



LENT

Seeking and Surrendering

Overview of the Study

Lent is a sacred season in the Christian calendar, observed over 40 days leading up to Easter. It is a time of reflection, repentance, and spiritual renewal, mirroring Jesus' 40 days of fasting and testing in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11).

During this season, believers are invited to draw closer to God through prayer, fasting, and acts of service, preparing their hearts to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. This study is designed to guide you through daily Scripture readings, reflections, and blessings. Each day, you will engage with a passage of Scripture, followed by an observation that unpacks its meaning, and a blessing to encourage you in your walk with Christ. The common theme across these scriptures for Lent centers on repentance, renewal, and trust in God as we journey through this season of reflection, preparation, and anticipation. The overarching messages include:

- 1. Humility and Submission to God:**

Many of these scriptures encourage humility before God, such as 1 Peter 5:6, Micah 7:7, and Jeremiah 29:12, where believers are called to wait on and submit to God's will.

- 2. Seeking God and His Kingdom:**

Several verses, including Matthew 6:33, Psalm 42:2, and Joel 2:12-14, focus on seeking God's presence, drawing near to Him, and prioritizing His kingdom over earthly concerns.

- 3. Spiritual Renewal and Transformation:**

Scriptures like 2 Corinthians 3:18, Philippians 3:10-11, and Romans 12:12 speak to the internal transformation that occurs through Christ, as we are renewed and conformed more to His image.

- 4. Prayer, Fasting, and Worship:**

Isaiah 58:6, Matthew 6:16-18, and Psalm 19:14 highlight the importance of authentic worship, prayer, and fasting during Lent, inviting believers to align their hearts with God in these practices.

- 5. Trusting God's Timing and Faithfulness:**

Several verses, such as Psalm 33:20-22, Psalm 130:5-6, and Isaiah 40:31, remind believers of God's faithfulness, encouraging them to wait on His perfect timing and place their hope and trust in Him.

- 6. Endurance in Trials:**

Scriptures like John 16:33, Mark 1:12-15, and Lamentations 3:25 remind us that in times of testing and suffering, we are to persevere with the hope that Christ's resurrection power and the Holy Spirit will sustain us.

- 7. Repentance and Confession:**

Many of these verses, including Joel 2:12-14, Psalm 25:4-5, and 2 Chronicles 7:14, call us to turn away from sin, confess, and return to God, embracing His mercy and grace.

Note about Sundays: *Lent is traditionally observed over 40 days, reflecting Jesus' time of fasting in the wilderness. However, Sundays are not included in this count, as they are considered Sabbath and rest days—set aside for worship and celebration. Use those days to rest in God's presence, rejoice in His goodness, and prepare your heart for the week ahead.*

1

Verse: Read 1 Peter 5:6

Observation: We often worry about our position and status, hoping to receive proper recognition for what we do. But Peter advises us to remember that God's recognition matters more than human praise. God is able and willing to bless us according to His timing. We should humbly obey God, regardless of our present circumstances, and in His good time—whether in this life or the next—He will honor us.

Blessing: May you find peace in releasing the burden of seeking approval and recognition from others. May you be reminded that God's acknowledgment of your efforts is far greater than any human praise. May you trust in His perfect timing, knowing that He is able and willing to bless you according to His will. As you humbly obey Him, regardless of present circumstances, may you experience His faithful guidance and find joy in His perfect plan for your life. May His hand of favor rest upon you, and may He lift you up in due time, according to His good and gracious purpose. Amen.

2

Verse: Read Isaiah 58:6

Observation: We cannot be saved without faith in Christ, but true faith should be accompanied by action. Fasting is a beneficial practice, both physically and even more so spiritually. It helps us deny the flesh while focusing on God, strengthening us to grow in love, kindness, charity, justice, and generosity. By loosening the chains of selfishness, we align our hearts with what truly pleases God.

Blessing: May we be blessed with a faith that reaches beyond ourselves, embracing the love and compassion of Christ as it extends to others. May our fasting not only strengthen our own spirits but inspire us to acts of kindness, charity, and justice that mirror God's heart. May our hearts overflow with generosity, and may our deeds reflect the sincerity of our faith, bringing glory to God in all that we do. Amen.

3

Verse: Read Psalm 42:2

Observation: As the life of a deer depends upon water, so our lives depend upon God. Those who seek Him and long to understand Him find eternal life. Feeling separated from God, the psalmist wouldn't rest until he restored his relationship with God because he knew that his very life depended on it. Let us also seek God with all our hearts and restore our relationship with Him, knowing that our very lives depend on it. Don't wait—return to God today.

