

I AM

A LENT DEVOTIONAL FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
In Preparation for Easter



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INTRODUCTION

Lent is a 40-day journey of preparing our hearts for Easter. We cannot fully appreciate the salvation and victory of the Risen Lord without intentionally walking with Him—up to Calvary, through the grave, and only then into His glorious resurrection.

Though Lent spans 46 calendar days, the six Sundays are not counted, as they are days of rest and celebration amid our season of reflection and preparation. All throughout God's journey with His people the number 40 has been of significance. For example, the flood lasted for 40 days (Genesis 7:4), so does the fasting of Moses (Exodus 24:18) and Elijah (1 Kings 19:8); Israel traveled through the desert for 40 years (Psalm 95:10), and they were under Philistine hand for 40 years (Judges 13:1); Jonah prophesies that Nineveh will be destroyed in 40 days if they don't return to God (Jonah 3:4), and of course Jesus goes into the desert for 40 days at the beginning of His ministry (Matthew 4:2).

Of course the number 40 is not an exact number, but a round number of estimation. The ancient world didn't function around wristwatches or fixed schedules. Most people did not even know their exact age! It is therefore more important to look at what *occurred during this time* than the period itself. We will aim to do the same during our time of 40 days. Rather than focusing on the number, we will focus on *how we can draw near to God during these 40 days*.

This is what we're going to aim for:

Each week, we will reflect on a key theme: *Time, Come, Being, Wise, Find, I AM, and Resurrection*.

- **TIME** - Take the time to understand, receive, see and believe
- **COME** - Come close so you can see the Kingdom, and all it is and brings, so you can go and tell
- **BEING** - Be engaged with your whole being—surrender in awe, all to your Lord
- **WISE** - How we think about things steer our lives—it is time to embrace God's wisdom
- **FIND** - There's so much we don't know, but we find enough in John's Gospel for a meaningful life
- **I AM** - Seven times Jesus identifies clearly Who He is
- **RESURRECTION** - Looking through the lens of Jesus' resurrection is how things become clear

Each day, we will pause at a passage from the Gospel of John and follow this rhythm:

- **READ** - read slowly through the passage of the day
- **REFLECT** - let God's Word soak into your heart
- **NEXT** - make a clear commitment before you move on
- **PRAY** - open your heart and soul to God

Every Sunday the Message will lead us through the **SEVEN MIRACULOUS SIGNS** from the Gospel of John, each highlighting Who the I AM truly is and what that implies for our daily lives.

All of this is aimed at deepening our relationship with the *I AM*—the crucified and resurrected LORD.

May the Holy Spirit guide and enrich your journey of reflection, drawing you closer to our Lord for the glory of the Father.

TIME

Take the time to understand,
receive, see and believe



DAY 1 - MARCH 5

Time to understand Jesus

READ

¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ² *He was with God in the beginning.* ³ *Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.* ⁴ *In Him was Life, and that Life was the Light of men.* ⁵ *The Light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it...*¹⁰ *He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. (John 1:1-5, 10)*

REFLECT

These 40 days before Easter remind us that nothing better could ever have entered this physical world than Jesus Christ, our Savior! Yet, even though Jesus shared from God's heart in the most amazing ways and performed miracles unlike anything anyone had ever seen, some people still missed it all. How sad! Many didn't understand or recognize Jesus. I wish I could say that has changed, but it hasn't. Too many are still missing out!

May that stop today. May these next 40 days set your feet on a path where you can understand and see Jesus clearly—either for the first time or all over again. But I'm praying for even more: May your 40-day journey of deep reflection through the Gospel of John inspire you to help others understand and see Him as well.

Jesus came to earth to *reveal God* to us, which is exactly what the Greek word *logos* for "Word" in these verses means.

Jesus took the time to come to us so we could understand and truly... see!

Take the time—don't miss it. Take the time—help others!

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, I thank You for taking the time to show God to me, to speak to me, to walk with me. Forgive me for so often failing to grasp how important this truly is. *Help me, Lord, to take the time to...*

DAY 2 - MARCH 6

Time to receive Jesus

READ

⁹ *The true Light [Jesus] that gives Light to every man was coming into the world.* ¹⁰ *He [Jesus] was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him.* ¹¹ *He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him.* ¹² *Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God—* ¹³ *children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. (John 1:9-13)*

REFLECT

We often hear that we live in “dark times.” While this may be true, it is nothing new. Ever since sin entered the world, darkness came with it. However, we must quickly add an extremely important, *but*: We live in dark times... *but... in Jesus, Light broke forth into this darkness.* There is darkness, yes, but in Christ, there is also a Light available “to every man”... to all of us! All have access to this Light. All who have been “made through God”—in other words, all of God’s creation—can live in the Light!

The problem is not that “Light” is unavailable in these “dark times.” The problem is that some choose not to recognize it. It’s difficult to understand why, but some actually choose not to receive the Truth that Jesus can be this Light for them in such dark situations. Isn’t it time to change this?

Once we receive Jesus into our lives, once we come to faith, Light will break through the darkness and illuminate a path where we can now walk with our Father—as... are you ready for this?—*a Child of God!*

It is time to make sure you have received Jesus into your life—it’s available to all!

It is time to allow the Light to show you the way, Child of God—in these dark times!

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, I thank you for being the Creator, the Savior and the Light that I so desperately need. Lord, I want to invite you completely into my heart. Walk with me as Your Child. *Help me Lord...*

DAY 3 - MARCH 7

Time to see God

READ

¹⁴ *The Word [Jesus] became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth...*¹⁸ *No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, Who is at the Father's side, has made Him known. (John 1:14, 18)*

REFLECT

I just simply love the way that John describes Jesus' coming to us. He basically says that in the same way as the tabernacle and the temple once helped the people of God to sense His presence amongst them, Jesus now becomes the "Tent that was pitched" in our midst! Doesn't that simply amaze you, make you feel so special? Your neighborhood was not too bad for Jesus to set up home on your block—how about that!

But it gets even better: Jesus didn't just come to live among us. No, in Jesus, we can also "see" God. And there is no one better to show us God than the One and Only (the Unique One), who was lying at the Father's chest! This imagery draws from the ancient custom of sitting or reclining around a "table" or meal, where the guest of honor's ear was closest to the host's mouth. The text is conveying that Jesus was in the perfect "table" position to hear every word and intention from God, making Him the perfect One to show God to us.

It is time to see that Jesus is in your neighborhood.

It is time to see that Jesus is in the room.

It is time to see...God!

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, I thank you for coming to my place! Lord, thank you for coming so close to me that I can now actually see God! Lord, open my spiritual eyes so that I can stop missing all these important things that I learn from your Word and find in You. *Help me Lord...*

DAY 4 - MARCH 8

Time to see and believe

READ

²⁹ *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!”* ³⁰ *This is the One I meant when I said, ‘A Man Who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.’* ³¹ *I myself did not know Him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that He might be revealed to Israel.”* ³² *Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on Him.”* ³³ *I would not have known Him, except that the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The Man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is He who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’* ³⁴ *I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.”* (John 1:29-34)

REFLECT

Who Jesus is, is so important that nobody should miss it! In fact one could also say that missing this News is like missing Life itself! Missing this news is equal to failing at everything, it is a mistake of epic proportions, with eternal consequences.

For this reason, it makes perfect sense that God would send John the Baptist to testify to the most important event in the history of mankind—the coming of Jesus Christ, “...the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world”! John is the one bringing an amazing Message of Hope: That the Lord Christ is coming to bring salvation! So...don’t miss it! “LOOK...the Lamb of God!” SEE!

Throughout the Gospel of John, we repeatedly encounter words like “look” and “see,” contrasted with terms like “blind.” These words in John’s Gospel become synonymous with “to believe.” In other words, if you don’t see what God has placed—so intentionally—right in front of you, then you don’t *believe*. And if you *don’t believe...you are...lost!*

Therefore, what should I do? Isn’t the only thing that makes sense to humbly acknowledge: It is *time* to see and *believe*. It really is as simple as that.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, I thank you for sending John the Baptist, and for sending the Spirit as a dove from heaven, so that I can see...so that I won’t miss the most important News ever! Father, I don’t want to miss the salvation You have sent in Jesus. *Help me Lord...*

