

“The Lord will not permit the godly to slip and fall !” (Psa 55:22)

King David’s life experiences in history had a prophetic reflection in the life of the Son of David. King David mourned, “It is not an enemy who reproaches me; then I could bear it... But it was you, a man my equal, my companion and my acquaintance!” (Psa 55:12-14); “Even my best friend, the one I trusted completely, the one who shared my food, has turned against me” (Psa 41:9). The lot of Jesus was the same. Jesus handled the hurts from friends by confidence in God and love towards them.

a) Confidence of Security

The devil literally entered the heart of Judas and enticed him to betray his Lord. It was no ordinary thing. For Jesus it was more than a sword piercing through His heart. But He was not agitated. He stayed calm because He KNEW that “the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God” (Jn 13:2,3). No doubt Judas was about to hand Him over to the executors. But the pain of this betrayal was overcome by the knowledge and confidence that all things had already been given into His hands by His Daddy in Heaven.

b) Service of Love

When those whom we trust most ditch or desert us, we get terribly upset. We will be tempted to abuse them and avoid them. Jesus must have had the same temptation because the Scriptures tell us that He was tempted like us in all areas. He overcame this temptation by continuing to serve His disciples and shower love on them more than ever. Here’s John’s record: “When Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end... He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded” (Jn 13:1-5). Apostle Paul captures the significance of Christ’s act of love for His disciples in spite of their failures: “The Lord Jesus ON THE SAME NIGHT IN WHICH HE WAS BETRAYED took bread and...” (1 Cor 11:23). We are not to love people “because of” their goodness, but “in spite of” their badness and weakness. Otherwise there won’t be a single person left in all the world whom we can love!

*Love, love, love, the Gospel in one word is love;
Love your neighbour as your brother, love, love, love!*

Gracious Heavenly Father,

We thank You for Your love in sending Your only begotten Son into the world. We thank You for Your love manifested on the Cross when He died for our sins. Every remembrance of His sacrificial death humbles us and makes us realize our unworthiness. Help us, O Father, to stay grateful and faithful to You till the end. Help us shut our ears to enticing calls.

Dear Father, Your Son had total confidence over His security in Your hands. Help us, Your children, to grow in this confidence. Your Son has assured us that no one can snatch us from Your hand and His hand. We rejoice before You that You who are in us are greater than he who is in the world. When You are for us and in us, who can be against us? We are safe against rushing winds as we are trees planted in *Your* courts. We are safe against raging waves as we are travellers in *Your* ship. We are safe against ravenous wolves as we are sheep in *Your* fold.

Dear Lord, Your Word teaches us to love our enemies, pray for them, and bless them. We honestly confess that we are not able to do this. We love only those who love us and do us good. Fill us, Father, with the same love Jesus had for those who denied Him, abused Him, cursed Him, betrayed Him, deserted Him, and killed Him. Without Your help we cannot pray to You for their forgiveness. Father, we confess that there are certain individuals whom we are just not able to forgive wholeheartedly. Pour out into our hearts Your love that freely forgave us. Let a spirit of indebtedness to Your forgiving love drive us to embrace those who hate us and work against us.

Thank You, Father, for the elements of bread and wine which are emblems of Christ's body and blood. Besides thanking You at this Table, help us to take all effort to live in peace with all men. Let us humble ourselves and lie low so conflicts can be resolved. Let the power of the blood of Jesus flush out all bitterness from our hearts and minds. Enable us to truly pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us!" Help us to be patient with others as You are with us! Let us forget people's offences as You have thrown our sins behind Your back!

We ask all these blessings in the Name of Jesus our Lord! Amen!

*(Jn 3:16; 10:28,29; 13:1-3; Rom 5:5,8; 8:31; 12:18; 1 Jn 1:7; 4:4; Isa 38:17;
Lk 9:41; 23:34; Mt 5:44-48; 6:12; 18:32-34; 26:50; 1 Cor 11:23-25; Eph 4:32)*