



Five-Day Devotional 24
Devotional: The Whole Story: Learning to Hear God's Complete Message
June 15-19, 2026

Five-Day Devotional: The Whole Story — Hearing Beyond the Cross to the Third Day
Theme Scripture: Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33–34
Theme: Learning to hear God's complete message—not only suffering, but also resurrection, restoration, and victory.

From the Pastor's Desk

Devotional Inspiration

The Whole Story: Learning To Hear God's Complete Message

Introduction: Why this scripture became deeply personal. More than nine years ago, this pattern in scripture became intensely personal to me through one of the most painful and faith-testing experiences of my life.

Following Melvina's major brain surgery, there came a season of deep uncertainty. For nine days, she did not know who I was. The familiar recognition was gone. The conversation was gone. She could not speak, and there was no indication she understood my presence. Day after day, I sat in the tension between medical reality and spiritual hope, wrestling with what seemed absent and uncertain. Yet something happened on the third day that left an imprint upon my spirit. For a moment, Melvina called my name. Then, almost as suddenly, she returned to a state of non-recognition and inability to speak. From a natural perspective, it may have seemed like a fleeting interruption in a difficult medical process. But spiritually, that moment became deeply significant to me. It reminded me of something I had seen repeatedly throughout scripture: **God often leaves signs of hope in the middle of suffering, reminders that the present condition is not necessarily the final conclusion.**

During that difficult season, passages where Jesus repeatedly spoke of His suffering, death, **“and the third day He will rise again”** took on new meaning for me. The disciples struggled because they heard the suffering and death louder than the resurrection promise. I understood that struggle more personally than before. When you're living in uncertainty, it's easy to tune out as soon as the story becomes painful. It is easy to interpret silence, delay, or loss as the final word. But Jesus repeatedly taught His disciples that suffering was never meant to be understood apart from resurrection. That experience taught me an enduring lesson: **we must hear the whole story.**

Sometimes God gives what seems like a small sign, a momentary glimpse, or a “third day” reminder—not necessarily to complete the story immediately, but to strengthen faith for the journey ahead. Those moments can become anchors that remind us not to surrender to despair. This devotional grows out of both scripture and experience: the conviction that many believers are living in “Friday” moments while forgetting that God often writes resurrection into the story.

As you journey through these five days, my prayer is that you will hear again not only the difficult realities of your present season, but also the promises God has already spoken beyond them. **Do not stop at the cross. Remember the third day.**

Blessings,

Pastor Fryar

Note to reader: This five-day devotional is designed to encourage and reaffirm that when you pray, you are deepening your walk with God. This is highlighted through use of scripture references from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.



Day 1 — Hear the whole story

Scripture: Mark 8:31: "...The Son of Man must suffer many things... be killed, and after three days rise again."

Devotional thought: Jesus never told only part of the story. Whenever He spoke about suffering, He also spoke about resurrection. Yet the disciples focused on the painful part and missed the promise attached to it.

How often do we do the same? We hear delay but not fulfillment. We notice hardship but overlook hope. We focus on what is ending rather than what God is beginning.

The danger of selective hearing is that it produces selective faith. If all we see is the cross, we may assume defeat. But Jesus never intended the cross to be interpreted apart from resurrection.

God's story is bigger than your current chapter. A difficult season may be real, but it is not necessarily final.

Reflection questions:

- Am I focusing more on present pain than God's promise?
- What "third day" promise have I forgotten?

Key application: Do not stop the story at what hurts. Ask God to help you see beyond the present moment.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me hear the whole story. When pain grows loud, remind me of Your promises. Teach me not to stop at discouragement or delay, but to trust that You are still working beyond what I can see. Help me remember that hardship is never the whole story when You are involved. In Jesus' name, amen.



Day 2 — Faith requires complete hearing

Scripture reading: Romans 10:17; Mark 9:31-32.

- “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”—Romans 10:17.

Devotional thought: The disciples physically heard Jesus speak, yet spiritually they struggled to receive His words. Scripture says they “did not understand” and were afraid to ask questions—Mark 9:32.

Incomplete hearing creates incomplete faith.

If believers only absorb messages of struggle, they may become discouraged. If they only hear comfort without truth, they may become spiritually shallow. God builds mature faith through the whole counsel of His Word—cross and resurrection, waiting and fulfillment, surrender and victory.

