

# **THE THREE GLANCES OF CHRIST**

## **PURPOSE AND SITUATION OF THE MEDITATION**

This is the third meditation of the Weekend, and is given at Friday morning chapel. It is the intention of the meditation that each candidate hears the invitation of Christ to trust Him as Lord, and to be His disciple.

Remember that this meditation is given after two other meditations: **KNOW YOURSELF** in which candidates are encouraged to ask, "Who am I? What is the meaning of life?" It follows **THE PRODIGAL SON**, which teaches that, no matter how far we wander from Him, the Father waits to welcome us home.

Time Objective: Should not exceed **7** minutes

# **THE THREE GLANCES OF CHRIST**

## **OUTLINE**

- I. INTRODUCTION** – Three glances of Christ
- II. THE RICH YOUNG MAN**
- III. JUDAS ISCARIOT**
- IV. SIMON PETER**
- V. CONCLUSION**

### ***OPTIONAL WOMEN'S WEEKEND EXAMPLES***

- II. THE SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN**
- III. MARY AND MARTHA**
- IV. THE ADULTRESS**

# THE THREE GLANCES OF CHRIST

## SAMPLE MEDITATION

(The sample may be used as the Meditation itself, or as a commentary on the outline.)

### INTRODUCTION

The Tres Dias experience is an encounter with Jesus Christ. Perhaps you are not sure what to expect because you do not know Him well. So this morning we will look at three encounters He had with different people. We want to see how they responded.

### THE RICH YOUNG MAN – Mark 10:17-22 (NIV)

This was a good young man. He had been living a good life. He was searching sincerely to do God's will. Jesus saw the goodness in him. *“Jesus looked at him steadily and loved him.”*

Jesus invited him to remove the one obstacle to his continued growth and relationship with God – his excessive attachment to material things. It might seem to us that Jesus demanded too much. However, He never challenges us beyond the strength He gives us to meet the challenges. (CF: 1 Cor. 10:13)

The young man was generous to a point. However, he failed because of cowardice and unwillingness to let go of personal comfort. His situation was particularly sad because he had so much promise. His decision to cling to his material possessions rather than entrust his life to Jesus' hands made him an unhappy man.

Is this your story? Are you an unhappy person, caught between your desire to live for Christ and your attachment to comforts? Do you lack the courage to trust God for every detail of your life?

### JUDAS ISCARIOT - John 12:4-6 (NIV)

Nobody abandons God in a moment. We gradually fall away.

We allow evils of various kinds to build barriers between God and us. Judas' barriers were dishonesty, greed, and pride. Ours may be different. But unless we confront these evils in our lives, they will eventually separate us from the joy God intends for us.

We may fool those around us into thinking we are devoted to the Lord, while refusing to turn from these evils. Judas fooled the other eleven disciples. Jesus knew the truth about Judas. He continued to search him out and invite him to return. He did so, especially on the last night they were together. He washed Judas' feet, inviting him to be cleansed of sin and to be one with the family again. He tried to warn Judas, but Judas hardened his heart.

*“He went out into the night...”* (John 13:30) of evil and despair.

When Judas first responded to Jesus' call, he was as enthusiastic as the others. He had high hopes of sharing in Jesus' ministry. He never intended to separate himself from Jesus. However, he allowed greed, dishonesty, and pride to intervene and blind him to the truth.

When eventually he did regret his action, he despaired of forgiveness and took his own life. (CF: Matt. 27:3-5)

### **SIMON PETER - Mark 14:27-31**

Peter was a very genuine human being. He was really dedicated to Jesus. However, he had one serious flaw – he trusted his own efforts to live for Christ.

He was overly self-confident. So he made rash and hurtful statements, “*Even if all lose faith, I will not.*” (Mark 14:29)

Because he relied on his own strength, he failed when the real challenge came. He completely disowned Jesus and was a source of scandal to his brothers. (Luke 22:54-62)

However, Peter had an important redeeming factor in his favor. He was humble enough to repent. All it took was one glance from Jesus to cause him to weep for his sin. In spite of his rash self-confidence, he continued to love Jesus.

He had learned that Jesus understands human failings and that He forgives. Peter discovered that as long as he continued to give himself unreservedly in love to Jesus, he would have the strength to overcome all obstacles. (John 21:15-17)

Peter had become the leader because he loved the Lord. Others had better human qualities, but Peter had what was essential.

Jesus is reaching out to us in this Tres Dias. What is our response?

Will we be afraid and walk away?

Are we completely or partially blind to the opportunity because of sin in our lives?

Are we imperfect, but willing, because we love Him?

Do we love Him enough that we are willing for Him to deal with us in any way that he deems necessary?

### **CONCLUSION**

Three glances of Christ – three cases of Jesus looking someone in the eye, but seeing past the eyes into the very soul. What he sees, he knows – he understands – he loves, even when that love is rejected. Invite the candidates to imagine Jesus Christ glancing into their eyes, knowing their souls, understanding their hearts, and offering each one of them his special love.

Time Objective: Should not exceed 7 minutes

## **OPTIONAL WOMEN’S WEEKEND EXAMPLES**

*(On a women’s Weekend, it might be well to substitute other Gospel stories whose main characters are female, such as):*

**THE SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN – Mark 7:24-30**

Here is a Gentile woman who asks Jesus to heal her daughter, is refused, but pleads her case until Jesus changes his mind. A theme is clear, that those who feel themselves to be outside the church can discover and know the love of Christ. Their human need touches the heart of Christ, as does their persistence in seeking Him.

**MARY AND MARTHA** – *Luke 10:38-42*

Familiar themes here are Martha's anxiety about mundane matters, and Mary's "*sitting at Jesus' feet.*" His "*only one thing is needed*" reply to Martha speaks to our human need for a quiet resting in the presence of Christ.

**THE ADULTRESS** – *John 8:2-11*

This particularly poignant and emotional story reveals a Christ whose forgiving love is greater than any wrong we can do, or any social disgrace we can suffer. Its other side speaks to our self-righteousness and readiness to condemn.