SUNDAY - MARCH 9

The first miraculous sign

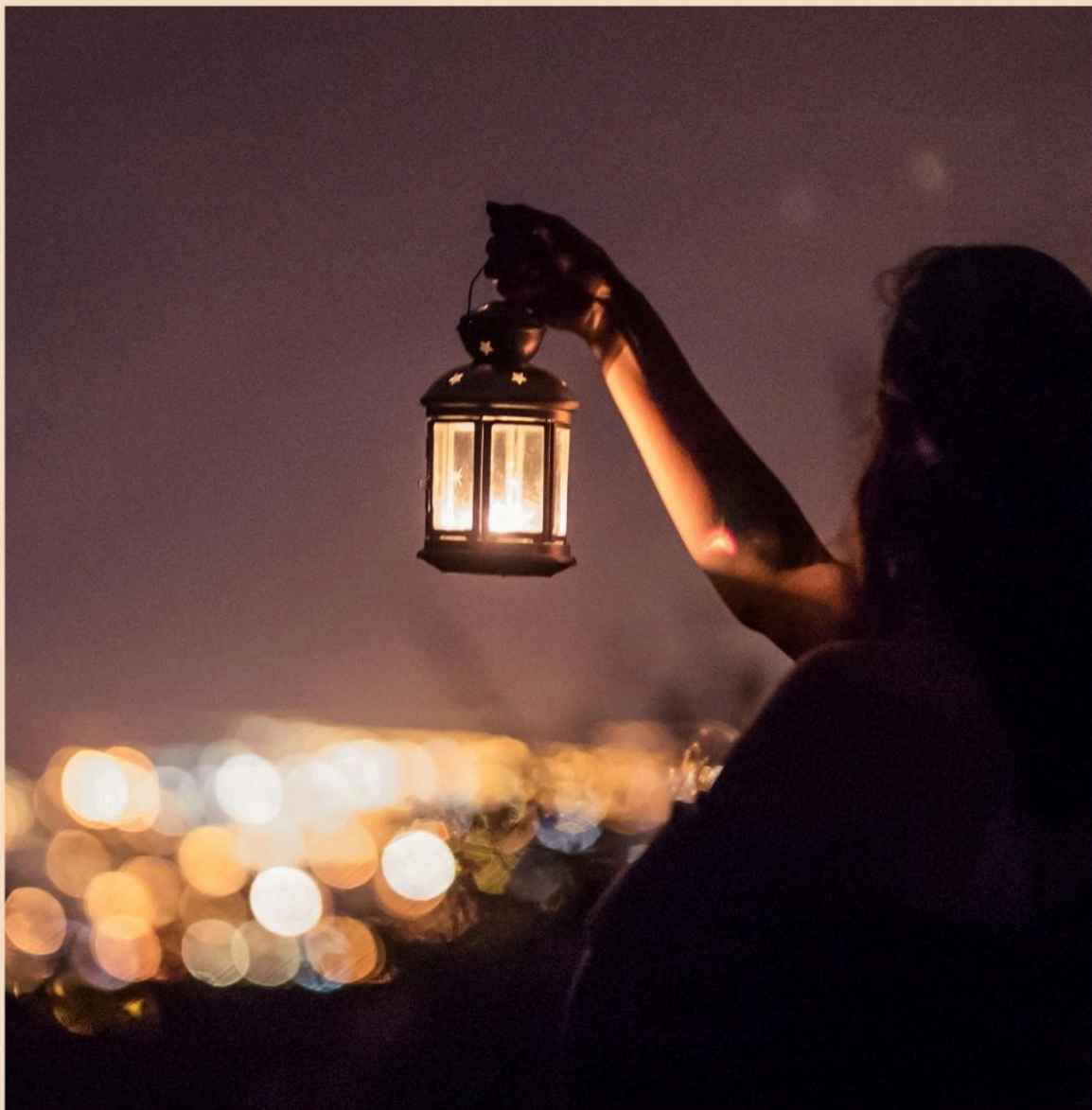
It all started at a wedding

READ

¹ On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and His disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to Him, "They have no more wine." ⁴ "Dear woman, why do you involve Me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." ⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then He told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." ¹¹ This, the first of His miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed His glory, and His disciples put their faith in Him. (John 2:1-11)

COME

Come close so you can see the Kingdom, and all it
is and brings, so you can go and tell



DAY 5 - MARCH 10

Come see the Kingdom of God

READ

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know You are a Teacher Who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs You are doing if God were not with Him.” ³ In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again.” ⁴ “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” ⁵ Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at My saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” (John 3:1-8)

REFLECT

Who wouldn’t want to see the Kingdom of God?!

When Nicodemus comes to Jesus at “night”, he is ironically, and sadly so, also stuck in spiritual darkness, which is why he keeps misunderstanding Jesus. But this can change for anyone who invites the Spirit to transform their heart, cleansing it as if with water. This is how you are born into the Family of God and welcomed through the Door to the Kingdom of God, enabling you to clearly see it!

Jesus explains that while the Spirit’s work is mysterious, like the wind blowing...you may only be able to hear it, but its effects are undeniable and unmistakable. If you remain tied to this world (flesh), your life reflects only the things of this world. But when you enter the Kingdom, the wonders of God’s Spirit begin to show up in your life! In Hebrew, *ruah* means both “wind” and “breath”—the very source of true life. Without the Spirit, it’s as if you can’t breathe, as if there is no true life in you...simply stuck in this world. You can see the Kingdom of God. You can be part of it. It’s time to be born into the Family of God—this is how you see the Kingdom of God.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, I praise You for the invitation that also extends to me to see Your Kingdom! I thank You that You also tell me exactly how to become a part of Your Family, so that I can see Your Kingdom! This is so exciting, Father! *Holy Spirit...*

DAY 6 - MARCH 11

Come to be saved, not condemned

READ

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal Life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the Name of God’s One and Only Son. (John 3:16-18)

REFLECT

Jesus became the Sacrifice for our sin, just like a lamb would have been sacrificed for the sins of the people of God. This is how much God loves you: He gave His unique, “One and Only” Son to replace the sacrificial system of animals with a once-and-for-all, perfect Sacrifice—His One and Only Son. And what is required of you? Nothing but faith in Him. It’s truly that simple, yet that powerful!

This is a faith that, without any doubt, gives access to “eternal life.” The Greek literally means “life of the age to come,” and you already have access to this Life...NOW. How amazing is that! This is why even the suffering of this world cannot slow down this kind of Life in Christ, and why the grave cannot stop it altogether. Right now, you can see the Kingdom of God, *experience* its incredible nature, *and live in its power that never ends.*

God’s heart is to *save*, not to *condemn*. In fact, we condemn ourselves by refusing to put our faith in God’s Son. The idea of an “angry God in the sky” is so far from the truth, so painfully wrong. It’s heartbreaking that many fall for this scheme of the devil to distort God’s Image. Your God loves you so much that He recognized your inability to save yourself and sent His Son to die in your place. He did this so that your struggling, sinful existence could be transformed into a meaningful Life that starts now... and never ends. You were not created to be condemned, but to be loved, and to be... saved.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, I praise You for loving me far more than words could ever express. I praise You for being willing to become the Sacrifice for my sin. Today, I choose once again to put my faith in You and You alone! *Father, help me...*

DAY 7 - MARCH 12

Come into the Light

READ

¹⁹ “This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of Light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the Light, and will not come into the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the Truth comes into the Light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.” (John 3:19-21)

REFLECT

“This is the verdict”—just like in a courtroom, God’s Light, which came into the world through Jesus Christ, illuminates every deed, every corner of our lives, and every part of our hearts. Nothing will remain hidden. In God’s courtroom, the truth—and nothing but the truth—will be revealed. No wonder the themes of God’s Light and Truth are so closely connected here: One illuminates the other. And because it is God’s Light exposing the Truth, there will be no doubt about the final verdict.

Thankfully, we don’t have to guess what that verdict will be. It’s simple: If you loved darkness and continued doing evil, it proves you hated the Light. Many fear their deeds being exposed and run from the Light to stay hidden.

Let that not be us. Why? Because we can’t outrun the Light forever. One day, without exception, we will stand in God’s courtroom, His Light will shine on us and the Truth will be revealed. It will show either a life that ran toward the Light or one that hid from it.

Let today be the day you embrace the Light and run toward it, allowing Jesus, *the Light*, to clean up through His sacrifice every evil thing that might have been festering in dark corners. Then, when you stand in God’s courtroom, it won’t be a moment of fear, but one of joy and hope, something you can actually look forward to!

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, I long to end well by bringing everything in my life into Your Light, and living fully in it. No more hiding stuff in the dark, Lord. From this day forward, let Your Truth reign in my life. *Father, lead me...*

DAY 8 - MARCH 13

Come and find complete joy

READ

²⁷ To this John replied, “A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of Him.’ ²⁹ The bride belongs to the Bridegroom. The friend who attends the Bridegroom waits and listens for Him, and is full of joy when he hears the Bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰ He must become greater; I must become less.” (John 3:27-30)

REFLECT

Throughout the Gospel of John, we find efforts to help us see who Jesus truly is. The Gospel invites us to look, believe, and recognize that He is truly the Son of God! While John was baptizing, Jesus also began baptizing, and people noticed that more were going to Jesus. When some questioned John about this, he responded that this should actually help the people to see clearer that Jesus is from heaven. He reminded them of his role: “I am not the Christ, but sent ahead of Him.”

John used a wedding to explain a little better: The friend of the groom simply helps! When he hears the groom’s voice it pleases him and brings him joy. Likewise, John’s joy is complete now that the “wedding day” has arrived, and the Groom—Jesus—is here. A true friend doesn’t seek glory for himself on the Groom’s day but points everyone to the Groom. The purpose is to make the Groom greater and oneself less.

How do you and I find the type of joy in this world that is complete?

The answer: By listening to the voice of our Groom, our Lord, and by being really excited about the fact that He is in the room, ready to have fellowship with us! This is something worth celebrating...worth having true joy over!

How can this not encourage us to make our Lord greater, until HE is ALL that people see when they look at us!

