

**EASTER
DEVOTIONAL**



DAY 1
MONDAY

GROUNDED IN GOD'S LOVE

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

As we enter Passion Week and walk with Jesus toward the cross, we begin here, with love. Love that is not vague nor distant, but a decisive, sacrificial, initiating love. God did not wait for us to find our way back to Him. He moved toward us. He gave. He sent His Son.

Everything we will see in Jesus this week - His security in the Father, His honesty in suffering, His compassion toward others, His obedience to the cross - flows from this place. Love is the starting point. Love is the reason.

Love is the story.

The cross was not an accident or a tragedy outside of God's control. It was the expression of God's heart for us. It is to restore, to heal, to bring us back into relationship with Him. Jesus endured the cross willingly because of love.

And this same love is what grounds us. We are not striving to earn God's approval. We are living from it. We are not trying to secure our place in His story. We already have one, as those deeply loved by the Father.

As we journey through these devotionals, we do so anchored in this truth: we are loved, and everything God does flows from that love.

REFLECT

- What stands out to you about the way God expresses His love in this passage?
- How does knowing that you are already loved by God change the way you approach Him?
- Where do you find yourself striving instead of living from God's love?

DAY 2
TUESDAY

JESUS WITH THE FATHER

JOHN 13:1-5 *“Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*”

During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God,

rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.”

Jesus knew. He knew the hour had come. He knew the Father had put all things in His hands. He knew where He had come from and where He was going. And knowing all this, He got up, took off His outer garment, and washed His disciples' feet. This is remarkable.

At the most critical moment in history, Jesus was not anxious or distracted. He was grounded. He knew His place in the Father's story. He understood why He had come. And from that place of deep security, He served. This is what it looks like to live from God's story.

Not striving to prove ourselves. Not grasping for control. But knowing who we are, Whose we are, and what the Father is doing, and then acting from that place. Jesus showed us that the deepest service flows from the deepest security.

REFLECT

- What enabled Jesus to serve so freely at such a tense moment?
- How does knowing your place in God's bigger story affect how you live and serve?
- Where do you need to be more grounded in what the Father is doing?

DAY 3

WEDNESDAY

JESUS WITH HIMSELF

MATT 26:36-44 “Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." 40

And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour?"

Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.”

In Gethsemane, we see something surprising. Jesus, the Son of God, who knew the Father's plan, did not pretend to be strong. He told His disciples, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death." He fell on His face and prayed, "If it is possible, let this cup pass from me."

Jesus knew what He was called to do.

He knew the “right answer.” But He did not hide what He was feeling. He brought His full self to the Father - the grief, the struggle, the honest plea. And He did it again and again. This is what honesty with ourselves looks like. Not pretending.

Not performing. Not giving the answer we think we should give. But bringing everything - the parts we are proud of and the parts we wish were different - and laying it before God. Jesus shows us that we can be fully committed to God's will and still be honest about the cost.

REFLECT

- What does it show you that Jesus did not hide His struggle from the Father?
- Where might you be giving “right answers” instead of being honest with yourself and God?
- How does Jesus’ example free you to bring your whole self to God?

DAY 4
THURSDAY

JESUS WITH HIS FRIENDS

JOHN 17:20-26 *“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*”

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me.

I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

On the night before He died, Jesus prayed. Not just for Himself, but for His disciples. And not just for them - for us. "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word." He prayed for unity. That we would be one, just as He and the Father are one.

He prayed that we would experience the same love the Father has for the Son. He wanted His followers, then and now, to share in the deep connection He knows with the Father. Jesus was not walking alone toward the cross. Even in His final hours, He was thinking about community. He longs for His people to stay together,

to love each other, to reflect the oneness of the Father and Son to a watching world. This was not a side thought. It was central to His heart. The unity Jesus prayed for is still what the Father wants for His people today — in our teams, in our cities, across our nation and beyond.

REFLECT

- What does it mean to you that Jesus prayed for you on the night before He died?
- How does Jesus' desire for unity challenge or encourage your experience of community?
- What would it look like for your team or group to reflect the oneness Jesus prayed for?

