

# Pre-Resurrection Sunday Devotional Series

## Confrontation and Sustaining Truth: March 28- April 1, 2022

## Week 2

The purpose of this devotional series is to take an abbreviated journey with Jesus from the time He performed His first sign, through some of the events surrounding His crucifixion and resurrection. The devotionals pause at key points during His ministry to allow us to reflect upon what each event means for our lives today, with an emphasis on the importance Jesus has for the lives of his followers.

Please note that the events presented do not represent a complete, or exhaustive list, nor are they ranked by importance. They are provided to give the reader opportunities for reflection and prayer.

### How to use these devotionals

- The series will run for four weeks leading up to Resurrection Sunday (Easter)
- A devotional will be provided for Monday through Friday, each of the four weeks
- **Be intentional and be consistent**
  - Choose a time / place where you are less likely to be interrupted (e.g., in your car before going into work, at your desk before virtual meetings start, or after the kids have left for school)
  - Set aside *at least* 15 minutes (more time is always good)
  - Mute phones and other devices to reduce or eliminate distractions
  - Quiet yourself
- First read the entire passage provided
- Pay careful attention to the highlighted verse(s)
- Take time to really think about the thought-starters provided in the “*Points to Think About*” section of each devotional
  - Be honest with yourself
  - Allow the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to truth
  - Make notes on any thoughts that come to mind, or anything that is revealed to you in these moments. (This will also help with content for your prayers)
- The *Prayer Prompts* are provided as key thoughts to launch you into a conversation with God

Allow yourself to be blessed by the experience of time with the Lord!

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### Week 2: Confrontation and Sustaining Truth

#### Monday: John 5:1-23

Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

<sup>17</sup> *Jesus responded to them, "My Father is still working, and I am working also." (CSB)*

Jesus' healing of the man at the pool, was not merely meant to bless the man with healing, but as a further demonstration of His presence as the Messiah, or Anointed One. In other words, Jesus was demonstrating His authority and power as the future Savior. In verse 17, He clearly states that he was working on earth. Jesus' work was evident for all who were present to see, so much so that it challenged the religious leaders' interpretation of what work could be done on the Sabbath.

We, too, are to be about the Father's business, doing kingdom work. It is easy to perform community service, feel good, and believe that we are doing kingdom work. True, it is good work, but the work is only part of the equation. The work should present us with additional opportunities to share the Gospel, which is the real work of Kingdom building—facilitating the addition of souls to the family of God.

#### Points to Think About

- Am I consistent about the Father's business?
- When was the last time that I shared the Gospel with someone?
- What holds me back? Fear? Not understanding how to share the gospel?
- I will challenge myself to commit to share the Gospel with someone before Resurrection Sunday.

#### Philippians 1:27

<sup>27</sup> *"Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel..." (CSB)*

#### NOTE SPACE FOR PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND THOUGHTS

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#### Prayer Prompts

*"Eternal God, please grant me the discernment to see the opportunities, and the courage in those times to share the Gospel with the lost..."*

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Tuesday: John 5:31-40

<sup>28</sup> "Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out—those who have done good things, to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked things, to the resurrection of condemnation." (CSB)

One of the greatest weapons the devil has at his disposal is the ability to sew doubt into the minds of believers regarding the permanence of their salvation. Jesus spoke boldly about the reward for those who are saved. The Apostle Paul affirms the security of our salvation when he wrote:

**Ephesians 1:13**

<sup>13</sup> "In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed." (CSB)

### Points to Think About

- Have I fully accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior, and the work of the cross?
- Am I completely confident that I cannot lose my salvation in times when I may sin?
- What makes my salvation permanent in my life?