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, I long to hear Your Voice. I want to praise You that You come so close to me I can hear You, and that I can be called a “friend of the Groom”! Lord, welcome in the room! *Jesus, I want to...*

DAY 9 - MARCH 14

Come and gain access to all you'll ever need

READ

³⁵ *“The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in His Hands. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal Life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see Life, for God’s wrath remains on him.” (John 3:35-36)*

REFLECT

Look carefully with your spiritual eyes and you will see: Jesus is above you...above all. Listen closely to what He speaks—truths He has heard from the Father—and you’ll realize how different His words are from those of the world. Everything confirms that Jesus truly reigns above all.

The Father loves the Son and has entrusted everything to Him, giving Him power over all creation. There should be no doubt that Jesus has the power over everything, and can therefore affect lasting change, starting in this world, and extending into time...forever.

Putting your faith in the Son does not only imply getting rid of sin, it also results in a new life with access to all that Jesus has to pour into your life. Imagine a life with unlimited access to unlimited possibilities that actually makes a difference. A life rich in meaning...purpose...hope.

Rejecting the Son makes no sense, and will lead only to a terrifying end, where God’s anger rests on you forever. Nobody wants that—especially not your Heavenly Father! He longs to bless you through Jesus, Who holds all power and is ready to receive you...to bless you...to guide you...now and forever.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, open my eyes to see You. Lord, open my ears to hear You. Lord, thank You that You have given Your everything, so that I can have access to everything in You! I realize now: When I have You, I have all I’ll ever need! *Jesus, help me...*

DAY 10 - MARCH 15

Come, so you can...go

READ

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ “Come, see a Man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”...³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to Him, they urged Him to stay with them, and He stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of His Words many more became believers. ⁴² They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this Man really is the Savior of the world.” (John 4:28-29, 39-42)

REFLECT

The Samaritan woman’s excitement as she comes to understand who Jesus is feels contagious! The moment she truly grasps the Truth, she immediately “leaves her water jar” to go tell her village. It’s as though she forgets why she was at the well in the first place! Her daily routine, agenda, task list, and even her own needs fade into the background as this incredible Truth about Jesus collides with her soul.

Let me ask: Have you left your “water jar” yet to go and share the greatest News ever?!

This is the example Jesus sets. His encounter with the Samaritan woman inspired her to go and share, and it’s what we are called to do as well. We need to view the world through a spiritual lens, recognizing how urgent the time is—it’s harvest time! It’s time to gather people to find new Life in the Lord. So, let’s leave our water jars and GO!

It’s incredible that the Samaritan woman, despite being hated by the Jews and looked down on by her own people, got it right. Immediately! She sparked a movement of faith in her village. Because of her testimony, people flocked to Jesus, eager to hear more, and many came to faith—not just because of her words, but because they had a personal encounter with the Lord Himself.

What a life! This could be your story. It’s time. Time to leave your water jar behind and tell someone about Your Lord.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, thank You for setting such a clear example for me. Lord, Your Word has inspired me today to Go!
Help me, Jesus, to...

SUNDAY - MARCH 16

The second miraculous sign

A child's fever leaves him at a very specific moment

READ

⁴³ After the two days He left for Galilee. ⁴⁴ (Now Jesus Himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in His own country.) ⁴⁵ When He arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed Him. They had seen all that He had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, for they also had been there. ⁴⁶ Once more He visited Cana in Galilee, where He had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to Him and begged Him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. ⁴⁸ "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." ⁴⁹ The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." ⁵⁰ Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live." The man took Jesus at His word and departed. ⁵¹ While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. ⁵² When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour." ⁵³ Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and all his household believed. ⁵⁴ This was the second miraculous sign that Jesus performed, having come from Judea to Galilee. (John 4:43-54)

BEING

Be engaged with your whole being –
surrender in awe, all to your Lord



DAY 11 - MARCH 17

Being in awe of Jesus' testimony

READ

³¹ "If I testify about Myself, My Testimony is not valid. ³² There is Another Who testifies in My favor, and I know that His Testimony about Me is valid. ³³ You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. ³⁴ Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. ³⁵ John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light. ³⁶ I have Testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given Me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent Me. ³⁷ And the Father who sent Me has Himself testified concerning Me. You have never heard His voice nor seen His form, ³⁸ nor does His word dwell in you, for you do not believe the One He sent. ³⁹ You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about Me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to Me to have Life." (John 5:31-40)

REFLECT

Our Father knows we need help to believe in Jesus' claims and that faith can be difficult if His words seem to come from Himself alone. That's why Jesus emphasizes that His decisions and words come directly from the Father who sent Him.

Imagine a court case where testimony from others strengthens the truth. Jesus points out that He isn't the only one testifying about who He is. John the Baptist also bore witness, though Jesus notes that His works and the Father's Testimony are far greater than any human could provide. John's role was like a lamp pointing the way, helping people start to see the Truth.

Jesus' miracles clearly show the Father's presence with Him. Yet, many refuse to believe, unable to see or hear the Father even as the Son reveals Him. The Scriptures also testify about Jesus, but some search them without recognizing that true Life is found in Him.

Unlike false messiahs, who craved fame and power, Jesus' mission is marked by the Father's purpose, bringing us to the Truth. Don't miss the One to whom all the testimonies point! Rather be in awe of Jesus' "weighted" Testimony.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, forgive me that You had to line up several testimonies about Who you are, simply to ensure that I would get it! Yet today, I stand in awe of how John the Baptist, Your miracles, the Scriptures, and above all, the Father Himself, proclaim Your Truth. *Lord, my plea today is...*

DAY 12 - MARCH 18

Being a person of truth

READ

¹⁶ Jesus answered, "My teaching is not My own. It comes from Him who sent Me. ¹⁷ If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether My teaching comes from God or whether I speak on My own. ¹⁸ He who speaks on His own does so to gain honor for Himself, but He Who works for the honor of the One who sent Him is a Man of truth; there is nothing false about Him." (John 7:16-18)

REFLECT

We live in a day and age where so many people are consumed with seeking worldly recognition. People will say and do almost anything to gain honor. Sadly, many of these honor-seekers fall far from being people of truth.

Wouldn't it be refreshing and uplifting for others to experience you as a "person of truth"?

How can you become such a person? Jesus gives the answer: If you live in obedience to God's will, aligning your life with how He wants you to live, you'll discover that His ways are completely in sync with Jesus' teachings. You'll see that Jesus, as the ultimate Man of Truth, seeks not His own honor but that of His Father.

To live out the truth, fix your eyes on Jesus, listen to Him, and obey the will of the Father, bringing Him honor. In doing so, you will walk as a *person of truth*, following the footsteps of the Man of Truth, so that people can find their way back to the Father of Truth!

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, I desire to bring Your Truth into every corner of my life. I see so clearly today, perhaps more than ever before, how deeply the world around me needs it. *Father, I long to...*

DAY 13 - MARCH 19

Being in sync with God's clock

READ

²⁸ Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, "Yes, you know Me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on My own, but He who sent Me is true. You do not know Him, ²⁹ but I know Him because I am from Him and He sent Me." ³⁰ At this they tried to seize Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His time had not yet come. ³¹ Still, many in the crowd put their faith in Him. They said, "When the Christ comes, will He do more miraculous signs than this Man?" (John 7:28-31)

REFLECT

To truly see, you need open spiritual eyes—you need to view Jesus from God's perspective. Some people were confused about Who Jesus was because the leaders wanted to kill Him, yet allowed Him to speak openly. They struggled more and more to figure out: *Who is Jesus really?*

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus explained that while they thought they knew where He was from, they actually didn't. He is from this world but also from Above, sent by the Father—Someone many did not truly know. Yet Jesus made it clear: He does know the Father, as He is from God, Who sent Him!

This claim of equality with the Father infuriated the Jews. Therefore they wanted to grab Him... but no one did, "because His time had not yet come"! This key theme in John's Gospel shows how Jesus acts entirely on God's schedule. Even those opposing Him unknowingly operate under God's timing. Nothing happens outside of God's control—every moment unfolds according to His perfect plan for salvation through Jesus' death and resurrection.

We often think we control our lives—choosing what to do, how, and when. But isn't it time to get our lives in sync with God's clock? To relinquish control to Him, who is already in control? To shift our schedules under control of God's schedule? Imagine how much better our lives could be if we lived on *His* schedule, doing what *He* wants, when *He* wants.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, the clearer I see you, and the more I learn about how You lived, the more I long to do things the way You did it. Today Lord, I thank You for showing me how to live my life in sync with the Father's clock. *Father, I desire to...*

DAY 14 - MARCH 20

Being a spiritual fountain

READ

³⁷ *On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” ³⁹ By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. (John 7:37-39)*

REFLECT

The Holy Spirit had not been poured out on *all* people in the Old Testament, or even during Jesus’ time. People experienced the Spirit’s power on *certain* individuals, at *certain* times—but not on *all, all* the time.

So when Jesus revealed that the Holy Spirit would rest upon *all* believers after He was glorified—through His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension—*it was transformative news!* People must have wondered, “*What would it be like for the Spirit to come upon me, as He did with Elijah or Samson...and JESUS?!*”

Jesus answers this with a powerful metaphor: For all who find Jesus, it will be as if you have found the One Who can quench your spiritual thirst...forever! All you need to do is to believe in Him, and you will become like a fountain from which fresh water will flow—not just ordinary water, but water that will bring forth eternal life. This is the reality of the Holy Spirit in all believers.

If you are thirsting for more, your search is over—Jesus is the Living Water.

If you long to help those around you dying of thirst, lead them to Him—He is the answer.