Blessing: May we be blessed with a deep thirst for God, longing to draw near to Him as the deer longs for water. May our hearts never rest until we restore our relationship with our Creator, knowing that our very lives depend on His presence. May we seek Him with all our being, and may our thirst for His wisdom and love lead us to eternal life. Amen.

4

Verse: Read Joel 2:12-14

Observation: God pleaded with the people to turn to Him while there was still time, as destruction was near. Time is also limited for us—we do not know when our lives will end or when Jesus will return. Therefore, we should make it our aim to believe, trust, and obey God with urgency. Nothing should hinder us from repentance and turning to Him and His abounding love. In biblical times, deep remorse was often expressed by tearing one's clothes, but God does not desire an outward display of penitence without true inward repentance. Our faith in God must be genuine, reflected not just in outward actions but in a transformed heart.

Blessing: May we be blessed with a sense of urgency in seeking God, knowing that time is precious and fleeting. May we trust and obey Him fully, turning to Him with sincere hearts while there is still time. May our repentance be genuine, not just in outward actions, but in the depth of our hearts. May nothing hinder us from aligning our attitudes with God's will, and may we seek His grace with true humility and devotion. Amen.

5

Verse: Read Matthew 6:21

Observation: Jesus made it clear that having the wrong treasures results in a heart that is in the wrong place. What we treasure the most controls us, whether we admit it or not. If possessions or money become too important to us, we must reestablish control or get rid of something. Jesus calls us to make a decision that allows us to live contentedly with whatever we have, because we have chosen eternal values over temporary, earthly treasures.

Blessing: May your heart be guided by the wisdom of Jesus, who teaches that where your treasure is, there your heart will also be. May you find the strength to seek the treasures that endure—those of eternal value—rather than the fleeting riches of this world. May your possessions and desires be held with open hands, knowing that true contentment comes from choosing everlasting treasures over temporary gain. May your heart remain steadfast in the knowledge that when we align our lives with what truly matters, peace and fulfillment will follow. Amen.

6

Verse: Read Lamentations 3:25

Observation: Those who walk with God will find it is not in vain to trust in him; for, He is good to those who do so, He is good to all. God's tender mercies are over all his works; all his creatures taste of his goodness. But he is in a particular manner good to those that wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. Note, While trouble is prolonged, and deliverance is deferred, we must patiently wait for God and his gracious returns to us. While we wait for him by faith, we must seek him by prayer: our souls must seek him. Our seeking will help to keep up our waiting. And to those who wait and seek, God will be gracious; he will show them his marvellous lovingkindness.

Blessing: May you walk with God, knowing that your trust in Him is never in vain. May His goodness surround you, for He is kind to all, but especially to those who wait for Him and seek His presence. As you endure times of waiting, may patience fill your heart and may your soul find peace in seeking Him through prayer. In the moments of delay, may you be strengthened by the knowledge that God's lovingkindness will surely come. And to all who wait and seek, may His grace be poured out upon you, revealing His marvelous love in ways beyond measure. Amen.

7

Verse: Read Isaiah 30:18

Observation: God will wait until we return to Him and seek His face, and then He will be ready to meet us with mercy. He will wait, so that He may do it at the best and fittest time, when it will be most for His glory, and when it will come to us with the most pleasing surprise.

Blessing: May you be blessed with the assurance that God waits for you with open arms, ready to meet you with mercy when you return to Him. In His perfect timing, He will act for His glory, surprising you with His goodness. His favor will continually follow you, and He will never miss an opportunity to show grace. God will rise in His power and might to deliver you, glorifying His name through extraordinary acts of love and kindness. May you experience His presence and His exalted goodness in every moment of your life.





8 **Verse:** Read Psalm 27:14

Observation: We should trust in the Lord with faith, prayer, and humility, accepting His will. We must keep our focus on God and not lose our dedication to Him. We should stay strong even in difficult times—be brave, trust in God, and keep our minds focused on Him. When we wait on the Lord, we have every reason to be courageous. Let us make the choice today to fully trust in God, stay dedicated, and stand firm in His strength.

Blessing: May you be blessed with unwavering trust in the Lord, grounded in faith, prayer, and humility. May you always accept His will and keep your focus on Him, never losing your dedication. In times of difficulty, may you be filled with strength and courage, trusting in God's presence. As you wait upon the Lord, may you be filled with boldness, knowing that with Him, you have every reason to be courageous.

9 **Verse:** Read Matthew 6:16-18

Observation: Fasting was another example of Pharisaic "righteousness." The Pharisees fasted to be seen by others and appear spiritual. While fasting is meant to deny the flesh, they used it to draw attention to themselves. Jesus taught that such actions should be done in secret, for God alone to see and reward. This applied to all three Pharisaic practices—almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. Instead, the Pharisees sought public recognition, while Jesus encouraged acting in secret for God's reward. Let us examine our own hearts and choose to seek God's approval above all, acting in secret with sincerity, trusting that He will reward us in His perfect time.

