



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Come As You Are | John 20:18-29

Day 1: Encountering Jesus in Your Grief

Reading: John 20:11-18

Devotional: Mary stood at the tomb weeping, frozen in her grief, unable to see beyond her pain. Yet Jesus met her there—not after she composed herself, not after she stopped crying, but in the middle of her ugly tears. He called her by name: "Mary." In that moment, everything changed. Your grief doesn't disqualify you from Jesus' presence; it's often the very place He chooses to reveal Himself most powerfully. He knows your name. He sees your pain. He's near to the brokenhearted. Whatever loss you're carrying today—a relationship, a dream, a loved one—bring it to Him as you are. Let Him speak your name and transform your sorrow into purpose.

Day 2: Finding Peace in Your Fear

Reading: John 20:19-23

Devotional: The disciples huddled behind locked doors, paralyzed by fear. They believed Jesus was alive, yet anxiety still gripped them. What would happen next? Would they be targeted? Killed? Jesus didn't wait for their courage to rise. He supernaturally entered their locked room and spoke: "Peace be with you." No rebuke. No shame. Just peace. Your fears are real—fear of rejection, failure, the unknown, what others might think. But no door you've locked can keep Jesus out. He enters your anxiety and declares peace over you. The war is over. Death is defeated. You don't need to be brave enough first; He meets you in your fear and replaces it with His presence.

Day 3: Wrestling Through Your Doubt

Reading: John 20:24-29

Devotional: Thomas gets a bad reputation, but he was simply honest. "Unless I see, I will never believe." For eight days he wrestled while everyone around him celebrated. Jesus didn't condemn Thomas's doubt—He came back specifically for him. "Put your finger here. See my hands." Jesus invites honest questions. Your intellectual struggles, unanswered prayers, and "why God?" moments don't disqualify you. Faith isn't the absence of doubt; it's bringing your doubt to the One who can handle it. Thomas didn't even need to touch Jesus—encountering Him was enough. "My Lord and my God!" When your doubt meets the risen Jesus, it collapses. Keep wrestling. Keep seeking. He's coming.

Day 4: The Power of Resurrection Living

Reading: Romans 8:9-11

Devotional: The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you. This isn't metaphorical—it's the actual resurrection power of God dwelling within believers through the Holy Spirit. That magnitude of power is available to you today. Not just for salvation, but for transformation. For breaking addictive patterns. For healing broken relationships. For conquering fear and walking in purpose. You're not just forgiven; you're empowered. You're not just saved; you're sent. The resurrection didn't just happen to Jesus—it happened for you, and now it happens through you. Stop trying to change yourself in your own strength. Surrender to the Spirit's power and watch what God can do.

Day 5: Coming As You Are

Reading: Matthew 11:28-30

Devotional: "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened." Not "come when you're cleaned up" or "come when you've figured it out." Come now. Come weary. Come burdened. Come messy. Jesus meets you where you are—in grief like Mary, in fear like the disciples, in doubt like Thomas—but He loves you too much to leave you there. You can't fix yourself before coming to the Physician. That's the whole point. He is the cure. Stop waiting for the perfect moment of spiritual readiness. It won't come. The invitation is for today, right now, exactly as you are. Bring your sin, your shame, your questions, your pain. He already knows, and He's waiting to transform you.



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

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Key Takeaway:

1. Jesus knows you by name and wants to meet you exactly where you are—in your grief, fear, or doubt.
2. You don't have to clean yourself up first. Come as you are. Jesus is the one who transforms us.
3. Jesus meets us where we are, but He loves us too much to leave us there. He always moves us from our mess toward mission and purpose.
4. The same resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in believers through the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:11).
5. Honest doubt is not the same as rebellious unbelief. Jesus welcomes our questions and meets us in our wrestling.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Mary's inability to recognize Jesus in her grief reflect the ways our own pain can blind us to God's presence in our lives?
2. What is the difference between intellectual understanding of the resurrection and having a personal encounter with the risen Jesus, and which do you rely on more?
3. In what areas of your life are you currently hiding behind locked doors like the disciples, allowing fear to keep you from living out your faith boldly?
4. Why do you think Jesus chose to show his wounds to the disciples rather than appearing in glorified perfection, and what does this reveal about how he meets us?
5. How does the fact that Jesus came back eight days later specifically for Thomas challenge your understanding of God's patience with your own doubts and questions?
6. What would it look like in practical terms to stop trying to clean up your mess before coming to Jesus and instead bring it to him as it is?
7. The sermon states that the resurrection power that raised Jesus lives in believers through the Holy Spirit. How should this reality change the way you approach daily struggles and challenges?
8. Thomas declared Jesus as both Lord and God after his encounter. What areas of your life are you treating Jesus as teacher or friend but not fully surrendering to him as Lord?
9. How does the pattern of Jesus meeting people where they are but not leaving them there apply to your current spiritual season, and what mission might he be calling you toward?
10. What is the difference between honest doubt that seeks answers and cynical unbelief that refuses to engage, and which best describes your approach to faith struggles?