DAY 5
FRIDAY

JESUS WITH THOSE ON THE OUTSIDE

LUKE 23:39-43 *“One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”*

And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

On the cross, Jesus was surrounded by people who doubted Him. The leaders sneered: “He saved others; let Him save Himself.” The soldiers mocked: “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself.” Even one of the criminals joined in. But the other criminal saw something different.

In the hours he had spent beside Jesus, watching His physical suffering and being mocked and scorned, he saw something that convinced him. Somehow, in the middle of his own agony, he knew. “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” No name. No special qualifications or formal teaching. Just a man who saw the real Jesus and believed.

And Jesus, in His final breaths, turned toward him. “Today you will be with me in paradise.” Even in death, Jesus was attractive to and reaching toward those on the outside. He was still inviting. Still welcoming. Still making room. This is the heart of God, and this is the moment that opened the way for all of us to come in.

REFLECT

- What do you think the criminal saw in Jesus that others missed?
- How does it move you that Jesus' last recorded conversation was with an outsider?
- Who are the "outsiders" in your life that Jesus might be inviting you to turn toward?

DAY 6
SATURDAY

WAITING IN THE IN-BETWEEN

LUKE 23:50-56 *“Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God.*”

This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning.

The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.”

Jesus had died. The body had been taken down, wrapped, and laid in a tomb. The crowds had dispersed. The noise, the chaos, the cries had all fallen silent.

For those who loved Him, this was the in-between. The space between promise and fulfilment. Between what they had hoped for and what they could not yet see.

It was a day marked by grief,
confusion, and unanswered questions.

Everything they had trusted in
seemed buried behind a stone.

And yet, even here, something quiet
but significant was happening. The

women prepared spices and
perfumes, honouring Jesus in the only
way they knew how. Then they rested

on the Sabbath,

holding both their sorrow and their
obedience together.

This is the tension of the in-between.
God can feel silent. His promises can
seem distant. We may find ourselves
waiting and not knowing how the
story will unfold.

But the in-between is not the end of the story. Even when it seems like nothing is happening, God is still at work. The silence of Saturday does not cancel the promise of Sunday.

Like the disciples, we are invited to remain, to stay present, to hold onto what we know of God, even when we cannot yet see what He is doing. The waiting is not wasted. It is held within the faithfulness of God.

REFLECT

- Where do you find yourself in an “in-between” season right now?
- What emotions or questions are you carrying in this space?
- What might it look like to remain faithful and present to God, even in the waiting?

DAY 7
SUNDAY

RESURRECTION - DEATH DEFEATED

LUKE 24:1-9 “But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.”

The women came to the tomb carrying spices, prepared to honour a dead body. They came expecting death - final, immovable, undeniable. Instead, they found the stone rolled away. The grave empty. And a message that would forever change the course of history: "He is not here; He has risen."

In a moment, everything shifted. Death, the great enemy, the one reality no one could escape, had been confronted and overcome. What seemed final was no longer final. What seemed like defeat was revealed to be victory. This is the turning point of the story. The barrier that has stood between humanity and God since the beginning - sin, shame,

separation - has been broken. The curse that brought death and decay into the world has been decisively dealt with.

And this is more than a miracle; it is the beginning of a new creation.

Remember the Father's vision from the beginning of this journey - humanity reconciled to Him,

a world made whole where tears are wiped away, where death and pain are no more. In the resurrection, we see that this is not just a distant hope.

It has already begun. Jesus walked out of the grave as the first fruit, the living sign that everything the Father promised is now in motion. The future has broken into the present.

Life has overcome death. Hope has a name and a face - Jesus.

And the first response heaven calls for is simple: "Remember... and go and tell." The resurrection is not just something to believe quietly. It is good news meant to be carried, embodied, and shared.

Because if death is defeated, it changes everything - how we live, how we suffer, how we hope, and how we love.

We are no longer people waiting for life to begin. In Christ, new life has already started.

REFLECT

- Where in your life do you need to be reminded that what seems “final” is not final in Christ?
- What difference does it make that the defeat of death is not just future hope but has already begun?
- Who might you “go and tell” this Lent season?



**THANK YOU
FOR
JOURNEYING
WITH US**