If you hope to make a lasting difference, like fresh water does to an oasis in the desert...your hope has found its fulfillment—the power of the Holy Spirit does exactly that!

Find Jesus. Find the Living Water. Save the thirsty. Leave an oasis behind.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, I sometimes forget the incredible gift I have in You. Thank you for the reminder of what I have found in You. It is time to fully believe and live this Truth! *Holy Spirit, I need Your help to...*

DAY 15 - MARCH 21

Being in awe of Jesus' teaching

READ

⁴⁵ Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring Him in?" ⁴⁶ "No one ever spoke the way this Man does," the guards declared. (John 7:45-46)

REFLECT

The religious leaders in Jesus' time didn't quite know what to do with Jesus. One moment they wanted to kill Him, then they hesitated, then they plotted again—it was a cycle of confusion. Look at this interaction between the people, the religious leaders, and Jesus from John 7:25-30:

²⁵ At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, "Isn't this the Man they are trying to kill?" ²⁶ Here He is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to Him. Have the authorities really concluded that He is the Christ? ²⁷ But we know where this Man is from; when the Christ comes, no one will know where He is from." ²⁸ Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, "Yes, you know Me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on My own, but He Who sent Me is true. You do not know Him, ²⁹ but I know Him because I am from Him and He sent Me." ³⁰ At this they tried to seize Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His time had not yet come.

The cycle continued: Jesus taught, division grew, and some wanted to follow while others resisted. Even the temple guards, sent to arrest Him, couldn't follow through. They were so captivated by His teaching that they returned empty-handed, saying, "No one ever spoke the way this Man does!" I'm sure you have seen people confused about Jesus. I'm sure you have encountered some people fighting Jesus. I'm sure you have an opinion about Jesus too.

Let me ask:

Are you still in wonder of your Lord?

Are you still amazed by who He is and what He's done for you?

Can you declare today with the guards, "No one ever spoke the way this Man does"?

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, today I stand in awe of You once again! Thank You for Your Word, which challenges me to pause, listen, and reflect on the incredible blessing of having You in my life. *Father, help me to..*

DAY 16 - MARCH 22

Being broken, but put together again

READ

³ *The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group* ⁴ *and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.* ⁵ *In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do You say?”* ⁶ *They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing Him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with His finger.* ⁷ *When they kept on questioning Him, He straightened up and said to them, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”* ⁸ *Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.* ⁹ *At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.* ¹⁰ *Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”* ¹¹ *“No one, Sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.” (John 8:3-11)*

REFLECT

What does Jesus do with a woman caught in adultery? What does He do with someone who is...broken? We know that her accusers were ready to follow the law—to stone her to death. They didn’t care about justice or truth; they only wanted to trap Jesus in His words.

We may never know what Jesus wrote in the sand that day. Perhaps it was their own sins. What we do know is that His response stopped them in their tracks: *“If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”* One by one, they walked away, the older ones—the most respected—leaving first. This act of grace and forgiveness deeply impacted the woman, leading her to call Jesus “Kyriē,” Lord. Here was a Lord who loved her, forgave her, and called her to start anew: *“Go now and leave your life of sin.”*

What does Jesus do with the broken? He puts them back together. And what should we do? Instead of crushing the broken with heavier stones, let’s bring them to Jesus—the only One who can put them back together again. Isn’t that a far better plan?

Are you broken? Do you know that Jesus can put you back together...right now.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, in my brokenness I come before you today. Lord, if you could put this broken woman back together again, and create a new start for her, I believe you can do that for me too! *Kyriē, Lord, help me...*

SUNDAY - MARCH 23

The third miraculous sign

A miracle on the Sabbath

READ

¹ Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. ² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, He asked him, “Do you want to get well?” ⁷ “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” ⁸ Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” ⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, ¹⁰ and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.” ¹¹ But he replied, “The Man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’” ¹² So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?” ¹³ The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. ¹⁴ Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus Who had made him well. ¹⁶ So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted Him. ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I, too, am working.” ¹⁸ For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill Him; not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. ¹⁹ Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all He does. Yes, to your amazement He will show Him even greater things than these. ²¹ For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom He is pleased to give it. ²² Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent Him. ²⁴ “I tell you the truth, whoever hears My Word and believes Him Who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. ²⁵ I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself. ²⁷ And He has given Him authority to judge because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸ “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. ³⁰ By Myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and My judgment is just, for I seek not to please Myself but Him Who sent Me”. (John 5:1-30)

WISE

How we think about things steers our lives –
it is time to embrace God's wisdom



DAY 17 - MARCH 24

Be wise, understanding will come

READ

²⁷ They did not understand that He was telling them about His Father. ²⁸ So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the One I claim to be and that I do nothing on My own but speak just what the Father has taught Me. ²⁹ The One who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do what pleases Him.” ³⁰ Even as He spoke, many put their faith in Him. (John 8:27-30)

REFLECT

It’s heartbreaking to think that so many, including religious leaders who should have understood, completely missed what Jesus was trying to show them. Imagine the One who is God, Who does nothing except for what is in perfect alignment with His Father, Who is therefore always with His Father, and His Father with Him, shares with you how to find eternal life, how to live a meaningful life...and you miss it, because you simply don’t get it! What a sad tragedy when the best News ever, with the deepest, eternal impact ever being taught to you...just doesn’t make any sense. Missing this is the absolute worst nightmare!

However, there is a great hope to be shared with you today! Jesus says, when you don’t understand what He is teaching you, what is happening to you spiritually, or even why it is happening...just wait, don’t give up on your spiritual journey with Him! The worst thing you can do when you don’t understand is to walk away. The best thing? Walk *with* Jesus.

In John 8, Jesus calls us to stay close to Him, even when things are unclear. As you keep walking with Him, He’ll lead you to profound places—like the cross at Calvary, where you’ll see Him lifted up, crucified, and then risen. Over time, as you grasp more of *Who* He is, His words and actions will make sense, and the “why’s” of life will fade in the Light of His glory.

God is with you, God understands, even when you don’t. Your part? Keep walking with God!

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Father, some days I just truly do not understand anymore. It feels as if nothing makes sense anymore. But God, today I confess: You understand, You know, and that You would walk with me like You walked with Adam and the Garden of Eden...that is enough for me! *Lord, help me...*

DAY 18 - MARCH 25

Be wise, persevere in Jesus' teaching

READ

³¹ *To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples.*

³² *Then you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)*

REFLECT

Freedom is something we deeply value. Many Americans proudly celebrate living in the "land of the free" and the "home of the brave." But Jesus points to a freedom far greater, warning that true freedom comes only when you "hold to" His teaching and "know the Truth."

What Jesus is saying here is so important that it has eternal consequences. Hearing His teaching and finding it interesting isn't enough. If you only listen, ponder, or discuss Jesus' words for a moment, they'll impact you briefly but won't last. Treating His teachings like this will come to a *dead end*...literally...on your death bed. The grave will hold on to you, and you will not be "set free".

The only way to avoid the captivity of death, is to "hold to" Jesus' teachings, to really "know the Truth". This means to not only take note, not only ponder, but *integrate it deeply into* every aspect of your life. It means that Jesus' teachings become the paradigm for how you approach your relationships, your spouse, your children, your parents, your studies, your job...all of it!

When His teachings guide you, they become the foundation for how you live. Such a life leads to freedom that even death cannot conquer, as His Truth sets you free forever.

Want to live in true freedom—freedom that outlasts the grave?

Persevere in Jesus' teaching.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, thank You for the rich teachings in Your Word. The Gospels are filled with wisdom for every area of life—I can read, learn, hold on to it, and live by Your Truth! *Father, help me...*

DAY 19 - MARCH 26

Be wise, a permanent place in God's Family

READ

³⁴ Jesus replied, "I tell you the Truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:34-36)

REFLECT

Jesus reminds us that sin makes us slaves to another master—the devil, the father of lies. In John 8:44, Jesus says, "...there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Only the Son can set us truly free—a freedom that breaks not only the chains of sin but even the grip of death. Why choose slavery when you have the chance to be not just free but a child of the greatest Father ever? Why settle for a lying dad when you can belong to the Family of God, led by the Father of Truth, proven fully in Jesus? Why cling to something temporary that ends at the grave when you can have a permanent seat at God's table—forever?

How is all of this possible? Through Jesus. Jesus ensures entry to the House of the Father, so that you can take your permanent seat at the table of God's Family!

Are you ready to leave behind slavery to the father of lies, and embrace true freedom with the Father of Truth?

Embrace life in Christ today and take your permanent seat at your Father's table, child of God!

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Father, thank You for inviting me into Your Family, welcoming me into Your House, and giving me a permanent place at Your Table—forever! Today Lord, I'm turning away, forever, from a life of slavery, following a father of lies! *Lord, help me...*

DAY 20 - MARCH 27

Be wise, only one Father will speak the Truth

READ

⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on My own; but He sent Me. ⁴³ Why is My language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. ⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the Truth, for there is no Truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ Yet because I tell the Truth, you do not believe Me! ⁴⁶ Can any of you prove Me guilty of sin? If I am telling the Truth, why don’t you believe Me? ⁴⁷ He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.” (John 8:42-47)

REFLECT

Jesus closes this passage in John 8 with a cry from His heart: Take off the blinders and recognize that He is the One sent by God. He isn’t just someone doing notable things; He is the fulfillment of God’s plan. You can feel the ache in His Words as He cries out, “Why is My language not clear to you?” Jesus longs for us to hear Him. He explains the reason: “Because you are unable to hear what I say...you do not belong to God.”