Blessing: May you be blessed with the wisdom to fast in humility, seeking not the praise of others but the presence of God alone. May your actions be done in secret, that your hearts may be purified and your reward may come from the Father, who sees all. Be not swayed by the temptation of public recognition or the glory of the flesh, but instead, let your fasting be a true reflection of your devotion, known only to the One who knows your deepest intentions. In your almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, may you honor God with sincerity, walking in the quiet strength of His presence, and may He bless you with His eternal reward. Amen.

10 **Verse:** Read Isaiah 40:31

Observation: God, unlike pagan idols, is eternal and never grows weary, so He gives us strength when we are weak. Like Isaiah's original readers, we who hope in the Lord and remain faithful will be restored. For the Israelites in captivity, Isaiah spoke of a time when they would be freed and return to their land. Even when we are weary, the Lord helps us endure and lift us up, like eagles, both emotionally and spiritually. Let us put our trust in the Lord, rely on His strength, and remain faithful, knowing He will renew and restore us in His perfect time.

Blessing: May the eternal God, the Creator who never grows weary, grant you strength when you are weary or weak. As He gave hope to those who remained faithful to Him, may you find restoration in His steadfast love. Even in seasons of captivity, struggle, or despair, may you trust in His promises. May He renew your spirit, helping you endure and rise up like eagles, soaring emotionally and spiritually on the wings of His grace. May you always find strength in the One who never tires, and may His faithfulness uplift you in every moment. Amen.

11

Verse: Read Psalm 33:20-22**Observation:** The conclusion of the psalm is a reassertion of our faith in the Lord. We, as God's people, demonstrate our faith in three ways. First, we wait in hope for deliverance from the Lord as our Help and Shield. Second, we rejoice in Him whom we trust. Third, we pray for His unfailing love to rest on us. In this way, we are filled with hope that He will bring His plan of salvation to completion.**Blessing:** May you be filled with unwavering faith in the Lord. May you wait with hope, trusting that God, your Help and Shield, will deliver you. May your heart rejoice in Him, knowing He is the One in whom you place your trust. And may His unfailing love rest upon you always, filling you with hope and assurance that He will bring His plan of salvation to completion in your life.

12

Verse: Read Psalm 130:5-6**Observation:** The psalmist testified that he was patiently waiting for the Lord. He compared his wait to that of a city's watchmen looking for the first rays of dawn, for then they would be relieved of their duties by other guards. He eagerly looked for God's new merciful dealings with the nation. Similarly, let us patiently wait for the Lord, trusting that He will act in His perfect time. Let us eagerly anticipate His mercy and seek His guidance, knowing that He will fulfill His promises to us.**Blessing:** May you wait patiently for the Lord, with eager anticipation and trust. May your heart be as watchful as the guards waiting for the first rays of dawn, knowing that God's merciful dealings are on the horizon. May you find comfort and strength in His faithfulness, and may His new mercies bring you peace and renewal as you eagerly await His divine intervention.

13

Verse: Read Micah 7:7**Observation:** Speaking for himself and the godly remnant mentioned throughout the book, Micah said that even though the nation was in terrible shape, he would continue to watch and wait in hope for the Lord. Yes, judgment would come, but he knew also that salvation would follow. God would be Israel's Savior. In the same way, no matter how difficult our circumstances may seem, we can hold onto the hope that God's salvation is sure. Keep trusting, keep hoping, and know that God's faithfulness will bring us through.**Blessing:** May you, like Micah, remain steadfast in hope, even in the midst of trials and uncertainty. May you watch and wait with faith, trusting that though judgment may come, salvation will surely follow. May you find comfort in the assurance that God, your Savior, will bring redemption and restoration, and may His unwavering love guide you through every season.

14

Verse: Read Romans 12:12**Observation:** These three exhortations are not just separate instructions but also descriptions of how we, as believers, should serve the Lord. We are called to rejoice in the hope we have in Christ, knowing that our joy comes from Him. In times of affliction, we are encouraged to remain patient, trusting that God is with us. We should also persist in prayer, seeking His wisdom, guidance, and strength daily. Faithfulness means being devoted to these actions consistently, relying on God in every circumstance.**Blessing:** May you be filled with joy in your hope, for your hope in Christ is the foundation of your rejoicing. May you remain patient in times of affliction, trusting in God's perfect timing. May your heart be devoted to prayer, seeking His wisdom, guidance, and strength. And may you persist faithfully in all that He calls you to, knowing His presence will sustain and empower you every step of the way.

