

Maundy Thursday, 2010:

Lord, we need so many miracles. There is such need for You. Open our eyes. Help us to see You. Help us to see You.

Lord, give us the grace to let You perform Your miracles through us. Purify us, and make us that empty space in which You can do Your mighty works. God, Your church has been benign long enough. We pray now, Lord, that You will open the gates of Heaven and pour Your mighty miracles, Your mighty power, Your mighty grace of Your Holy Spirit through Your church – that the world may see and know that You are truly a God of love and a God of compassion and a God of miracles. May Your signs and wonders be made manifest through Your church. And, Lord, I pray that You would give us the grace to be the empty space in which to do just that.

Lord, I thank you that You are here. Lord, let the oil flow. Let the water flow. Let the cleansing of Your love flow. Lord, we open to You to do as You will. Everything that is us, Lord, we turn over to You. Have Your way, Lord. We've had it too long and too often. Have Your way, Lord. Let it all be Yours, Lord. Let it all be Yours. And let You receive all the glory.

I think that Lord would want us to remember too that when we pray this and when we say this, we're giving Him permission to rearrange our lives and to reorganize and to move in and to change our nice little systems up. And often times we block Him by being protective of what we've already got; what we have physically, what we have figured out mentally or emotionally or spiritually. We don't want to be rearranged thank you very much. But if He's going to move, we have to be willing to let Him run the show and to let Him rearrange what needs to be rearranged.

Lord, give us the grace to do that. Something that's benign doesn't cause any trouble. Something that's not Him doesn't cause us to be offensive. And Lord, we pray that You'd give us the grace to be offensive in this world.

Lord God, I pray for Your protection over us, Lord, as we finish our the last leg of our Lenten journey, Lord. Satan didn't come after You till many days in the desert, Lord Jesus, because he was waiting for You to be weak, Lord. And some of us are fasting and some of us are just spiritually tried, and, Lord, when we get turned inside out and scrubbed, Lord, we're open-hearted sometimes, Lord. So, Lord, I just pray that you would not let the enemy come near us, Lord God. And that You'd keep us safe. And that You'd lead me over the finish line for You, Lord all the glory to You, Lord God.

I look back at my old life, and a lot of it seems pretty easy looking back on it. But then You came into my life, and it's – and I could never go back to that life. The challenges of walking with You are there; sometimes I struggle, but I couldn't go back. Even with the struggles, there is a richness to my life that I never had. There's a fullness that I never had. So I'm here. I'm not going back. I can't go back.

I feel compelled to share something I've been thinking about this past couple of weeks. My parents brought back an icon of Saint Christopher for me from the Holy Land – which is now hanging in my room, so I've been looking at it and thinking about Saint Christopher. You may or may not know the story – probably legendary but nonetheless a good one – of Saint Christopher picking up a child after he had converted. He wasn't particularly good at prayer and fasting so the good deed that the hermit who converted him set him to do was carrying people across a swollen river. And one day he picks up this child to carry across a swollen river. When he's about halfway across the river the child gets heavier and heavier. And he almost sinks; he's almost drowning. And somehow he finds the strength to make it all the

way across. And he puts the child down , and he says, "It felt like the weight of the world on my shoulders." And the child says, "Blessed are you, Christopher, because not only did you bear the weight of the world but He who made it." And that's a message for all of us. It often feels like we have the weight of the world on our shoulder, but that's because we are bearing not only the weight of the world but the weight of Him who made it. And we are partly across that stream – we're not all the way to the other side yet. It's feeling like we're sinking, and it feels like we might be drowning, but the person who's on our shoulders is Christ. And that's the weight we're carrying. That's the cross we're carrying. And thus, we're not going to drown – not with Him on us. The easy solution is to give up – just give in to the current and to go with it rather than to keep crossing and keep walking, but I think the Lord is saying is, "You're bearing Me on your shoulders." And it can be a heavy burden sometimes, but keep walking. Keep going to the other side because: Blessed are you for not only do you bear the world but you bear Him who made it. Let us bear Christ to the world.