I am sure you long to hear God’s voice clearly. Do you desire to understand His heavenly language? Jesus shows the way: Stop listening to the devil’s native tongue of lies and start tuning into God’s language of Truth. The promise is clear and powerful: “He who belongs to God hears what God says.”

Only one Father speaks Truth—God. Only one Father is worth listening to—God. Only one Lord can open your ears to hear it—Jesus.

Your Father longs for you to hear Him. Are you ready to listen? It is time to learn another language. It is powerful, and it will set you free. Allow Jesus to open your heart today, so that you can begin to understand your Father Who longs to speak to you!

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, thank You for showing me how deeply it matters to You that I hear and understand You clearly. Father of Truth, draw me near so I can learn Your language, hear Your voice, and follow You with understanding. *Lord, help me...*

DAY 21 - MARCH 28

Be wise, follow the One Who knows your name

READ

¹ “I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The Man who enters by the gate is the Shepherd of His sheep. ³ The watchman opens the gate for Him, and the sheep listen to His voice. He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When He has brought out all His own, He goes on ahead of them, and His sheep follow Him because they know His voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” (John 10:1-5)

REFLECT

We often admire and follow people with *big names*—those who have made a mark on the world and are remembered by millions, even after death.

But here’s a question: Do they know *your name*?

With our Lord, it’s completely different. He not only knows your name but wants you to know He hasn’t forgotten you. He desires to lead you, walk with you, and journey closely with you—not just know about you.

In today’s world, we love being followed on social media, while faithfully following others in return.

But it’s time for a spiritual reality check. Are you following the One who truly knows your name?

Draw near to your Lord, so you recognize His voice and can discern when it’s a stranger calling you—a voice you should *not* follow. Be so in tune with the One who knows your name that not only will you resist following strangers, but you’ll actively run from them!

Be wise. Follow the One Who knows your name.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, how amazing it is to know that You know my name! I stand in awe today, overwhelmed by the depth of Your care and the intentional love You have for me. *Father, help me...*

DAY 22 - MARCH 29

Be wise, don't miss that Jesus...is...God

READ

¹⁷ “The reason My Father loves Me is that I lay down My life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from My Father.” (John 10:17-18)

REFLECT

We continue to learn something powerful about Jesus on every page of the Gospel of John—what a Book! Today, in just two verses, we learn:

- Jesus is *willing* to lay down His life for us, and His Father loves Him for it.
- *Jesus* lays down His life—no one takes it from Him. He does it out of His own will.
- Jesus can also *take up His life* again.
- Jesus received this authority from the Father, proving a *deep connection* between Him and God.

Most importantly—we learn today:

- Jesus doesn't only “*mirror*” or *showcase* the Father to us.
- Jesus can *give Life to Himself—a quality that only God has*.

Thus, we can reveal a profound Truth, sadly missed by so many: Jesus *is* God.

And if Jesus is God, then we learn by implication:

- Jesus is perfect, without sin, as God is.
- Jesus knows and understands everything about us, as God does.
- Jesus can be the perfect Sacrifice for us, as God wants.
- Jesus can save us, as is God's will.
- Jesus can give life to us, as God gives life.

Jesus is our Savior, the Door to God, and God Himself. And as we'll soon discover in John, He gives us the Spirit to confirm this Truth!

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Father, Your Word amazes me every day. Jesus, Your loving sacrifice and resurrection reveal so clearly Who You are—my Savior, and my God! *Holy Spirit, help me...*

SUNDAY - MARCH 30

The fourth and fifth miraculous signs:

Miracles pointing to the greatest Miracle of all!

READ

¹ Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Feast was near. ⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" ⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. ¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." ¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. ¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, ¹⁷ where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. ¹⁸ A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. ¹⁹ When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." ²¹ Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading. ²² The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. ²³ Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." ²⁸ Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." ³⁰ So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?" ³¹ Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread

from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”³⁴ “Sir,” they said, “from now on give us this bread.”³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.⁴⁰ For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”⁴¹ At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.”⁴² They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”⁴³ “Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus answered.⁴⁴ “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.⁴⁶ No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.⁴⁷ I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life.⁴⁸ I am the bread of life.⁴⁹ Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died.⁵⁰ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die.⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”⁵² Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”⁵³ Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.”⁵⁹ He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”⁶¹ Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you?⁶² What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before!⁶³ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.⁶⁴ Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.⁶⁵ He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.”⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.⁶⁷ “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.⁶⁹ We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”⁷⁰ Then Jesus replied, “Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!”⁷¹ (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.) (John 6:1-71)

FIND

There's so much we don't know, but we find enough
in John's Gospel for a meaningful life



DAY 23 - MARCH 31

Find peace in the power of Jesus Who is with you

READ

²⁷ “My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.” (John 10:27-30)

REFLECT

Nobody likes living with constant anxiety. Stress can overwhelm, paralyze, rob you of rest, and even harm your health. But God offers something better: Peace.

Here is a quick reminder from the Gospel of Luke of how many times it is reinforced that when God steps into our world, into our lives, then we can expect *peace*, not *fear*. Every time we are encouraged to not be *anxious*, but to have *peace*. All three angelic announcements to Zechariah, Mary, and the shepherds begin with the same words: “*Do not be afraid*” (Luke 1:13a, 30a; 2:10a)! This theme reaches its peak in the glorious praises of the heavenly hosts when heaven opens up over the shepherd’s fields, and the birth of Jesus is announced with: “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth PEACE to men on whom His favor rests*” (Luke 2:14).

This peace isn’t fleeting. It was not only given by God with Jesus’ birth, and was then stolen away by the world as it rejected Jesus and crucified Him. Instead, it’s an unstoppable peace, connected to the power of God and the presence of Jesus. A peace that is flowing from the Shepherd to His sheep—a peace that carries us through this life and into the Life to come!

Do you need peace today? There is good News for you: Draw near to your Shepherd, listen to His voice, and let His presence calm your heart. In His care, anxiety fades, replaced by His lasting peace. As you get up and follow your Shepherd through this life, you will find that His power is stronger than anything that may come against you—nothing can snatch you out of His caring and protective Hands, because He and His Father *IS ONE*, and *no power is greater than our God!*

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Father, today I have been refreshed again by the Truth that with You, in Jesus, comes *peace*. Forgive me for the times I forget that You hold *all power*, and with You comes *all the peace I need*. Today Father, I also needed to hear: *Do not be afraid! Jesus, my Shepherd, guide me...*

DAY 24 - APRIL 1

Find creative ways to honor Jesus Who is with you

READ

¹ Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. (John 12:1-3)

REFLECT

What do we have here? An *ordinary* meal that turned into an *extraordinary* evening! People came expecting a good meal and fellowship with Jesus, but one of His children transformed the evening into an act of deep devotion. Rather than aiming for the normal, Mary aimed for unique. Overwhelmed by the Lord's presence in her home, her heart and soul stirred, Mary asked herself: *How can I express my love for my Lord?* And then it hit her—she would offer the very best she owned, no matter the cost, to pour out her devotion on Jesus... quite literally!

Mary's creative way of honoring Jesus' presence in her life did not only affect her deeply, but it touched the entire room. The fragrance of her gift filled the house, prompting everyone to witness and respond to this extravagant display of love. She gave her all. She held nothing back. This perfume was crafted through an intricate and lengthy extraction process from an aromatic Nepalese plant. The production required vast quantities of plant material to yield just a small amount of oil, and the added cost of importing it made this flask exceptionally valuable. Wiping His feet with her hair—a woman's glory in ancient society—further showed her desire to give Jesus her heart, soul, mind, body—her everything. Jesus gave His all...she wanted to give her all.

What an inspiring challenge! Take time to consider how you, in your own culture, can creatively honor the Lord's presence in your life. How will you show your deepest devotion to the One who gave His everything for you?

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, I was deeply touched by this example of Mary's extreme, humble and heartfelt devotion to You. Jesus, You are so deserving of such complete devotion, and I long to offer You mine in new and creative ways. *Holy Spirit, help me...*

DAY 25 - APRIL 2

Find out how to show the world who you really are

READ

³³ “My children, I [Jesus] will be with you only a little longer. You will look for Me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. ³⁴ A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.” ³⁶ Simon Peter asked Him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.” ³⁷ Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow You now? I will lay down My life for you.” ³⁸ Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for Me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown Me three times!” (John 13:33-38)

REFLECT

“By this all men will know that you are My disciples,” Jesus said.

Jesus didn’t intend for us to be undercover agents in the world, doing great things unnoticed, nor a boastful group flaunting our good deeds. His hope was clear: That we would love one another as He has loved us. By living this way, Jesus says, *all men* will see that we are His children, His disciples.

Jesus has a God-sized dream for our lives: Not only should our families know we belong to Him—*all people* should see it! This was never about boasting or showing off but about living a sacrificial lifestyle. This becomes crystal clear in Jesus’ conversation with Peter, where He reveals that He is about to lay down His life for His followers. The love of Jesus we are called to mirror is a sacrificial love.

It’s far more than warm feelings—it’s about going above and beyond, breaking through cultural, racial, social, or any other boundaries. It’s about going the extra mile and living a life that reflects His selfless love.