15

Verse: Read Hosea 12:6

Observation: Like Jacob, we too need to return to our covenant Ruler, the Lord God Almighty, with heartfelt tears and prayers. Genuine repentance for us involves a commitment to love and justice, as well as a deep dependence on the Lord, rather than relying on ourselves. It's a call to turn back to Him and align our hearts with His will, trusting in His guidance and grace.

Blessing: May you return with a sincere heart to the Lord, your covenant Ruler. May your tears and prayers be the expression of genuine repentance, leading you to a deep commitment to love and justice. May you rely on the Lord, not on your own strength, and trust in His guidance and grace to lead you in all things. May His presence renew and restore you, bringing you closer to His heart.

16

Verse: Read Matthew 6:33

Observation: Rather than being like the pagans who are concerned about physical needs, we, as the Lord's disciples, should be concerned about the things of God, His kingdom, and His righteousness. Then all these needs will be supplied in God's timing. This is the life of daily faith. It does no good for us to worry or be concerned about tomorrow, for there are sufficient matters to attend to each day. As we care each day for the things God has entrusted to us, God, our heavenly Father, cares for our daily needs.

Blessing: May you be filled with a heart focused on the things of God—His kingdom and His righteousness. As you seek Him first, may you trust that all your needs will be provided in His perfect timing. May you live each day in faith, not burdened by worry for tomorrow, but faithful in caring for the tasks He has entrusted to you. And may you rest in the assurance that your heavenly Father, who cares for you, will faithfully meet your daily needs.

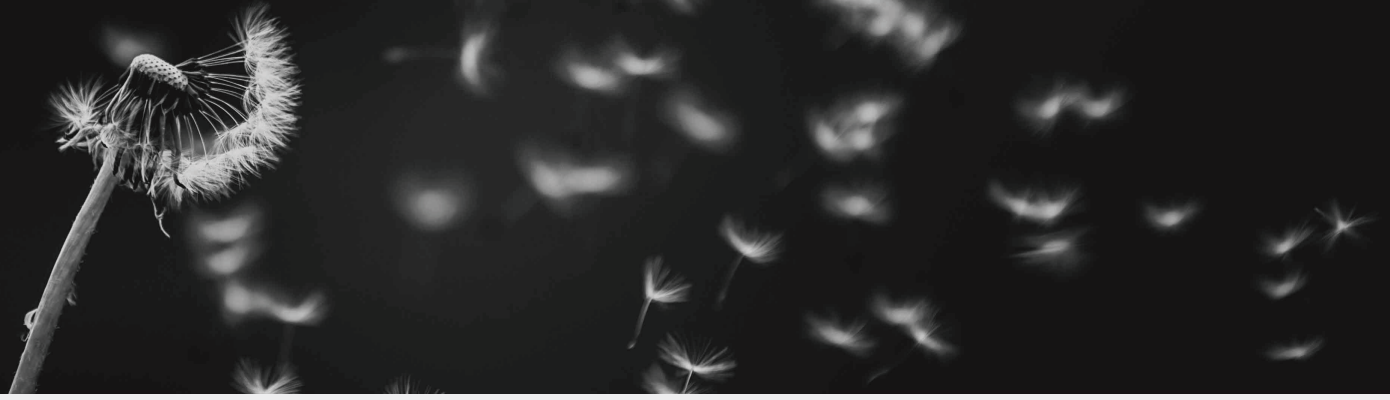
17

Verse: Read 1 Peter 5:6-7

Observation: Knowing God's attitude should encourage us not only to be subject to others but also to deliberately submit ourselves to God's sovereign rule. The command "humble yourselves" could be understood as "allow yourselves to be humbled." Even when facing persecution for Christ's sake, we can take comfort in knowing that the same mighty hand that allows our suffering will one day lift us up. Peter also reminds us of Christ's comforting words in the Sermon on the Mount, quoting Psalm 55:22: "Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you." We can cast all our anxieties on Him because Christ sustains us, and He does so because He cares deeply for us. Our confidence is rooted in the fact that Christ is genuinely concerned for our welfare.

Blessing: May you humbly place yourself under God's sovereign rule, knowing that He cares deeply for you. As you face struggles, may you be encouraged by the truth that the same mighty hand that allows suffering will one day lift you up. Cast all your cares upon the Lord, for He will sustain you, and find peace in the assurance that Christ, who cares for you, will carry your burdens. May you rest in the confidence that He is genuinely concerned for your well-being and will never leave you in your time of need.





18

Verse: Read Galatians 5:5

Observation: As true believers, we eagerly await the fulfillment of our salvation by faith. At Christ's return, the righteousness we hope for will be fully realized, and we will be completely conformed to God's will. The inward righteousness that began at justification will be transformed into outward righteousness at glorification, and God will publicly acknowledge our full acceptance with Him. Let us live with this hope in mind, staying faithful and dedicated as we eagerly await the day when we will be fully conformed to His will.

