesus that people will reject even the power of the Holy Spirit if it threatens their comfort zones.

The natural result is to start doubting whether the Holy Spirit is really with us; we start questioning whether we are doing the right thing. Don't doubt. Jesus was not surprised at their reactions. He offered them the greatest gift from heaven, the salvation of their souls. They were blinded by what they thought they knew about him. They missed the blessing as

Jesus went on his way to offer it to those who would desperately grab on to it.

Not only did his people reject him; they also tried to kill him, which was no surprise to Jesus. He just slipped away to minister to those who would receive it. Persecution for the sake of righteousness is a given for those filled with the power of the Spirit. Let us not lose faith when persecution happens. We must remember that the blessed presence of God's Spirit is our companionship, our strength, and our victory.

## **Prayer**

*Father, you said that we are blessed when we are persecuted because of righteousness because the kingdom of heaven belongs to us. Help us to keep this in mind as we persevere in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen. (Matthew 5:10)*

## **Meditation**

1. How has your commitment to God's call on your life affected your relationships?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is God challenging you to do?