How can this not make us stop and think? Jesus’ hope for our lives is monumental! The time is now for us to live intentionally, because we have something the world desperately needs: The path to salvation, eternal hope, lasting peace, and real faith.

Take a moment to ask yourself: How can I show *the world* who I am in Jesus?

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Father, I am humbled by the high hopes You have for me! Lord, thank You for leaving the perfect Example to follow so that I can live a life where *all can* see I belong to You! *Holy Spirit, strengthen me...*

DAY 26 - APRIL 3

Find out why things are sometimes such a struggle

READ

¹⁸ *“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember...‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed My teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of My Name, for they do not know the One who sent Me.” (John 15:18-21)*

REFLECT

Jesus makes it clear: the devil despises it when a child of God lives a powerful, Christlike life. Such a life will face pushback! So, we shouldn't be surprised if the world hates us—after all, it hated Jesus first. If we were just like the world, it wouldn't have a problem with us. But as God's children, chosen to stand with Jesus, we often experience the same hostility He endured.

Life's struggles often leave us searching for answers, but some careful reflection can reveal the causes. Isn't it sometimes due to our own shortcomings or unwise decisions, even when we know the better choice? Could it be a lack of patience, the pull of sinful desires, or following poor examples? More often than not, bad habits become obstacles to living a good, healthy, and meaningful life.

Yet, even when we follow God wholeheartedly, hardships still come. Why? Jesus addressed this head-on: “The world hates you because you follow Me.” When we live for Christ, the world pushes back, aiming to make us suffer for our faith. But remember: *God is always in control*. The world's hatred has an expiration date. One day, Jesus will return and declare in victory: *“I have overcome!”*

You belong to God. You do not belong to this world.

You are for God. You are against the world.

The world is against all who belong to God. The world is against you.

You will have struggles in this world.

This is why.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Father, if the world hates Your Son, then I am blessed when it hates me too. Yet, I often forget this and find myself confused and frustrated by it. Forgive me, Lord. *Holy Spirit, help me...*

DAY 27 - APRIL 4

Find true joy and peace in knowing how it all ends

READ

¹⁹ Jesus saw that they wanted to ask Him about this, so He said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see Me no more, and then after a little while you will see Me’? ²⁰ I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. ²¹ A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. ²² So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy...³³ I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:19-22, 33)

REFLECT

As a man, I can't truly grasp the pain of childbirth, though we all know it's intense. Both mother and baby cry as the baby enters the world. Yet despite the anguish, worries, and risks, women continue to bear children. Why? Because the immense joy of a newborn far outweighs the suffering. A baby's first cry transforms a mother's tears of pain into tears of joy.

Jesus often used perfect metaphors to teach profound truths, and childbirth is no exception. He compares it to our journey through this world, reminding us that while we may face trouble now, the joy awaiting us in heaven will far outweigh any present suffering. His resurrection proves that no hardship—not even death—could harm Him permanently. And as His children, we share in that victory. Staying connected to Jesus means staying anchored to a future filled with His ultimate joy and peace.

How your journey through this world is directly related to how you embrace your ending. If your ending is uncertain and scary to you, the struggles of this world will be overwhelming. But as a child of God, your ending is secure, it is certain, filled with true joy and peace, guaranteed by the Lord Himself!

Embrace your ending in the Lord, child of God, and the grief of this world will not overcome you.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Father, I should know how it all ends—with unspeakable joy in You. Jesus, You have shown me this certainty through Your victory. Thank You for reminding me of this again today, Holy Spirit! *Father, help me...*

DAY 28 - APRIL 5

Find a fresh start in Jesus

READ

¹⁵ ...Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love Me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed My lambs.” ¹⁶ Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love Me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, You know that I love You.” Jesus said, “Take care of My sheep.” ¹⁷ The third time He said to Him, “Simon son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love Me?” He said, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said, “Feed My sheep. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then He said to Him, “Follow Me!” (John 21:15-19)

REFLECT

A fresh start—who doesn’t need that from time to time?

Earlier in the Gospel, Peter denies Jesus three times. Now, Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him and confirms three times that He still wants to use Peter for great things: *Feed My lambs. Take care of My sheep. Feed My sheep.*

Some focus on the different Greek words for “love” used here—*agapaō* (sacrificial, divine love) and *phileō* (brotherly love). While these nuances are debated, in John’s Gospel the two terms are used interchangeably to describe the Father’s love for the Son, Jesus’ love for Lazarus, and the Father’s love for the disciples. The core message is clear: Jesus calls Peter to love sacrificially and serve His people wholeheartedly.

Even after Peter’s failure, Jesus gives him a fresh start. He also warns Peter that following Him will lead to a martyr’s death—a difficult yet God-glorifying path. Despite his denial, Peter is invited once again to follow the Lord faithfully, to the very end. How about a *fresh start* that lasts? It’s possible, it’s real, and it’s available right now in Jesus. Why not take Him up on this life-changing offer and start fresh in Him, with Him, and for Him?

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, I love you, I love You—You know I do! Forgive me for not always showing this sacrificially or living it faithfully. Today, by Your grace, I embrace a fresh start in You! Thank You! *Father, help me...*

SUNDAY - APRIL 6

The sixth miraculous sign

Do you see yet?

READ

¹ As He [Jesus] went along, He saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the work of Him who sent Me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world." ⁶ Having said this, He spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," He told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." ¹⁰ "How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded. ¹¹ He replied, "The Man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." ¹² "Where is this Man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said. ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided. ¹⁷ Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about Him? It was your eyes He opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸ The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. ¹⁹ "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" ²⁰ "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. ²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God," they said. "We know this Man is a sinner." ²⁵ He replied, "Whether He is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" ²⁶ Then they asked him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become His disciples, too?" ²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where He comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where He comes from, yet He opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this

I AM

Seven times Jesus identifies clearly Who He is



DAY 29 - APRIL 7

Jesus: “I AM the Bread of Life.”

READ

³² Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is My Father Who gives you the true Bread from heaven. ³³ For the Bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives Life to the world.” ³⁴ “Sir,” they said, “from now on give us this Bread.” ³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me will never go hungry, and he who believes in Me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:32-25)

REFLECT

Jesus identifies Himself as the Bread of Life right after He fed the crowd with only five small loaves of bread and two small fish. Not only did everyone eat their fill, but 12 baskets of leftover bread were gathered—a clear connection to the 12 tribes of Israel. This occurred just before the Jewish Passover Feast, a time when God’s provision and salvation were celebrated. The abundance of leftovers highlights that Jesus can fully satisfy *all* His people.

Jesus uses this as a teaching opportunity. He explains that faith in Him is like eating bread—just as the Israelites ate manna to live. However, unlike manna, which could not grant eternal life, Jesus, the true Bread from heaven, sustains *all* who believe in Him...*forever!*

Faith means being *all in*. It’s not just about knowing Jesus, studying Him, or doing things for Him—it’s fully receiving Him, being transformed from the inside out, like bread and water becoming part of your body when consumed. This powerful metaphor becomes a reminder that Jesus is our Source, our Sustainer, and the everlasting Life within us.

“Come to Me,” says the Bread of Life, “so that you will never go hungry again.”

“Believe in Me,” says the Bread of Life, “so that you will never be thirsty again.”

The Bread of Life invites *you* to be *all in*, so that *all of you* can become a blessing to *all around you*.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Lord, I don’t want to simply come to You—I want to run to You with all that I am and all that I have. I surrender completely so You can feed my soul and quench my thirst. *Father, use me...*

DAY 30 - APRIL 8

Jesus: “I AM the Light of the world.”

READ

¹² *When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, “I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life.” (John 8:12)*

REFLECT

“I am the Light of the World.” Powerful words!

We all know how terrible it is trying to get around in the dark—stumbling, bumping into things, breaking stuff, and even hurting ourselves. It’s even more absurd to go through all that when the light switch is right there, waiting to be flipped!

What light does for a dark room, Jesus does for our spiritual lives. When He steps in, our souls light up like a room when the switch is flipped. Suddenly, we can see clearly—what needs to be cleaned, fixed, or thrown out. Jesus helps us live with purpose, avoid wasted time, and make a real difference.

It’s one thing for people to stumble in darkness if they don’t know the light exists.

But you and I? We know! We know Jesus is the Light of the world!

Not inviting Jesus in so we can follow Him through a lit “room” makes no sense.

Not allowing Jesus to be the Light of our life—so our life can become a life in His Light, free from darkness now and forever—makes no sense!

Now that you know, invite Jesus to be your Light.

Now that you know, follow Him, so His Light can become the light to the world.

As you bring His Light to the world, others can then too discover this Light.

May you soon experience the unspeakable joy of seeing people welcome Jesus as their Light!

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Jesus, Light of the world, what a humbling honor that You are also the Light of my own little world! Light of my soul, I am ready to follow You and bring Your Light to the world! *Holy Spirit, lead me...*

DAY 31 - APRIL 9

Jesus: “I AM the Gate to the sheep; I AM the Good Shepherd.”