Blessing: May you eagerly await the fulfillment of your salvation with steadfast faith, trusting that the righteousness you hope for will one day be fully realized. As Christ returns, may you be completely conformed to God's will, reflecting His glory in every way. May the righteousness that began in your heart at justification be transformed into a beautiful outward righteousness at glorification. And may God, in His grace, publicly acknowledge your full acceptability before Him, as His beloved child, now and forevermore.

19

Verse: Read Jeremiah 29:12

Observation: God promises that when we seek Him wholeheartedly—calling upon Him, praying, and turning to Him—He will hear us. The context of this promise is significant because, like the Israelites during their time of hardship and exile, we may face difficult situations that leave us feeling distant. However, God reassures us that even in our distress, if we sincerely turn to Him, He will listen to our prayers and respond. Let us take comfort in this promise and make it a priority to seek Him with all our hearts, knowing that He is always ready to hear us and answer.

Blessing: May you seek the Lord wholeheartedly, calling upon Him and praying with a sincere heart. In every season, may you trust that God hears your prayers and responds with His loving care. Even in times of hardship and distress, may you find comfort in the assurance that He is always near, ready to listen and answer. May His faithfulness bring you peace, knowing that He will never leave you, and He is always ready to hear and respond to your call.

20

Verse: Read Psalm 33:20-22

Observation: This scripture reflects the confidence and peace that come from waiting on God with hope, trusting in His protection and care. It speaks of the joy and security we find in trusting God's holy and loving nature. The psalmist's prayer is that God's faithful love will remain with us as we continue to place our hope in Him. This passage encourages us today to find our strength in God's presence and promises, knowing He is always faithful to help, shield, and love us.

Blessing: May you find confidence and peace as you wait on the Lord with hope, trusting fully in His protection and care. May your heart be filled with joy and security, rooted in the trust that God's holy and loving nature is unshakable. May His faithful love surround you always, as you place your hope in Him, knowing that He is faithful to help, shield, and love you. May His presence be your strength and His promises your foundation, guiding you in every moment with His unwavering faithfulness.

21

Verse: Read Psalm 62:5

Observation: This verse is a call for us to focus on God as the sole source of peace and hope. The psalmist encourages our souls—to rest in God's presence, finding solace in His trustworthiness. It reminds us that true rest and lasting hope come only from God, not from external circumstances or our own efforts. It's a powerful expression of surrendering anxiety and finding security in God's care. Let us make it a practice to rest in His presence, surrender our worries to Him, and trust in His unfailing care to bring us peace and hope.

Blessing: May your soul find true rest in God's presence, where peace and hope flow abundantly. May you surrender all anxiety and trust fully in His faithfulness, knowing that true rest and lasting hope come from Him alone. May you find solace in His care, and may His unwavering trustworthiness be the foundation of your security, now and always.

22

Verse: Read Psalm 25:4-5

Observation: This portion of scripture is a prayer for divine guidance rooted in the hope and trust that God, as our Savior, will faithfully lead us in His ways. It calls us to actively seek God's wisdom, live according to His truth, and rely on His unfailing love and faithfulness every day. It is an invitation for us to deepen our relationship with God by entrusting our lives to His perfect direction and care. Let us commit to seeking His guidance daily, trusting in His direction, and surrendering our lives to His faithful leadership.

Blessing: May you be filled with a deep desire to seek God's wisdom and guidance in all things. May His truth shape your every step, and may you find comfort in His unfailing love and faithfulness each day. As you entrust your life to His perfect direction and care, may your relationship with God grow deeper, and may His leading bring you peace, hope, and purpose in every season.

23

Verse: Read Mark 1:12-15

Observation: Jesus announces that "the kingdom of God has come near," indicating the arrival of God's reign through His presence and ministry. This declaration invites individuals to recognize and enter into God's sovereign rule. Jesus urges people to "Repent and believe the good news," emphasizing the necessity of repentance and faith in response to the Gospel. This call underscores the transformative power of the Kingdom and the required personal response. Let us embrace this invitation with open hearts, trusting in God's power to transform us and lead us into His eternal kingdom.

Blessing: May you recognize the nearness of God's Kingdom, where His sovereign reign is made real through the presence of Jesus. May your heart respond with repentance and faith, embracing the transformative power of the Gospel. As you enter into His rule, may His grace shape your life and draw you closer to His will, bringing you peace, hope, and a renewed spirit each day.

24

Verse: Read 2 Corinthians 3:18

Observation: This scripture speaks to us about the transformative power of God's presence. It reminds us that as we gaze upon the Lord's glory with open hearts, we are gradually being transformed into His image, reflecting more of His divine nature. This transformation is ongoing in our lives, becoming more and more evident as we are filled with God's glory through the Holy Spirit. It shows us how God's presence continually shapes and changes us to be more like Him.

