

# Pre-Resurrection Sunday Devotional Series

April 4 - 8, 2022

## Week 3

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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**Monday: John 8:12** - Light of the World

<sup>12</sup> *Jesus spoke to them again: "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life." (CSB)*

Light and darkness can never completely occupy the same space. Furthermore, when we really examine the behavior of the two, darkness does not pierce light; however, the opposite is absolutely true—light pierces darkness. Jesus is telling His disciples that to follow Him is to walk in a life out of the shadows of darkness. He even went as far as to say that we, those who follow Him, are lights in a dark world.

Matt 5:14

*"You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden." (CSB)*

We live in a dark world, filled with sin, perversions of truth, despair, and heartache. As such, people should be drawn to us, because we are different from the dark world around us.

### Points to Think About

- Can people tell that there is something good, and different about me because I follow Jesus?
- What piece of the world's influence have I kept tucked away in a dark corner of my life?
- Am I a beacon of light to the unsaved?

### NOTE SPACE FOR PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND THOUGHTS

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### Prayer Prompts

*"Thank You Father for pulling me out of darkness into your marvelous light. Open my eyes to see where I can be a light unto others..."*

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**Tuesday: John 8:30-36** - Freedom by way of the Truth

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you continue in my word, you really are my disciples. <sup>32</sup> You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (CSB)

Sometimes it is worthwhile to look at the world and compare the things of the world to the truth Jesus has given us. In verses 34-36, Jesus likens those who commit sin, as slaves to sin. How does the world seem to be enslaved to sin in the absence of Jesus' truth?

The Apostle Paul wrote about sin as a form of slavery as well.

Romans 6:16-18

<sup>16</sup> "Don't you know that if you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of that one you obey—either of sin leading to death or of obedience leading to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thank God that, although you used to be slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching to which you were handed over, <sup>18</sup> and having been set free from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness." (CSB)

### Points to Think About

- How is sin a form of slavery?
- How does the truth that Jesus has given me freed me? (Think of specific things in your life that you are free from today, and the truth that liberated you.)

### NOTE SPACE FOR PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND THOUGHTS

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### Prayer Prompts

"Heavenly Father, thank you for your truth, for I have been set free from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_..."

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**Wednesday: John 10:25-30** - His Sheep Hear His Voice

<sup>26</sup> But you don't believe because you are not of my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me.

Sheep need the constant care and protection of the Shepherd. Jesus referred to Himself as the "Good Shepherd" and indeed, He is the Good Shepherd of our souls. Because sheep spend so much time with, and are so dependent upon the shepherd, they learn to recognize His voice. It is comforting and reassuring.

Sheep are also inquisitive, and often unaware of what is taking place around them. They can become distracted and fail to follow the shepherd, and this can allow them to fall into danger.

## Points to Think About

- Do I really know Jesus' voice? How do I know when He is speaking to me, and how do I respond?
- What are examples in my life that demonstrate that I am following Him?
- Where are areas in my life, where I can follow Jesus more closely?

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## Prayer Prompts

*"Father I think I know the voice of the Shepherd of my soul, but sometimes I am distracted, and my own thoughts and desires interfere. Help me to hear His voice clearly, and to follow without hesitation or doubt..."*

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**Thursday: John 14:15-17, 25-26** – The Indwelling of the “Counselor”

*26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.”*

When Jesus walked the earth people had to be with Him to hear, and hopefully understand the truth. The truth could only be taught or given in the one location where Jesus happened to be at the time. However, after the Holy Spirit (the Counselor) was dispatched to earth everything changed. Understanding and discernment no longer had to take place in the presence of one Man, but within any follower of Jesus in whom the Holy Spirit resides.

While we think that it is the preacher, teacher, parent, or mentor who teaches us biblical truth, it is really the activation of the Holy Spirit within the follower that opens the mind and heart to understanding.

1 Corinthians 2:10, 14

*10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God...14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” (NKJV)*

## Points to Think About

- What are some spiritual things that I understand today that I had no clue about before I began to follow Jesus?
- What is a spiritual truth that the world seems to not understand, that is so basic to me today?
- The one concept I still don't understand fully from the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTE SPACE FOR PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND THOUGHTS

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## Prayer Prompts

*“Great God in Heaven, thank You for your Holy Spirit. Without Him I would not be able to understand Your Word. Despite His help, I still do not fully understand \_\_\_\_\_...”*

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## Friday: John 14:27

*<sup>27</sup> "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful."*

Peace is one of the most amazing gifts given to followers of Jesus. In this context the word, Peace, is defined as "the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and therefore fears nothing from God, and is content with its earthly circumstance, whatever that may be..." (*Strong's G1515*)

In other words, a blessed assurance where the believer, no matter what their circumstance, fears nothing from God, and is content in whatever they are experiencing in life at any moment. This peace is an incredible blessing, but one that is a challenge for most believers to attain because we often respond to our circumstances emotionally first, and wrestle to reach that place of peace that is promised. However, we are encouraged to pray, and we have been given a promise of peace as a result.

## Philippians 4:6-7

*<sup>6</sup> Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (CSB)*

## Points to Think About

- If I am honest with myself, \_\_\_\_\_ is currently causing me anxiety and worry.
- Is reaching a place of peace my first response to negative circumstances in my life, or is my first response to typically \_\_\_\_\_?
- Is attaining the blessing of peace in my life a priority?

## NOTE SPACE FOR PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND THOUGHTS

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## Prayer Prompts

*"Father forgive me for worrying about \_\_\_\_\_ help me to completely understand and embrace the peace that my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ promised me..."*