READ

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, I am the Gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the Gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have Life, and have it to the full. ¹¹ I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the Good Shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know Me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father—and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to My voice, and there shall be one flock and one Shepherd.” (John 10:7-16)

REFLECT

Describing our Lord with just one metaphor often falls short. That’s why this passage combines two—Gate and Good Shepherd—to convey something deeply powerful about Jesus. He is not only the *Gate*—the *only Way* into the sheep pen—but also the *Good Shepherd* who pays the ultimate price with His life. Those who enter through Him receive salvation, protection, care, and eternal life. The overlap of these metaphors reveals an incredible Truth about who He is!

But there’s more: the Good Shepherd also seeks other sheep who need to find this *one* true sheep pen, with *only one* Gate and *one* Way in. *His goal is one flock, under one Shepherd, listening to one Voice.*

There is indeed no one like our Lord, *our one Good Shepherd, the Gate, the Way!*

Are you weary of the thief who steals, kills, and destroys? Tired of the enemy wreaking havoc in your life, marriage, and family? Jesus is ready to lead. Listen to His voice. Enter through Him. And enjoy the everlasting, unparalleled, refreshing care of your Savior, your Good Shepherd.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Jesus, I’m so weary of seeing my family endure the thief’s stealing, killing, and destruction. I am ready to walk through You, my Gate! *Good Shepherd, lead me...*

DAY 32 - APRIL 10

Jesus: “I AM the Resurrection and the Life.”

READ

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)

REFLECT

When someone makes an incredible statement about themselves, it’s impressive, but unless it impacts your life, it remains just a fascinating remark. For example: “Hi, I’m Elon Musk, one of the richest people in the world, and I’m building rockets to take people to Mars.” Without a personal connection or partnership that directly benefits you, the impressive statement remains simply that—an interesting fact about someone else.

When Jesus says, “I am the Resurrection and the Life,” it’s an extraordinary claim of His identity—declaring He has power over death because He is the source of Life itself. This isn’t just a statement; Jesus proved it by dying and rising again!

But here’s the difference: Jesus isn’t just making a true claim about Himself. *He invites you to share in it!* Faith in Him connects you to His Life, giving you victory over death so that you, too, can live even after dying.

In fact, having faith in Jesus means you will never truly die.

Thus, *Jesus’ claim, I am the Resurrection and the Life, in faith, also becomes a claim over your own life!*

And if this *Truth about Jesus becomes your Truth*, then a *powerful life will follow*.

As with Jesus a life will follow that glorifies God in sacrificial love and remarkable service to others, transitioning despite death into eternal life in Christ with God.

Jesus: “I am the Resurrection and the Life”. How do you wish to respond: “_____”?

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Jesus, I praise You for being beyond words—truly incredible—and for desiring a deep, personal connection with me through faith in You! *My Lord, my Resurrection and my Life, I give to You...*

DAY 33 - APRIL 11

Jesus: “I AM the Way and the Truth and the Life.”

READ

⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we don’t know where You are going, so how can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷ If you really knew Me, you would know My Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him.” ⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus answered: “Don’t you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? The words I say to you are not just My own. Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, Who is doing His work. ¹¹ Believe Me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. ¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in My Name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask Me for anything in My Name, and I will do it.” (John 14:5-14)

REFLECT

“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”—another powerful statement! Nobody likes being lost, deceived, or fearing death. How do you avoid all three? By entering a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In Him, you’ll always find the right Way, hear only the Truth, and gain Life so strong that even death can’t defeat it. Jesus alone reveals both the Way to the Father and the Father Himself. When you look at Jesus—what He says and does—you see the Father. Similarly, as you live in this Way, Truth, and Life, you’ll experience extraordinary moments. You’ll find yourself saying and doing things you never thought possible. Jesus promises that through the Holy Spirit, you’ll do “even greater things” than He did—a profound mystery, yet a reality for those who follow Him.

Walking in the Way, the Truth, and the Life leads to moments so incredible that words cannot fully capture them! Who wouldn’t want such a life? A life so close to Jesus and the Father, so Spirit-filled, that you can ask anything in His Name, and if it brings glory to the Father, He will do it. Are you done with being lost, stuck in lies and fearful of death? *Ask the Way, the Truth and the Life to set your feet on His incredible path!* He will answer such a prayer with a resounding, YES!

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life—by Your grace, may You be my Way, my Truth, and my Life from this day forward! *Father, in Jesus’ Name I ask...*

DAY 34 - APRIL 12

Jesus: “I AM the True Vine.”

READ

¹ “I am the True Vine, and My Father is the Gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the Word I have spoken to You. ⁴ Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the Vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. ⁵ I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in Me and My Words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸ This is to My Father’s Glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples.” (John 15:1-8)

REFLECT

Chapter 15 begins with the 7th and final “I am” saying: “I am the True Vine.” As the “true” Vine, Jesus produces the genuine fruit the Gardener (God) desires. The theme of “true” runs throughout John’s Gospel (4:23, “true worshipers”; 6:32, “true bread”; 15:1, “true vine”; 17:3, “the true God”), reminding us that Jesus calls us to pursue what is real and meaningful—not false or empty.

The Gardener tends His vineyard with care. Branches that bear no fruit are cut away, while fruitful branches are pruned to produce even more. As God’s children, we are these branches, pruned by Jesus’ Words—the Gospel. This metaphor emphasizes how closely we must stay connected to Jesus—nothing should separate us from Him. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit without the Vine, we cannot bear fruit unless we remain connected to Jesus!

Separation from Jesus means we can accomplish nothing of lasting value, leading to a meaningless end—like dead branches thrown away and burned. But remaining in Him leads to fruitful lives, where we can ask for what we need, and the Father provides. This fruit reveals Christ’s work in us and brings glory to God. Stay close to Jesus, the True Vine. Embrace His pruning Words so you can bear much fruit. Aim to be all you were created to be—a true disciple who glorifies the One, True God.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Jesus, I long to remain in You, the True Vine, so that Your true Words can remain in me. *Father, prune me, that I may...*

SUNDAY - APRIL 13

The seventh miraculous sign

The importance of the miracle of Lazarus

READ

11 ¹ Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." ⁴ When He heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." ⁵ Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ Yet when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was two more days. ⁷ Then He said to His disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." ⁸ "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone You, and yet You are going back there?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. ¹⁰ It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light." ¹¹ After He had said this, He went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." ¹² His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but His disciples thought He meant natural sleep. ¹⁴ So then He told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." ¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him, but Mary stayed at home. ²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give You whatever You ask." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she told Him, "I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, Who was to come into the world." ²⁸ And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met Him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. ³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at His feet and said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" He asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not He Who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man

from dying?"³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.³⁹ "Take away the stone," He said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me."⁴² I knew that You always hear Me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that You sent Me."⁴³ When He had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in Him.⁴⁶ But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.⁴⁷ Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this Man performing many miraculous signs."⁴⁸ If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."⁴⁹ Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all!⁵⁰ You do not realize that it is better for you that one Man die for the people than that the whole nation perish."⁵¹ He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation,⁵² and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one.⁵³ So from that day on they plotted to take His life.⁵⁴ Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the Jews. Instead He withdrew to a region near the desert, to a village called Ephraim, where He stayed with His disciples.⁵⁵ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover.⁵⁶ They kept looking for Jesus, and as they stood in the temple area they asked one another, "What do you think? Isn't He coming to the Feast at all?"⁵⁷ But the chief priests and Pharisees had given orders that if anyone found out where Jesus was, he should report it so that they might arrest Him. **12**¹ Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him.³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.⁴ But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray Him, objected,⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages."⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.⁷ "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of My burial."⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have Me."⁹ Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of Him but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well,¹¹ for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in Him. (John 11:1-12:11)

RESURRECTION

Looking through the lens of Jesus' resurrection is
how things become clear



DAY 35 - APRIL 14

The resurrection helps you to see a King on a donkey

READ

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the King of Israel!” ¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, ¹⁵ “Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your King is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.” ¹⁶ At first His disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. (John 12:12-16)

REFLECT

The Passover Feast brought immense crowds to Jerusalem, with some estimating hundreds of thousands in attendance. When news spread that Jesus was on His way, a significant crowd quickly gathered. Many had witnessed His miracles, been moved by His teachings, or personally benefited from His power. Grabbing palm branches—symbols of victory and kingship—they greeted Him with shouts of “Hosanna,” meaning “Save now!”...hoping He would bring salvation.

Yet, Jesus arrived intentionally not on a war-horse to bring political salvation from Roman rule but on a donkey, fulfilling prophecy as the King of Peace. He came not just for the Jews but for all who would bow before Him as the one true King of Heaven.

At first, His followers didn’t understand. They couldn’t understand why He would not be a militaristic Messiah as king of the Jews—*was He not from the Jews, for the Jews?* Only after the resurrection did they see Jesus’ glory and realize He was the universal Prince of Peace, King of Heaven, Savior of all!

In our own busy lives, with countless opinions and selfish expectations, we too can so easily misunderstand who Jesus truly is. If we lose sight of Him as the One who conquered death and reigns as God, we risk reducing Him to “my king on a donkey” who fixes my problems, rather than “The King on a donkey,” the Savior of all who redeems the brokenness of the world. When you look at Jesus on the donkey...what do you see?