Blessing: May you be continuously transformed by the power of God's presence. As you behold His glory with an open heart, may you reflect more of His divine nature each day. May the Holy Spirit fill you, shaping you more and more into the image of Christ, and may His glory shine brightly in and through your life.

25

Verse: Read Psalm 1:1-2**Observation:** The Psalmist emphasizes the blessing of those who avoid the influence of the wicked, sinners, and mockers. Instead, we find joy in God's law and consistently meditate on it, day and night. Our delight is in following God's ways, leading to a life of righteousness and spiritual fulfillment. Let us commit to meditating on God's Word daily, allowing it to guide our hearts and transform our lives as we seek to live in His truth.**Blessing:** May you be blessed with a heart that delights in God's law, avoiding the influence of the wicked and the ways of sinners. May you find joy in meditating on His Word day and night, leading you to a life of righteousness, peace, and spiritual fulfillment. May His guidance lead you on a path that reflects His goodness and draws you closer to Him each day.

26

Verse: Read Psalm 19:14**Observation:** As followers of Christ, we desire for our words and thoughts to be pleasing to God. This verse underscores the importance of aligning our speech and inner reflections with God's will. Like the psalmist, we seek divine approval, desiring that our expressions and meditations be acceptable in God's sight. This plea highlights the connection between our external actions and internal thoughts, emphasizing that both should honor God.**Blessing:** May your words and thoughts be pleasing to God, aligning with His will in all things. May your speech reflect His love and truth, and may your heart be filled with meditations that honor Him. May you seek His divine approval in every expression and thought, living with integrity as you walk in His ways, and may your life be a continual reflection of His goodness and grace.

27

Verse: Read John 10:10**Observation:** The thief, or false shepherd, cares only about feeding himself, not building up the flock. He steals sheep to harm them, destroying part of the flock. But Christ has come to benefit us, the sheep. He gives life that is not limited but overflowing. While the thief takes life, Christ gives it to the full. Let us choose to follow Christ, who offers abundant life, and allow His love and truth to guide and protect us daily.**Blessing:** May you be filled with the abundant life that Christ offers, a life that overflows with His grace and goodness. May you be protected from false influences that seek to harm and deceive, and may you continually experience the life-giving power of Christ, who came to bring fullness, peace, and restoration. May His love and provision lead you into true freedom and eternal joy.

28

Verse: Read Philippians 3:10-11**Observation:** We desire to know Christ not just as our Savior but as our Lord, seeking to experience His resurrection power to live victoriously. As we come to know Christ as Lord and believe in Him, we are called to die to self, burying our old nature so that we may be raised to new life in Him. This death to self and life in Christ transforms us into a new creation. May our desire be to continually put the old self to death and walk in the newness Christ gives us through His resurrection and victory over sin and death.**Blessing:** May you deeply desire to know Christ not only as your Savior but also intimately as your Lord. May you experience the power of His resurrection in your life, overcoming every resistance and living a victorious life through His strength. As you walk in faith, may you share in Christ's sufferings, being transformed to become more like Him, dying to sin and living a new life empowered in His resurrection. May your hope be steadfast in the promise of Christ's return, and may His example guide you to live a life that reflects His love and righteousness.

29

Verse: Read John 16:33

Observation: Jesus' instructions about "these things" were meant to sustain us and give us peace in Him. As believers, we live with a dual existence: we are in Christ and in this world. In union with Jesus, we have peace, but the world pressures us in hostility. The world system, an enemy of God and His people, opposed Jesus' message and ministry. However, Jesus overcame the world. As the Messiah, who conquered Satan's kingdom, He is the Victor. Jesus wanted us to remember this truth and rejoice in His victory. Take heart! means "Be courageous," spoken by Jesus Himself. Because He won, we, in union with Him, also win.

Blessing: May you find peace and courage in the victory of Jesus, knowing that He has overcome the world and its hostile pressures. Though you live in this world, remember that in Christ, you are united with the Victor. May His triumph over sin and Satan fill your heart with hope, strength, and confidence. Take heart, for as He is victorious, so are you in Him. May His peace sustain you and His victory empower you to stand firm, knowing that you too are more than a conqueror in Christ.

30

Verse: Read Zephaniah 3:17

Observation: God's love and care for us is demonstrated in this scripture. It portrays God as a mighty and victorious Savior who rejoices over us with gladness, quiets us with His love, and delights in us with singing. This verse highlights God's intimate and loving relationship with us, assuring us of His presence, protection, and joy over us. It's a message of comfort, showing that God is not only our deliverer but also a source of peace and celebration.

