

# Making Space for God

## *Irish Prayer for Cleansing:*

Jesus, forgive my sins.

Forgive the sins that I can remember and also the sins I have forgotten.

Forgive the wrong actions I have committed, and the right actions I have omitted.

Forgive the times I have been weak in the face of temptation and those when I have been stubborn in the face of correction.

Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievement and those when I have failed to boast of your works.

Forgive the harsh judgments I have made of others, and the leniency I have shown to myself.

Forgive the lies I have told to others and the truths I have avoided.

Forgive me of the pain I have caused others and the indulgence I have shown to myself.

Jesus have pity on me and make me whole.

*Cited by Calvin Miller in The Path of Celtic Prayer, page 145*

***Looking to the Past-*** Take some times to settle yourself. Invite the Lord to guide and direct your thoughts for the day. Think back over where you have been this last month. Review your journal. What burdens, emotions, and concerns do you carry? What are you thankful for? When have you experienced the Lord's presence? Journal your thoughts and offer these to the Lord.

## ***Scripture Reading- The Birth of Esau and Jacob- Genesis 25:19-26***

No one asks to be born. That is never our choice. Instead we are the result of someone else's choice. We all enter life as the character in someone else's story. Esau and Jacob were born into the family of desert nomads. Both their parents and grandparents had been singled out to experience favor from Almighty God. Both had been given a promise and both struggled to realize the promise in the face of insurmountable obstacles. Before Esau or Jacob ever took their first breath, the author of life gave their parents, Isaac and Rebekah, a sneak peak at the next chapter he was writing. It was then that the parents discovered that the author of life is a mystery writer.



## ***Questions for Reflection***

1. Genesis 25:19-20 gives a brief summary of the family of Isaac. Give a brief summary of your own family. Who are your parents and grandparents? What parts of their story shaped yours? List one thing for each of your parents and grandparents that you are thankful for.
2. Infertility seemed to run in the family and it put the survival of the family and clan in jeopardy. God's promise to the family was fruitfulness but Rebekah experienced barrenness. What might Isaac and Rebekah have been thinking and feeling? When have you thought and felt the same?
3. Rebekah experienced a difficult pregnancy. In our world she would have gone to the pediatrician and he would give something to relieve her symptoms. Rebekah did not have that option so she sought the Lord. She

suffered the symptoms but got a prophetic word instead. What contribution might the prophetic word have made to her life experience? How do you identify?

4. In verses 24-26 the reader is told how Esau and Jacob get their names. Reflect upon your own name. What does it mean? What do you like or dislike about your name? If you are a parent, why did you give your children the names you gave them? What do you hope for them? What do your parents hope for you?

## *Reading for Reflection*

### **Excerpts from a Dog's Diary:**

8:00am -Dog food. My favorite thing!  
9:30am- A car ride! My favorite thing!  
9:40am-A walk in the park. My favorite thing!  
10:30am-Got rubbed and petted. My favorite thing!  
12:00pm-Lunch. My favorite thing!  
1:00pm- Played in the yard. My favorite thing!  
3:00pm-Wagged my tail. My favorite thing!  
5:00pm- Milk bones. My favorite thing!  
7:00pm- Got to play ball. My favorite thing!  
8:00pm-Wow! Watched TV with the people. My favorite thing!  
11:00pm- Sleeping on the bed. My favorite thing!

### **Excerpts from a Cat's Diary:**

Day 983 of my captivity. My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre, little dangling objects. The only thing that keeps me going is my dream of escape.

*From the Me I Want to Be, by John Ortberg*

The call of the peregrini, those Celtic saints called to a lifestyle of perpetual wandering, is to do something in this life that has other worldly consequences. A call to serve Christ means that we have accepted a mystical job description: all of our service must be done in this world for the sake of the next.

*Calvin Miller in The Path of Celtic Prayer, page 78*

We who serve an entirely indoor God have lost a great part of our faith. We must break through the cold hard walls of our institutionalized worship and reach for the soft, warm reality of God that is found in out of doors. It is impossible to imprison God within the walls of church and yet claim that Christianity brings light, growth, and life. We need to open the windows of our soul to admit God's creative energy... A supersized God makes us aware of our smallness and our humble place in the universe. But in order to see him, we must give up our addiction to electronic media. Once we have seen the God of Yosemite and the Everglades, we will be better able to celebrate his awesome reality and our hearts will overflow with praise. Cognizant of God's majesty, we will subsequently and spontaneously confess our need.

*Calvin Miller in The Path of Celtic Prayer, page 39-40*

## *Benediction*

*Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope.  
Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it.*

*New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> This prayer can be found at the following website: [http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers\\_Easter.htm#ixzz1rfEdh2wA](http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Easter.htm#ixzz1rfEdh2wA)  
Esther 8: Palo Alto Vineyard 4/2012, Los Angeles Staff 5/2012