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Father, don’t let my eyes deceive me. Help me see what You see when You look at Your Son—a King on a donkey, bringing salvation for all. *Holy Spirit, open my eyes to truly see...*

DAY 36 - APRIL 15

The resurrection helps you to see your dream house

READ

¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. ² In My Father’s House are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we don’t know where You are going, so how can we know the way?” (John 14:1-5)

REFLECT

As Jesus shared the difficult final stage of His journey on earth, the disciples grew deeply concerned. In the previous chapter, John 13, Jesus spoke of His betrayal, and Peter boldly promised to follow Him, even to death—though we know Peter later denied Him three times.

In response to their troubled hearts, Jesus begins John 14 with words of encouragement: “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” He reminds them, and us, not to be consumed by anxiety over the challenges of this world. Why? Because we have an eternal inheritance—a room in our Father’s House. A place untouched by the brokenness of this world, secure beyond anything here.

The disciples, confused at the time, didn’t yet understand how to reach this place Jesus spoke of. How can they know the way to this special place if they don’t even have the address! Once again, after the resurrection though, when they encountered the Risen Lord, their spiritual eyes were opened, and they finally grasped the fullness of what they had in Jesus and the Father.

Do you see what your Lord is working on, while you are trying so hard to work through things? Do you hear Your Lord saying to you: “Do not let your heart be troubled.”

Do you see your Dream House yet? Don’t get too attached to what you have here on earth. And if it starts to fall apart, don’t let your heart be troubled—it’s not your final destination.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Father, I am once again amazed by how deeply You care for me. Lord, I stand in awe knowing You’ve prepared a room for me in Your Father’s House! How foolish have I been to let anxiety take over my life. *Holy Spirit, open my eyes to see clearly, so that...*

DAY 37 - APRIL 16

The resurrection helps you to see the Holy Spirit is with you

READ

¹⁶ “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see Me anymore, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live.” (John 14:16-19)

¹³ “But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all Truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is Mine and make it known to you. ¹⁶ In a little while you will see Me no more, and then after a little while you will see Me.” (John 16:13-16)

REFLECT

There are a few things most of us dislike: journeying through life alone, feeling lost, doubting what’s true, struggling to understand the Bible, or being in the dark about the future.

But Jesus promises that after His resurrection, He would give His children the Holy Spirit—and this holds tremendous spiritual blessings! With the Spirit, you are never alone; God is with you, like a loving Father who won’t leave you as an orphan. The Holy Spirit is your Guide, helping you discern where to go and how to follow God’s truth. As your Counselor, He helps you understand God’s Word, choose the right path, and live a life that glorifies Jesus. The Spirit also reveals what lies ahead, so you can stay focused, prepared, and confident, walking faithfully until the day you step into the arms of your Good Shepherd—forever.

For a little while longer you cannot see Jesus.

In a little while though you will see Him again.

Until then, remember: You are never alone. God’s Spirit is with you, to help you see in faith until the day you *will* see the Lord Your God, *face-to-face!* This is a promise, guaranteed by the Risen Lord.

NEXT

I would like to...

PRAY

Father, what You gave to Jesus, Your Spirit now makes available to me! How can I not fall to my knees in worship for Who You are and how deeply You care for me? *Holy Spirit, I want to praise You for...*

DAY 38 - APRIL 17

The resurrection helps you to see how Jesus served, and to understand the prayer Jesus prayed over you

READ

¹ ...Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father...He now showed them the full extent of His love. ² The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot...to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew...that He was returning to God; ⁴ so He got up...took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. ⁵ ...He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. (John 13:1-5)

¹³ "I [Jesus] am coming to You [Father] now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of My joy within them... ¹⁵ My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one... ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world." (John 17:13, 15, 18)

REFLECT

Through the lens of the resurrection, we can look back at these passages with awe:

- We now see that when Jesus washed the disciples' feet, it was more than an act of humility—it symbolized His ultimate service, cleansing them inside and out through His sacrifice for sin and victory over death. No wonder He said this act “showed them the full extent of His love.”
- Even as Jesus served, Judas was plotting His betrayal—just as Jesus would offer Himself on the cross for sinners while being mocked and crucified by them.
- Before His resurrection, Jesus prayed for His disciples to experience the “full measure of His joy.” Now, through the resurrection, we understand that joy in Him is so deep, not even death can take it away. A truth that we can now fully believe after witnessing the resurrection.
- Now we can believe Jesus certainly has the power to “protect us from the evil one”!
- Finally, after the resurrection, Jesus’ words, “As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world,” carry incredible weight. We understand now that we are called to go boldly, unafraid even of death, because the One sending us is also the One who gives life beyond the grave.

The resurrection makes it clear: You can serve like Jesus, find joy in Jesus, and go like Jesus, knowing you are protected in Him—even in the face of death!

NEXT - *I would like to...*

PRAY

Jesus, thank You for showing me how to serve and how to go! Lord, replace my worries with joy, and my fears with steadfast faith in Your powerful protection, so I can go boldly as You did. *Father, help me...*

DAY 39 - APRIL 18 - GOOD FRIDAY

The resurrection helps you to see Jesus' glory...even on the cross

READ

²³ Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds...²⁷ Now My heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify Your Name!" (John 12:23-24, 27-28)

¹...Jesus...prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You...⁴ I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave Me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began." (John 17:1, 4-5)

REFLECT

In the Gospel of John, the themes of "hour/time" and "glorify" are closely tied to the cross. Jesus makes it clear: *The cross is part of My Father's plan—why would I avoid it?* He boldly declares, "It was for this very reason I came to this hour!" It almost feels like Jesus looks forward to the cross. Why?

Because Jesus knows that through His sacrifice and resurrection, people will see that in Him—and in the Father—is true Life. Together, as One, He and His Father is God! That's why Jesus can cry out that at the hour of crucifixion, the Father will "glorify His Name," and the Son will, in turn, glorify the Father. In John's Gospel, the crucifixion and resurrection are inseparable. One gives meaning to the other; one brings the other into full clarity. It's only through the resurrection that we see the glory of Jesus shining brightest from the cross.

This is why the terrible Friday at the cross can become *Good Friday*. There, we see not only pain and sacrifice but also victory and Life—a tightly woven union of death and resurrection, sacrifice and glory, all in God's perfect timing.

When you look at the cross and see pain and death, look again—you'll see your Savior. When you see sacrifice for your sin, look again—you'll see victory over death.

And when you sit in your own sin, hurt, and pain, know this: Beside you is a Lord who understands suffering, but also knows the way through it. In the midst of your struggles stands your Savior, God, Life, and the Light of His Glory. Today is a Good Day...*today is Good Friday!*

NEXT - *I would like to...*

PRAY

Jesus, at the foot of the cross, Your death takes on such deep meaning for me today. I'm amazed that in this place of sorrow, I can also stand in the light of Your glory. *Holy Spirit, let me feel it, let me see it...*

DAY 40 - APRIL 19 - HOLY SATURDAY

The resurrection helps you to look differently at the dead body of your Lord

READ

³⁰ When He had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit. ³¹ Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³² The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and found that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵ The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. ³⁶ These things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of His bones will be broken," ³⁷ and, as another Scripture says, "They will look on the One they have pierced." (John 19:30-37)

REFLECT

I love those 3D pictures—you stare long enough, and suddenly the “dead”, flat image seems to come alive, moving and taking shape in ways you never expected. It’s so exciting!

On this Holy Saturday, as you “look” at our Lord’s body in the grave, may your spiritual eyes be opened. See more than a lifeless body lying still. See a Body rising, speaking, and proclaiming victory over sin and death!

Stay with this Body until Sunday morning, and you’ll see angels unwrapping burial linens, cloths folded neatly, and the Living Son of God walking triumphantly from the grave as angels roll the stone away.

Scripture foretold that this Body will die differently: It will declare profound things like “It is finished”; legs will stay unbroken; a Body looked upon as “the One they have pierced” and not simply as another crucified criminal; a Body *acting* differently while *in* the grave; rising up *in* the grave...and finally, as a Glorified Body walking *out* of the grave, as the Living Body of the Living God!

This is the Body of Your Lord—seen through the lens of the resurrection.

Do you see it? Does it stir your heart? Does it transform you?

NEXT - *I would like to...*

PRAY

FATHER, after 40 days, I am more amazed than ever before! LORD, after 40 days, I am more grateful than ever for all You’ve done for me! *HOLY SPIRIT, help me walk through life in God’s Glory as You...*

SUNDAY - APRIL 20

EASTER

HE IS RISEN!

READ

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him!" ³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes, ¹¹ but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put Him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ "Woman," He said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking He was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward Him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to Me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to My brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that He had said these things to her. ¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After He said this, He showed them His hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you." ²² And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." ²⁴ Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe it." ²⁶ A week later His disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to Him, "My Lord and My God!" ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." ³⁰ Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this Book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have Life in His Name. (John 20:1-31)

REFLECT

May this help you prepare for Sunday's sermon:

- What did you learn about Jesus from this passage?

- What else stirred in your heart?

PRAY

Lord, I thank You for what You have already spoken to me as I prepared for Sunday's Message. Help me to learn even more as I listen to Your Message about this first miraculous sign in the Gospel of John. Father, bless Your servant who will bring Your Message to me. *Help me Lord...*

NEXT

After listening to Your Message, Father, *I would like to...*

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Gaining a clearer understanding of the I AM
and the seven signs pointing at the I AM
deepened my journey with the I AM
captured my heart for the I AM
I want to glorify the I AM
I want to go for the I AM
I AM because of the I AM

Dedicated to my wife
Somari

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