Blessing: May you know the depth of God's love and care for you, for He is your mighty and victorious Savior. May His presence fill you with peace, as He quiets your heart with His love and delights in you with singing. May you feel His joy over you and experience His intimate, protective embrace each day. Trust that He is not only your deliverer but also the source of your comfort, peace, and celebration, always surrounding you with His unending love.

31

Verse: Read John 3:15-18

Observation: God's motivation toward us is love. His love is not limited to a few or a certain group of people but is meant for the entire world, including us. God's love was shown through the giving of His most priceless gift—His unique Son. While light may cast shadows, its true purpose is to illuminate. Even though those who do not believe are condemned, God's purpose in sending His Son is salvation, not damnation. God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked; He desires that we, and everyone, be saved.

Blessing: May you be filled with the deep understanding of God's boundless love, knowing that His love extends to all people, and His gift of salvation is for the whole world. May you experience the light of His Son, Jesus, who came not to condemn but to save, illuminating your life with His grace and truth. May you rest in the assurance that God desires all to be saved and that His love for you is unshakable. May His love guide you, bring you peace, and lead you to share that love with others.



35

Verse: Read Luke 19:28-42

Observation: Jesus enters Jerusalem triumphantly, riding a colt, fulfilling the prophecy of a humble King coming in peace. As He approaches the city, we join the disciples in praising God, but some Pharisees ask Jesus to rebuke us. Jesus responds that if we were silent, the stones would cry out. He weeps over Jerusalem, foreseeing its future destruction because the people fail to recognize the time of their visitation and the peace He offers. Let us not miss the opportunity to recognize His presence in our lives today. As He brings peace, let us embrace it, praising Him and living in the fullness of His grace.

Blessing: May you welcome the peace and presence of Jesus into your life, just as He entered Jerusalem with humility and grace. May your heart always rejoice in His salvation, and may you recognize the times He draws near, filling you with His love and peace. As He weeps over those who miss His offering of peace, may you never overlook His grace but embrace His guidance, trusting in His perfect plan for your life.

36

Verse: Read Luke 22:14-23

Observation: Jesus shares the Passover meal with His disciples, instituting the Lord's Supper. He takes bread and wine, giving thanks, breaking the bread, and declaring that it represents His body and blood, soon to be given for them. Jesus speaks of His impending betrayal by one of them, and though the disciples question who it will be, He prepares them for the sacrifice He will make for the salvation of humanity. Let us reflect on His sacrifice, remembering that He gave His body and blood for us. Let's draw near to Him, embracing the grace He offers and following His example of humility and service.

Blessing: May you experience the deep grace and love found in the body and blood of Christ, given for you. As you partake in His sacrifice, may your heart be filled with gratitude and reverence for the redemption He offers. May you walk in His example of love and humility, ever mindful of the cost of your salvation. And may His presence nourish and sustain you as you follow Him with faith and devotion.

37

Verse: Read Luke 22: 44-46

Observation: Here we witness Jesus in profound anguish as He prays earnestly in the Garden of Gethsemane, His sweat resembling drops of blood. This intense moment underscores His deep distress and commitment to fulfilling God's will. Despite His turmoil, He finds His disciples asleep, exhausted from sorrow, and urges them to rise and pray to avoid temptation. This passage highlights Jesus' unwavering dedication to His mission and His call for His followers to remain vigilant and prayerful. Let us be encouraged by His example of steadfast obedience and devotion to God's will, even in the most difficult of circumstances. As we face our own struggles, may we find strength in His unwavering commitment.

Blessing: May you find strength and courage in the example of Jesus' unwavering dedication, even in the face of great anguish. As He prayed earnestly, may you be reminded to turn to God in prayer, especially in moments of distress. May your heart remain vigilant, trusting in God's will and relying on His strength to overcome temptation. May His love and sacrifice inspire you to walk faithfully, knowing that He is with you through every trial and challenge.





32

Verse: Read Micah 5:4

Observation: Christ's caring, guiding, and protecting role will be accomplished by the Lord's strength and for His sake. As He shepherds us, we will have peace and security because His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. He will rule over the entire world, and all will know of His sovereign power. Let us trust in His sovereignty, surrender to His leadership, and find our peace in His reign today!

Blessing: May you experience the peace and security that comes from Christ's caring, guiding, and protecting presence in your life. May you find strength in His sovereignty, knowing that He rules with power and His greatness stretches to the ends of the earth. As He shepherds you with His love, may His protection surround you, and may you be confident in the knowledge that His reign is everlasting and filled with grace. Trust in His authority and be at peace, for He is the Shepherd of all.

