

The Master's Vessel Ministry: Spiritual Journey (January 12-February 1, 2015)

The Spiritual Journey of The Master's Vessel Ministry which runs from January 12 through February 1, 2015 is a time of prayer and fasting. We do not intend to make this spiritual discipline an endurance exercise or a competition with similar exercises fellow believers engage in at this time of the year. I therefore appeal to all MVM members to observe this time as unto the Lord in contemplation on His greatness, goodness, and graciousness. Please feel free to use the meditations below, drawn largely from our Spiritual Emphasis for 2015: "The Lord is My Shepherd; I Shall not Want" (Psalm 23). However, you are not, by any means, limited to the said meditations.

We shall meet in our respective congregations to conclude each day's fast with prayer at 5:30 p.m. or at a time that suits each local context. If for health reasons you are unable to fast till the end of the day, please do fast as much as you can. Never forget that the fast is unto the Lord who understands where each person sits or stands. He will reward your faithfulness! Non-members of The Master's Vessel Ministry can submit their prayer requests to the appropriate box on the website, (www.tmvc.org). May the Lord answer you favourably as you seek His face sincerely and seriously.

Spiritual Emphasis 2015: "The Lord is my Shepherd...." (Psalm 23)

DAY	MEDITATION	SOME SUGGESTED PRAYER POINTS
January 12	What the shepherd is to his sheep, the Lord is to His saved ones. He pilots (leads), protects, and provides. The big question, though, is "Am I the Lord's sheep?" I become His sheep by accepting Him as the Shepherd who gave His life for me (John 10:11). Then I can boldly say with assurance, The Lord is my Shepherd!	Are you saved? If so, dedicate this fasting and prayer to God. Ask for His enablement to go through it with sincerity and seriousness. Ask Him to hear and bless us.
January 13	Because of the able and ample provisions of the good Shepherd, I can live a life of satisfaction - - I shall not lack any good thing in 2015 and always (v. 1; Psa. 37:25).	Bring all the areas of lack in your life, the life of your family and the MVM family.
January 14	The Good Shepherd offers a life of satisfaction. He makes me lie down and leads me where my needs are met (v. 2). If you feel driven- - hurried and harried, it is likely you do not know the Good Shepherd well or you are not His sheep. Let us stop looking in the wrong directions and follow Him who meets all our spiritual and physical needs.	Remember those in need - - spiritual, physical and emotional needs, especially those facing persecution around the world because of their faith in Jesus Christ.
January 15	Our imperfection calls for constant restoration by the Good Shepherd. He restores my soul (v.3) by: sustaining me when I am sorrowful; sanctifying me when I am sinful and strengthening me when I am stumbling.	Pray for spiritual restoration of the church in the country where you live and for your own personal restoration.

