

# Journey OF Faith

April 18, 2010

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

## In Word & Deed

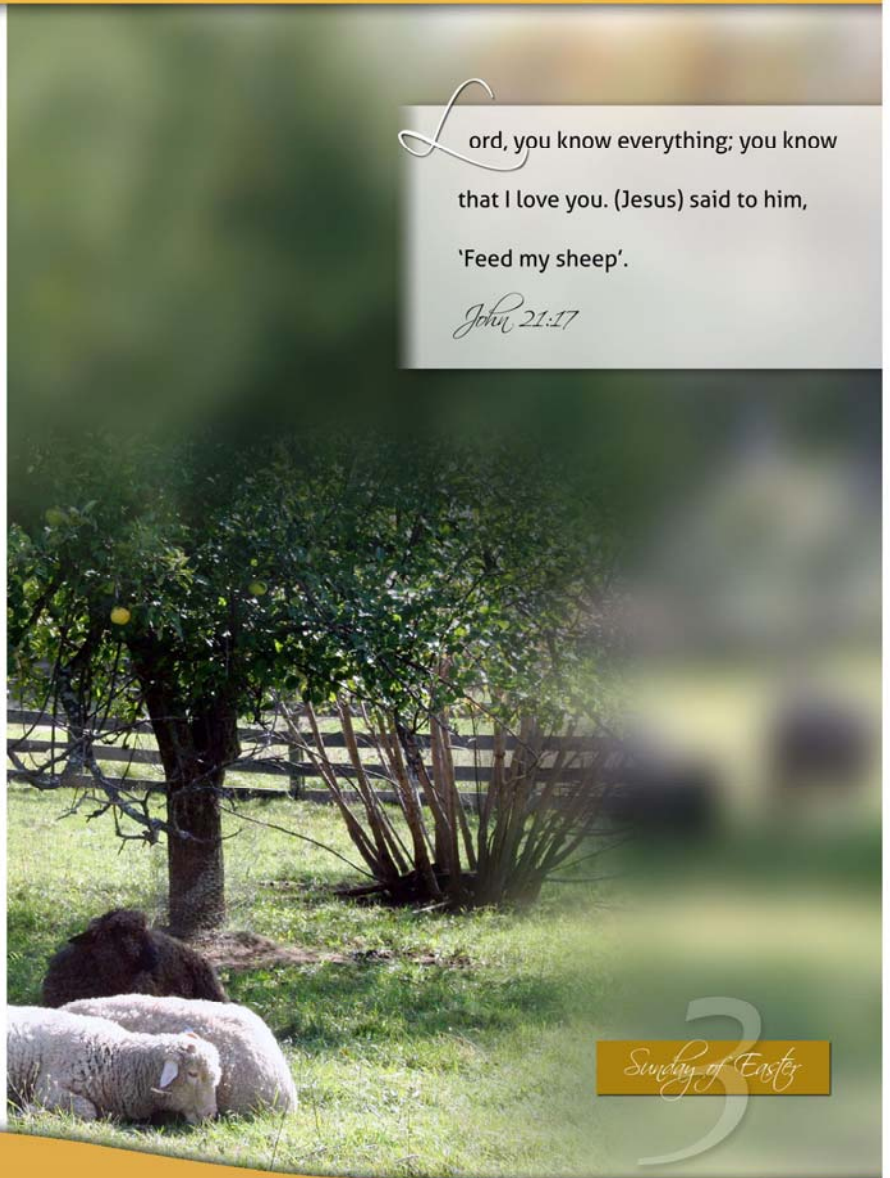
**B**efore the moment of reconciliation, there is an uncomfortable moment of awkwardness and fear. We feel the full impact of our mistake, our sin or our social gaffe. In our uncertainty of forgiveness, we can be anxious and insecure. What a relief to hear the words of forgiveness, to experience the restoration of friendship, or to feel the embrace of a loved one!

Peter denied Jesus—after bragging that he would die for the Lord! Jesus knew. Peter knew that Jesus knew. Yet in the question, “Do you love me?”, the breach is mended, and the relationship renewed. Jesus reaches out to Peter to affirm his love. Remember, it was the Disciple who Jesus loved that first believed at the tomb and then was first to recognize Jesus on the shore. Love forgives, restores, saves, and

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**L**ord, you know everything; you know that I love you. (Jesus) said to him, 'Feed my sheep'.

*John 21:17*



*Sunday of Easter*

**F**REEDOM IS NOT *the ability to do anything we want, whenever we want.*  
RATHER, FREEDOM IS *the ability to live responsibly the truth of our relationship with God and with one another.*

~POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Scripture Readings

**Sunday** **April 18**

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

**Monday** **April 19**

Acts 6:8-15/Jn 6:22-29

**Tuesday** **April 20**

Acts 7:51—8:1a/Jn 6:30-35

**Wednesday** **April 21**

Acts 8:1b-8/Jn 6:35-40

**Thursday** **April 22**

Acts 8:26-40/Jn 6:44-51

**Friday** **April 23**

Acts 9:1-20/Jn 6:52-59

**Saturday** **April 24**

Acts 9:31-42/Jn 6:60-69

**Sunday** **April 25**

Acts 13:14, 43-52/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30

Although the winds be mighty,  
and high waves in the sea,  
yet Wisdom is the pilot –  
the powerful Lord is he;  
Despite transgression's deluge,  
corruptions foul and dark,  
we'll yet escape the drowning  
because God is our ark.

*Ann Griffiths  
Eighteenth century*



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## FAMILY LIFE:

# TO WALK AS ONE

Certain phrases are so overused that they have become all but a cliché.

For example, how many times do people say ‘Sorry’ when they really mean ‘Excuse me’ or ‘I made a mistake.’ We say we are sorry so often that it has lost power and meaning. It rolls off our tongue with no more thought than a cough or greeting a stranger on the street. It sounds so insincere. Sometimes, with amazing ease, people adopt the attitude that “I am only human” as though being human was an excuse. But our words and actions can hurt others. So what can we do when we do wrong? How do we make it better?

Specific failures call for specific remedies. When we offend someone or hurt someone, we need to offer an

apology and plan how we can make amends.

Then, ask for forgiveness. We cannot assume that an apology is sufficient. Forgiveness is given and granted, not taken. And then, if we are truly sorry, we go the extra step to demonstrate our sincerity and good intentions. Pay it forward. Do a random act of kindness. Bite your tongue. Be patient with someone who annoys you. Choose something that will be your own personal penance that will help you remember to do the right thing next time. “I’m sorry” may become a cliché, but doing the right thing will never go out of style!

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*Worthy* IS THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN TO RECEIVE  
*power AND riches,*  
WISDOM AND STRENGTH,  
*honor AND glory AND blessing.*  
REVELATION 5:12

## In Word & Deed

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redeems. Peter’s weakness is overcome by the power of God’s love.

It is easy to judge ourselves as unworthy of love, or to be stubborn and not seek forgiveness from God or from others. We prefer to wallow in self-righteousness rather than face the moment of truth when we have to

acknowledge our sin and our weakness. Don’t be foolish! Allow for the possibility of reconciliation, the power of grace and the strength of love. Make peace with God and with others. The only thing you lose is your guilt!

*~James Gaffney*