



Day 8

Stories of Jesus

Speak... to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.” – Ephesians 5:19

Tell me the stories of Jesus I long to hear – this song brings back such wonderful memories of my Grandma. When I think of a modern woman

of faith — she comes to mind first. Her faith was so strong. She didn't have much materially, but she was so rich in her faith — she loved God so much and then showered that love on her family. I remember seeing her sitting in her rocking chair by the bay window reading her Bible.

Easter was a big deal for us. We got new dresses, ruffled socks, black patent leather shoes, bonnets and gloves. Dad helped us order a corsage for Grandma — always white; colored ones for Mom and Aunt Ginger.

When I was about 9 or 10, Maundy Thursday was approaching and Grandma told us we would be attending The Last Supper with her. Well, as a kid, the *last supper* really didn't mean much, but they said *supper*, so I arrived at church expecting *supper*. Sitting beside her in the pew, I heard the minister talking about celebrating *The Last Supper* which was a mystery to me. The minister talked about taking and eating the body of Christ and taking and drinking the blood of Christ — well, my young mind thought oh — that's GROSS! And, I knew — just knew, I'd never want any part of that. That was my first experience with communion and *The Last Supper*.

My mind has matured over time as have my understandings and expectations about communion/The Last Supper, Easter and more. Today, it's not about the elements — the bread and wine. It's not even about Jesus dying on a cross for my sins or a resurrected body. As I have learned and studied about Jesus the Jew, the political and religious upheaval during his lifetime, my thoughts and expectations have taken me into a deeper understanding of Jesus. I've learned who Jesus really was, how he lived a life pleasing to God – although not always pleasing to his friends and the religious authorities. I discovered how he delighted in God's word and God's laws and redefined them for all people who would listen so that they too could enjoy the abundant life that God wants for all of God's people. So yes, *tell me the stories of Jesus and tell me your stories of Jesus — I long to hear. Amen.*

Dear Gracious and Loving Creator – thank you so much for our memories, which can be brought to us in something as simple as a line from a song and can lead us into a deeper relationship with you. Amen.

– Nancy Humes