January 16	The Good Shepherd Leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake (v.3). His love leads (it does not drive) me to do what is pleasing to him for his name's sake. Am I motivated by His love (2 cor. 5:14) and the enablement of His grace to live a life that pleases Him and brings blessings to people?	Pray that the love of God and love for God should be the motivating force of your services for Him. Pray that the MVM will have a hunger for God's righteousness.
January 19	We crave for the mountain-top experiences. But valleys often accompany mountains. Think of the valleys the Lord has brought you through -- valleys of sickness, fear, loss of a loved one or a cherished possession. Thank Him again for His loving presence that makes even death a shadow that cannot and does not bite, i.e. hurt (v. 4).	Pray for those who are in the valley of life now, that their faith would not fail. Ask God to see them through. Ask Him to take you from the valley to the mountaintop.
January 20	When I stray from the paths of righteousness, He uses His rod of discipline and His staff of support to lovingly bring me back, otherwise my straying might lead to my getting lost permanently. Those whom God never disciplines do not belong to Him and do not fear Him (Heb. 12:7, 8). Please don't envy them. A Persian wise man once said: "I fear God, and next to that, I fear him who fears Him not." You should fear the man or woman who does not fear God! He or she is capable of doing anything, and sometimes, things unimaginable.	Pray for Nigeria -- its leaders and citizens. Pray that the fear of God will rest upon, both the leaders and the led. Pray that God would send us revival wherever we are. Pray that He would frustrate the plans of those who are bent on doing evil.
January 21	The Good Shepherd prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies -- the old nature (flesh), sin, and Satan (v. 5a). Picture a flock of sheep that lies down to eat in green pastures with enemies around, yet are not perturbed. Why? Because the Good Shepherd, has taken care of them (the enemies) by keeping them in check. This takes faith (trust) in the Good Shepherd on the part of the sheep. Please trust Him.	Pray that God would impart faith to the hearts of His people. Pray also that He would give us trustworthy human shepherds and not money-minded hirelings or wolves in shepherds' clothing.
January 22	Some of the sheep of the Good Shepherd feel satisfied with the anointing with olive oil administered by human shepherds but fail to seek the divine anointing of the Good Shepherd, anointing which cleanses, heals and empowers because it is with the oil of the Holy Spirit (v. 5b). When was the last time you sought this anointing?	Pray that we would have the "upon experience" as the early church did. And if you have, pray that the Lord would refill you; it was and is a repeated experience.
January 23	A leaking cup never runs over. We leak by way of dissatisfaction manifested in greed/ covetousness and complaint. Many Israelites were "leaking cups" in the wilderness; God never satisfied them and so they missed the Promised Land. The satisfied sheep is grateful to God for a full and overflowing life (v. 5c; John10:10). Are you?	Thank God for abundant life in Christ. Pray for an attitude of gratitude and for a life of satisfaction in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd.
January 26	Those who are satisfied with God, will find that his goodness will always supply their needs and his mercy will always blot out their sins, not some days of their lives, but all the days of their lives -- "the days of fasting as well	Pray for a good understanding of the goodness and mercy of God in our daily living. Pray that God would help

	as the days of feasting, the bleak days as well as the bright days.” And such are assured a place in the presence (house) of the LORD now and forever (v. 6).	us live in the consciousness of His presence.
January 27	In this new year, before you envy people for what they have, ask them what price they paid for it. And before you decide to pay such a price, ask God if it is a fair price. Certain things we acquire or accomplish in life are not worth the price we pay for them. Only the Good Shepherd demands and deserves my soul, my life, my all!	Pray that God will help us pursue true and eternal riches. Pray that we will never forget to survey the wondrous cross on which the Good Shepherd died.
January 28	“In the beginning, God....” (Gen. 1:1). "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3). God wants to be first, (not just present or prominent but preeminent) in your life. He is the Author of the first creation, and He is the Author of the new spiritual creation. The wind and the waves in the first creation obey Him -- they have no choice. In the new creation, there is a choice: to obey or not to obey -- the pleasures of sin for a moment or the favor of fellowship for time and eternity. Have you chosen to put God first in your life? Remember, not to decide is to decide.	Pray that nothing or nobody (including yourself) should take God's rightful place, i.e. the first place, in your life. Pray that God will give you the strength to resist any such attempt. Tell the Lord to take you and MVM for His exclusive use.
January 29	Philippians 4:8 admonishes us to think of things that are wholesome. - - things that are pure and good. You are what you eat. Your body reflects what you feed it. Eat well and your body rewards you with health. The same is true spiritually and mentally. We become like the things we put into our minds, what we allow our minds to dwell on. Ask yourself “what do I put into my mind - what do I think about?” You may need a radical change in the diet of your thoughts.	Pray that the Holy Spirit will take full control of your thoughts and for spiritual consciousness to jettison or discard all impure or unscriptural thoughts as soon as they rear their ugly heads.
January 30	Jeremiah (1: 4-12, 19): God who creates for a purpose sees to it that His purpose is fulfilled in the life of His willing and obedient creature. Some people are afraid to enter into God's purpose for their lives. Others are unwilling for selfish reasons. But God will never fail the one who trusts Him; He will see him/her through because where He sends or leads, He surely provides. He will see you through 2015 if only you will stay close enough to Him. I trust that you will, by His grace.	Praise and thank God for the honor of calling you into His service (Eph. 2: 8-10). Pray for courage to do God's will this year; to serve Him no matter what your circumstances are. Ask for forgiveness for failing to serve Him sometimes, or worse still, much of the time. Let us thank Him for bringing us to the end of this Spiritual Journey and for answering our prayers.

Please note that you are not limited to the suggested prayer points.

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