33

Verse: Read Joel 2:1-2

Observation: The message calls for repentance and urges us to return to God before the coming "day of the Lord," a time of judgment and destruction. It emphasizes urgency, describing the day as one of darkness, gloom, and devastation, with an unstoppable army bringing fear and destruction. However, this is also an opportunity for us to turn to God with sincere hearts, knowing He is merciful and ready to forgive. Let's take this moment to seek Him earnestly, knowing that His grace and love can bring us peace and protection.

Blessing: May you be filled with the wisdom to heed the call to repentance, turning to God with humility and sincerity. May your heart be open to His guidance, and may you find refuge in His grace before the overwhelming day of judgment. Let His light shine in your life, dispelling darkness and fear, and may you be strengthened by His presence, knowing that He is merciful and just. As you seek Him, may you walk in His peace and protection, trusting in His unfailing love and sovereignty.

34

Verse: Read Zechariah 9:9

Observation: We, as the people of Jerusalem, are urged to welcome our long-awaited King and Messiah with joy, not fear. This coming King is righteous and a Deliverer, bringing us salvation. His peaceful entrance, riding on a donkey, was fulfilled during His Triumphal Entry. In ancient times, kings rode donkeys to signify peace, in contrast to war stallions. Let us embrace His peace and salvation, knowing that He is with us, bringing hope and restoration. Let's celebrate His reign and trust in His promises today and always!

Blessing: May you receive the King with glad rejoicing, welcoming Him into your heart and life with the joy of His salvation. As the long-awaited Messiah, may you experience His righteousness and peace, knowing He comes not in fear but as your Deliverer. May His humble entrance into your life fill you with gratitude, as He rides in on a colt, bringing salvation and hope. May His reign of peace and righteousness guide your every step, and may you find rest and security in the presence of your Savior, who comes with love and grace.

38

Verse: Read Luke 23:50-56

Observation: In Luke 23:50-56, Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin who opposed Jesus' condemnation, courageously asks Pilate for Jesus' body. He takes it down from the cross, wraps it in linen, and places it in a new tomb. The women who had followed Jesus prepared spices and ointments to complete the burial after the Sabbath. This passage highlights the reverence of Jesus' followers and fulfilled prophecies about the Messiah's burial, setting the stage for the resurrection. Let us reflect on the courage and devotion of Joseph and the women. May we also honor Christ with such reverence in our own lives, preparing our hearts to fully embrace His resurrection and the life He offers.

Blessing: May your heart be filled with reverence for Christ's sacrifice, knowing that His death led to the ultimate victory over death. May you be strengthened by the hope of His resurrection, trusting in His power to renew and restore. May the love of God guide you in every moment, as you live with faith, embracing His transformative grace and the promise of eternal life.

39

Verse: Read 2 Corinthians 4:16

Observation: We may face discouragement in our ministry and life. At times, things may not go as planned, and we may feel weighed down by our struggles. However, just as God worked in Paul's life, He is at work in ours too. Despite our physical weaknesses and challenges, we can find assurance in God's power and the renewal of the Holy Spirit. Our outward struggles may be evident, but our inner transformation, becoming more like Christ, is a daily process. Don't lose heart because of our eternal hope and God's sustaining grace.

Blessing: May you be strengthened in the face of discouragement, knowing that even in moments of struggle, God is at work in your life and ministry. Like Paul, may you be reminded that although outward circumstances may wear you down, inwardly you are being renewed day by day by the Holy Spirit. May you find hope in the assurance of God's presence, His triumphant victory, and the promise of resurrection. Even in your weakness, may you grow stronger in spirit, becoming more like Christ, and never losing heart, for He who calls you is faithful and sustaining.

40

Verse: Read 2 Chronicles 7:14

Observation: By recognizing our dependence on God and approaching Him with a contrite heart, engaging in sincere communication with Him, seeking His guidance and intervention, actively pursuing a deeper relationship with Him, desiring His presence and favor, and turning away from sinful behaviors to return to righteous living, God assures us of His attentive response, forgiveness, and healing. This promise highlights the importance of genuine repentance and the restoration of our relationship with God.

Blessing: May you humbly recognize your dependence on God, approaching Him with a contrite heart. As you engage in sincere communication with Him, seeking His guidance and intervention, may you actively pursue a deeper relationship with His presence. May your heart be filled with a desire for His favor, turning away from sin and embracing righteous living. Trust that God will attentively respond to your repentance, offering forgiveness and healing. May His promise of restoration bring peace and renewal to your life, drawing you closer to Him each day.

Congratulations on completing this 40-day journey through Lent!

As you have reflected, prayed, and drawn closer to God, may you carry these lessons into the joy of Easter. Christ's resurrection is our greatest hope—His grace is sufficient, His love unshakable, and His power victorious. May your faith continue to grow, your heart remain open to His leading, and your life reflect His goodness. Well done, and may you walk daily in the hope and victory of Christ!