### NOTE SPACE FOR PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND THOUGHTS

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### Prayer Prompts

*"Thank You God for the sacrifice of Your Son, that I might not remain under the condemnation of sin. Help me to walk in the confidence that I cannot lose my salvation...."*

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### Confrontation and Sustaining Truth: March 28- April 1, 2022

#### Wednesday: John 6:1-15

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

<sup>12</sup> *When they were full, he told his disciples, "Collect the leftovers so that nothing is wasted."*  
(CSB)

In this passage Jesus performed one of the most well-known miracles, or signs, of His ministry. Jesus takes a little in our lives and blesses us with abundance. He doesn't require a lot to work with in order to bless us. One of the greatest blessings is granted to us with just a little belief, or faith in Him as our Savior.

The time leading up to Resurrection Sunday provides us with a great opportunity to reflect upon our blessings. It is also a good time to survey our lives to see if we are wasting any of our blessings.

#### Points to Think About

- Do I generally possess an "attitude of gratitude," or do I allow the daily irritations, and frustrations of life to keep me focused upon the negative?
- Think about the times in your life when God has taken a "little" and produced a lot.
- Am I fully utilizing my blessings to bless others, or for building the Kingdom? (This can include talents, skills, resources, etc.)

#### NOTE SPACE FOR PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND THOUGHTS

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#### Prayer Prompts

*"Thank You Father for doing so much in my life. You have blessed me with \_\_\_\_\_. Forgive me for not fully utilizing the \_\_\_\_\_ that You have so generously given me. Please direct me in how to utilize my blessings for Your glory and purpose..."*

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#### Thursday: John 6:16-21

Jesus walks on water

<sup>20</sup> *But he said to them, "It is I. Don't be afraid."*

Men throughout the Bible narrative demonstrate over and over how easy it is to be fearful, regardless of how many times God demonstrated His presence, activity in, and protection over their lives. Prior to the account of Jesus walking on the water in John chapter 6, the disciples had witnessed numerous miracles, signs, and wonders by the hand of Jesus. Yet in this account not only did they question what they were seeing, they were afraid.

Unfortunately, we are no different. Fear usually occurs when circumstances arise, and we cannot clearly see the outcome. We then become anxious, and afraid of the worst-case scenario, or result. Why do we continue to fear, after everything God has done in our lives? Fear is also a tool of the Enemy used to cause our faith to waiver, and to look to ourselves, others, governments, and other entities, instead of God for solutions. God directly tells us that we are not to live lives influenced by fear.

#### 2 Timothy 1:7

<sup>7</sup> *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment."*

#### Points to Think About

- What are areas of my life where I still allow fear to creep in?
- Am I anxious about anything right now?
- How can I shed my fear?

#### NOTE SPACE FOR PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND THOUGHTS

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#### Prayer Prompts

*"Heavenly Father, thank you for your incredible love. Thank you for your presence in my life. Forgive me for at times walking in fear...."*

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#### Friday: John 6:35-40

##### The Bread of Life

<sup>35</sup> *"I am the bread of life," Jesus told them. "No one who comes to me will ever be hungry..."*

During biblical times, merchants in caravans would cross vast expanses of desert and barren land on trips that would take days, weeks, or even months. They had to take care to carry enough food and water to sustain them on these long difficult journeys. Poor planning could result in death from starvation or dehydration. The primary food item was bread, because it withstood the long trips without spoiling and provided the basic nutrients for energy and survival.

Our lives are journeys as well. We encounter high mountains and often what seem to be long, dry, barren valleys. Jesus clearly states that whosoever comes to Him will never be hungry. The interesting question is, do we hunger for Jesus?

#### Points to Think About

- Do I often grow tired and weary from the daily grind of life?
- If I am honest, do I prepare myself adequately for this long journey called, life? (By praying, reading the Bible, fellowshiping with believers, and fasting?)
- Do I hunger for the world, and the things in it, more than Jesus?

#### NOTE SPACE FOR PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND THOUGHTS

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#### Prayer Prompts

*"Dear Lord, thank you for your patience and mercy as I attempt to navigate this life. Forgive me for not hungering for Jesus as I should. Please strengthen me, and help me to resolve to \_\_\_\_\_ more, as I know I should..."*