Faith grows when we continually rehearse what God has already said, especially when circumstances contradict it.

Reflection questions:

- Have fear or discouragement caused me to forget God’s promises?
- Which promises of God do I need to revisit today?

Key application: Feed your faith intentionally. Revisit promises God has already spoken rather than rehearsing fear.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, strengthen my hearing so that my faith grows. Help me not to listen to only what frightens me or comforts me selectively, but to receive Your complete truth. Remind me daily of Your promises so my faith remains steady.



Day 3 — Hold onto the promise beyond the pain

Scripture reading: Mark 10:33-34; Psalm 42:11. “Why are you cast down, O my soul? Hope in God...”—Ps.42:11.

Devotional thought: Jesus told His disciples exactly what would happen—He would suffer, die, and rise again. The suffering was real, but so was the promise of resurrection.

Often, hardship captures our attention so completely that we lose sight of what God has already spoken. We remember the cross but forget the empty tomb. We focus on present pain and overlook future hope.

Yet Jesus did not speak only of suffering; He also declared victory. His words reminded the disciples that pain would not be the end of the story.

Psalm 42 echoes this same truth: the soul may feel cast down, but hope must still be placed in God. Faith learns to hold sorrow and promise together without losing sight of either.

Reflection questions:

- What difficulty is threatening to overshadow God’s promises in my life?
- Am I dwelling more on the suffering than on God’s faithfulness?
- What promise from God do I need to hold onto today?

Key application: Spiritual maturity is not ignoring hardship; it is remembering God’s promise during it.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, my emotions sometimes cloud my spiritual vision. Help me not to let fear, grief, or disappointment silence Your promises. Teach me to anchor my thoughts in Your Word so hope remains alive even in difficult seasons.



Day 4 — God's process may include a cross before glory

Scripture reading: Luke 24:25-27; I Peter 1:6-7. "...Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?"—Lk 24:26 ESV.

Devotional thought: The disciples expected immediate triumph. They wanted kingdom glory without suffering. Because Jesus' path did not match their expectations, they struggled to hear Him clearly.

Sometimes believers misunderstand God because they assume blessings should come quickly or easily. Yet Scripture often reveals a pattern: process before fulfillment, testing before maturity, surrender before breakthrough.

The cross was not proof that God failed—it was part of God's plan.

Likewise, difficult seasons do not necessarily mean God has abandoned His purpose. Some promises unfold through perseverance.

Reflection questions:

- Are my expectations making it hard to hear God clearly?
- Have I mistaken delay for denial?

Key application: Trust God's process even when it includes difficulty. His timing often develops what instant success cannot.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, align my expectations with Your wisdom. Help me trust Your process when life feels delayed or difficult. Keep me from assuming hardship means abandonment. Teach me to believe that You are still working Your purpose in every season.



Day 5 — Live with third-day expectation

Scripture reading: Matthew 28:5-6; II Corinthians 4:8-9. “He is not here, for He has risen.”

Devotional thought: The resurrection changed everything. What appeared to be the end became the beginning. Despair gave way to hope. Defeat became victory.

The enemy wants believers trapped in “crucifixion thinking”—believing pain is final and hope is gone. But resurrection reminds us that God specializes in unexpected reversals.

The whole story teaches:

- God allows pain without wasting purpose.
- Delays are not denials.
- Setbacks are not endings.
- Death does not have the final word.

Believers are resurrection people. We live with “third day” expectation.

Reflection questions:

- What situation in my life needs resurrection hope?
- How can I encourage someone else who feels stuck in “Friday”?

Key application: Speak resurrection truth over difficult seasons. Refuse to interpret temporary pain as permanent defeat.

Prayer: Heavenly Father God, thank You that the cross is never the end of the story. Help me live with resurrection expectation and trust that You finish what You begin. Teach me to see beyond present struggles into Your greater purpose. Use me to encourage others who are discouraged and remind them that Sunday is still part of Your plan. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Concluding encouragement: The disciples struggled because they heard suffering but forgot resurrection. Believers today face the same challenge. When the “third day” promise is forgotten, discouragement grows. But when we hear the whole story, faith rises again.

Whatever chapter you are in today, remember **God rarely ends the story where pain begins.**