



## Daily Devotionals – April 5, 2025

### Day 1: Jesus Meets Us Where We Are

#### Scripture: Mark 14:12-16

“On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus’ disciples asked him, ‘Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?’”

#### Reflection:

Jesus knew exactly where He wanted to be—even in the most ordinary of moments. He gave His disciples a simple task: go to the city, find a man carrying a jar of water, and prepare the room for the Passover meal. Jesus didn’t need them to be extraordinary; He just needed their willingness. Sometimes, God meets us in the everyday moments, leading us into His plan through simple acts of obedience. What seems like a small, unimportant task could be part of a larger purpose.

#### Story:

Samantha was struggling with feeling like her life wasn’t “important enough” to make a difference. She was just a mom, a wife, working hard to get through the week. One day, she noticed her elderly neighbor struggling with bags of groceries in the driveway. Without thinking much of it, she walked over and offered to help. Little did she know, that simple act of kindness would spark a conversation about faith. As they chatted, her neighbor opened up about feeling disconnected from God, and Samantha shared how faith had transformed her life. That evening, they prayed together. That small, seemingly insignificant act—helping her neighbor with groceries—became the first step in God’s plan to reach her neighbor’s heart. Just as Jesus met His disciples where they were, He uses our everyday lives to serve a greater purpose.

#### Prayer:

Lord, thank You for meeting me where I am, just as I am. I often get caught up in thinking I have to do something extraordinary for You to use me. But today, help me to see that even in the ordinary, You are at work. Help me to be faithful in the small things, knowing that You can use my willingness to bring about Your purpose. Open my eyes to the simple ways I can be part of Your plan today. Amen.

## Day 2: Jesus Offers Grace to All

### Scripture: Mark 14:17-21

“When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, ‘Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.’”

### Reflection:

In the midst of betrayal, Jesus doesn’t turn away from His disciples. He knows exactly who will betray Him, yet He continues to eat with them, extending grace even to Judas. Despite knowing the pain He will endure, He offers His love without hesitation. Jesus shows us that His grace is available even to those who fail Him. We all fall short, but He still invites us to His table. We are all worthy of His grace, no matter our past mistakes.

### Story:

James had been struggling with feelings of unworthiness for a long time. He had made mistakes in his past and felt disconnected from God. One Sunday, during communion, the pastor spoke about the grace of Jesus and how He offers it freely, even to those who fall short. James hesitated, thinking that his past disqualified him. But as he held the bread and wine, a quiet voice within him reminded him that Jesus had offered grace to everyone, even those who betrayed Him. That moment changed James’ perspective. He realized that Jesus had already paid the price for his mistakes, and he could receive His forgiveness. Like Judas, we may fail, but Jesus continues to offer us grace, showing us that we are never beyond His reach.

### Prayer:

Lord, I thank You for the grace You freely offer, even when I fall short. Sometimes I feel unworthy, and I struggle with my past mistakes. But today, help me to accept the grace You offer, knowing that it’s not about my perfection, but about Your love and sacrifice. Teach me to extend grace to others, just as You’ve extended it to me. Amen.

## Day 3: The New Covenant of Grace

### Scripture: Mark 14:22-24

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take it; this is my body.’ Then he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,’ he said to them.”

### Reflection:

Jesus’ words during the Last Supper established a new covenant, one that replaced the old system of sacrifices. Instead of the blood of animals, Jesus offers His own blood for the forgiveness of sins. This was not just a new ritual; it was a new relationship with God. The bread and wine represent the ultimate sacrifice that grants us access to God’s grace and forgiveness. Jesus redefined what it meant to have a relationship with God, offering Himself as the ultimate sacrifice.

### Story:

Maria had been coming to church for a while but never fully understood the significance of communion. One day, during a quiet moment of reflection, she realized that the bread and wine were symbols of Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice. As she took the bread, she imagined the pain Jesus endured for her, and as she drank the wine, she realized the depths of His love. For the first time,

she understood that communion was more than a tradition—it was a personal invitation into the new covenant of grace. She could now approach God not through rituals, but through a direct relationship with Jesus, who had made a way.

 **Prayer:**

Jesus, thank You for the new covenant You made through Your body and blood. Your sacrifice changes everything, and I am in awe of Your love. Help me to understand more deeply what it means to be in relationship with You through this covenant. Thank You for making a way for me to know You intimately. I want to live in the fullness of the grace You've given me. Amen.

 **Day 4: The Invitation to Communion**

 **Scripture: Mark 14:22**

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take it; this is my body.’”

