

# SACRED STORY



April 6, 2014

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Encouragement & Wisdom

*E & W reflections are additional helps for your Sacred Story prayer journey.  
Reflect on them at week's beginning or outside of your 15-minute prayer periods.*

## The Affirmations

**I will use my time wisely and ask God to help me  
understand the source of my sins and failings.**

In the last Affirmation, we considered how we must resist obsessive worry about our sins and failings. The Lord's desire is always to help us, not scold us. When we imagine Christ as a harsh schoolmaster, we have not understood his mission or the mercy he comes to lavish on those who have been destroyed by sin's effects... and we waste precious time! We must instead work with the Lord who wants to help us grow. We must remember that he is infinitely patient with our failings and weaknesses. All he wants is for us to keep trying, to not lose hope and not waste time fretting!

When we allow our faith to mature, we realize that Christ is our fortress and our rock. We must use our time to speak to Christ from our hearts, and ask his help to grow in understanding and freedom. We cooperate with Christ who is mercy and graciousness, when we ask him to help us in this process of freedom. He will hear our prayers and help us along the way. Jesus is not the cop in the rearview mirror!

Jesus is the captain of our hearts and the one who died for us so that we can have life, and have it abundantly! (Jn 10:10).

Lord Jesus Christ, let me use all of my time asking for your help to understand my life. You are the only one who can unlock the mysteries of my heart. I affirm you are loving and forgiving and want to help me grow in freedom. Let me believe this more deeply each day, so that all my time is well-spent opening to you in  
*Creation, Presence, Memory, Mercy and Eternity.*



*If you, O LORD, mark iniquities, LORD, who can stand?  
But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered.  
For with the LORD is kindness and with him is plenteous redemption;  
And he will redeem Israel from all their iniquities.*

(Psalm 130: 3-4, 7-8)