 **Reflection:**

When Jesus offered the bread, He extended an invitation to share in His life and sacrifice. Communion is not just a tradition—it’s an invitation to be part of the story of redemption. Jesus offers Himself to us, inviting us to partake in His love, grace, and forgiveness. Each time we take communion, we are reminded of His sacrifice and are invited to renew our commitment to follow Him.

 **Story:**

Tom was feeling distant from God. He hadn’t felt His presence in a long time and was struggling to reconnect. One Sunday, he approached the communion table with a heavy heart. As he took the bread and wine, a wave of peace washed over him. In that moment, he realized that communion was more than a ritual—it was a personal invitation from Jesus to enter into His life, His love, and His grace. Tom left the church feeling renewed and closer to God, knowing that communion was a reminder of His continuous invitation to intimacy.

 **Prayer:**

Jesus, thank You for inviting me into relationship with You through communion. Every time I take the bread and wine, help me to remember Your sacrifice and the love You offer. Open my heart to receive the fullness of Your grace and renew my commitment to follow You. Amen.

 **Day 5: Betrayal and Love**

 **Scripture: Mark 14:18**

“While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, ‘Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.’”

 **Reflection:**

Even as Jesus shared this intimate moment with His disciples, He knew betrayal was imminent. Yet, He didn’t turn away from the man who would betray Him; He continued to love and serve. This is the essence of Jesus’ love: He loves us despite our flaws and failures. Betrayal doesn’t cause Him to withdraw; it draws Him closer, offering forgiveness and grace.

 **Story:**

Sarah was heartbroken when a close friend turned their back on her. The pain of betrayal was deep, and Sarah struggled with forgiveness. One evening, as she read Mark 14:18, she was struck by the way Jesus responded to His betrayer. He didn't retreat from Judas; He invited him into the meal. That night, Sarah realized that forgiveness wasn't about excusing the hurt, but about releasing herself from the chains of bitterness. She made the decision to extend grace, knowing that Jesus had done the same for her.

 **Prayer:**

Lord, thank You for Your example of loving even those who betray You. Help me to extend grace, even when it's hard. Heal my heart from the wounds of betrayal and remind me that Your love is greater than any hurt I face. May I follow Your example of love and forgiveness, even when it's difficult. Amen.

 **Day 6: The Promise of New Life**

 **Scripture: Mark 14:25**

“Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

 **Reflection:**

Jesus' words point to a future promise: a time when He will drink the wine again, not in sorrow, but in joy, with His followers in God's kingdom. This is a promise of new life, a life of restoration and joy. Even in the face of His imminent suffering, Jesus looks ahead to the ultimate victory. His death and resurrection offer us the hope of eternal life.

 **Story:**

Lily was going through a tough season. She lost her job, her health was failing, and she was struggling with loneliness. One evening, she sat in her quiet living room, feeling overwhelmed. As she read Mark 14:25, she felt a sense of hope rise within her. Jesus' words reminded her that no matter the hardships of this life, there was a future hope of joy and restoration in God's kingdom. She held on to that promise and found peace, knowing that even in her struggles, she was living with the hope of a new life in Christ.

 **Prayer:**

Jesus, thank You for the promise of new life in Your kingdom. Even in our hardest moments, we have the hope of eternal joy and restoration. Help me to hold on to this promise and live each day with the hope of the future You've prepared for me. May I never lose sight of the joy that awaits. Amen.

 **Day 7: Living in the Light of His Sacrifice**

 **Scripture: Mark 14:26**

“When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”

 **Reflection:**

After the Last Supper, despite the looming betrayal and suffering, Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn. They worshipped, even in the face of what was to come. This act of worship was a declaration that, no matter the pain ahead, they chose to praise God. It's a reminder for us that

even in our darkest moments, we can choose to worship. Our praise doesn't depend on our circumstances but on the unchanging nature of God's goodness.

 **Story:**

Mark had been struggling with depression for months. Each day felt heavy, and the weight of his emotions seemed unbearable. One Sunday, during a church service, the worship team began to sing a song of praise, and Mark felt something stir in his heart. In the midst of his darkness, he chose to lift his hands and worship. That act of surrender didn't take away the pain, but it brought peace. Mark realized that worship wasn't about waiting for the storm to pass—it was about choosing to honor God, even in the midst of it.

 **Prayer:**

Lord, thank You for showing me how to worship even in the storm. I choose today to praise You, even when life feels heavy. Help me to keep my eyes on You, knowing that You are faithful in every season. May my heart overflow with worship, no matter the circumstances. Amen.