



Daily Devotionals – March 16, 2025  
Reaching Out in Faith

## Day 1: Who Do You Say That I Am?

### Scripture: Mark 8:27-29

*"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."*

### Reflection:

Jesus asks a personal question—**not what others say about Him, but what we believe**. It's easy to follow cultural Christianity, repeating what we've heard in church, but do we truly know Jesus as **our** Lord and Savior? Faith must be personal, not secondhand.

### Story:

Maria grew up in church, attending Sunday school and memorizing Bible verses. But in college, when a friend asked, **"Who is Jesus to you?"** she hesitated. She had always believed in God but realized she had never truly made her faith personal. That night, she opened her Bible and prayed with sincerity, asking Jesus to be the Lord of her life. The next morning, she felt something new—a real hunger to know Him, not just follow church traditions. That simple question changed the direction of her faith journey.

### Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I don't want to just **know about You**—I want to **know You personally**. Help me move beyond routine faith into a real, life-transforming relationship with You. Show me who You truly are. Let my heart respond with faith and love. Amen.

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## Day 2: When God's Plan is Different from Ours

### Scripture: Mark 8:31-32

*"He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things... and that he must be killed and after three days rise again."*

### **Reflection:**

Peter struggled with the idea of a **suffering Messiah** because it didn't fit his expectations. Like Peter, we often wrestle with God's plan when it doesn't match our desires. Yet, God's way is always higher and greater, even when it involves pain or uncertainty.

### **Story:**

David had his life planned out—he had a great career and financial security. But when an unexpected **illness** left him unable to work, his world crumbled. He pleaded with God for healing, but nothing changed. One day, while in the hospital, he met a young patient who had no family and no hope. David, despite his own struggles, shared the love of Christ with him. That encounter sparked something in David—he began using his time to mentor and minister to those who were suffering. Over time, he realized that what seemed like a **setback** was actually a **calling**. God's plan had been different from his, but it was far greater than he ever imagined.

### **Prayer:**

Father, I confess that I struggle when Your plan doesn't align with my desires. Help me trust that Your ways are higher and Your purpose is good, even when I don't understand. Give me faith to surrender my plans and embrace Yours. Amen.

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## Day 3: Get Behind Me, Satan!

### **Scripture: Mark 8:33**

*"Jesus rebuked Peter. 'Get behind me, Satan! You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.'"*

### **Reflection:**

Peter meant well, but his human thinking opposed God's plan. Sometimes, we also resist God's will, trying to control things ourselves instead of trusting Him. **Are there areas in your life where you are trying to take control rather than surrendering to God?**

### **Story:**

Lisa always dreamed of marriage and raising a family. But as she remained single into her 30s, she became frustrated. She began pursuing relationships that weren't honoring to God. One day, she read Mark 8:33 and realized she had been **putting her own desires above God's will**. She repented and asked God to help her trust His timing. A few years later, she met a man who shared her faith and values. More importantly, she realized that **joy comes not from forcing our plans but from surrendering to God's perfect design**.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, forgive me when I resist Your will. I don't want to follow my own limited understanding—I want to trust in Your greater purpose. Help me to align my thoughts with Yours and walk in obedience, even when I don't understand. Amen.

## Day 4: Take Up Your Cross

### Scripture: Mark 8:34

*"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."*

### Reflection:

The cross was not a mere **symbol of faith** in Jesus' time—it was a **sign of suffering, humiliation, and death**. When Jesus told His disciples to "take up your cross," He was calling them to surrender **everything**, even their lives, for the sake of the Gospel. Today, carrying our cross means choosing Jesus over comfort, reputation, and personal desires. It means putting Him **first**, no matter the cost.

### Story:

James had built a **comfortable** life for himself. He had a good job, a nice home, and the ability to travel and enjoy the finer things in life. He attended church on Sundays and gave to charity, but his **faith never required sacrifice**. One day, he felt a stirring in his heart to **serve at a homeless shelter** in his city. At first, he ignored it, convincing himself that he was **already doing enough**. But the feeling wouldn't go away.

Finally, he decided to **volunteer once a month**. That one-time commitment soon turned into a weekly commitment, and before long, he found himself forming deep connections with the people there. He met a man named Greg, who had lost everything and was struggling with addiction. Over time, through conversation and prayer, Greg gave his life to Christ. Seeing God **change lives** firsthand, James realized that **following Jesus required more than comfort—it required commitment, sacrifice, and action**.

James had to take up his cross—not a literal one, but the **cross of denying himself**, stepping out of his comfort zone, and obeying God's call.

### Prayer:

Jesus, I confess that sometimes I choose **comfort over commitment**. I want to follow You, but I hesitate when the road is difficult. Give me the strength to take up my cross daily, to **put You first** even when it means sacrifice. Help me see that the greatest joy is found not in living for myself, but in following You completely. Amen.

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## Day 5: What is Your Soul Worth?

### Scripture: Mark 8:36

*"What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"*

### Reflection:

We live in a world that tells us that **success, wealth, and power** are the most important things. But Jesus challenges that idea, reminding us that **our souls are more valuable than anything**.

**the world can offer.** A full bank account, a big house, and a high-status career mean **nothing** if we lose sight of **eternal life**.

#### **Story:**

Michael had **everything** the world says you need to be happy. He was the CEO of a successful company, owned multiple properties, and had a luxury car collection. But despite his **worldly success**, something was missing. No amount of wealth could **fill the emptiness inside him**.

One day, he attended the funeral of an old college friend. During the service, he heard stories of how his friend had spent his life **helping others, leading Bible studies, and mentoring young people in their faith**. Michael realized that his friend had been **far richer than he was**—not in money, but in **purpose and eternal impact**. That night, Michael fell to his knees and asked God to **help him live for something greater than material success**.

Over time, he **shifted his priorities**. He started using his resources to help others—supporting missions, feeding the poor, and mentoring young business professionals. His life became about **eternal impact, not temporary gain**. He had once **gained the world but almost lost his soul**—but by God’s grace, he found true riches in **serving Christ**.

#### **Prayer:**

Lord, help me to see what truly matters. The world tells me that **money, power, and status** are most important, but You remind me that my **soul is worth far more** than anything this world can offer. Keep my heart **focused on eternity**, so I may live each day with purpose, serving You instead of chasing temporary things. Amen.

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## Day 6: Unashamed of Christ

#### **Scripture: Mark 8:38**

*"If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."*

#### **Reflection:**

It’s easy to **blend in** with the world, to **stay silent** about our faith to avoid conflict or judgment. But Jesus calls us to **boldly** stand for Him. If we are ashamed of Him **now**, He warns that He will be ashamed of us when He returns. **Are you willing to stand for Christ, even when it’s hard?**

#### **Story:**

Sarah worked in a corporate office where religion was rarely discussed. She was a Christian, but she **kept her faith private**, afraid of what others might think. One day, a coworker, Ashley, confided in her about her struggles with **anxiety and depression**. Sarah felt the Holy Spirit nudging her to share about **how her faith in Jesus had helped her through tough times**, but she hesitated.

That night, Sarah read **Mark 8:38** and felt convicted. She realized that she had been **ashamed of sharing Christ**, worried more about her reputation than about someone else's need for hope. The next day, she invited Ashley to lunch and **shared her testimony**. To her surprise, Ashley **broke down in tears**, saying she had been searching for answers.

Ashley soon started attending church with Sarah, and a few months later, she gave her life to Christ. Sarah realized that being bold about her faith wasn't about **preaching loudly**—it was about **loving people enough to tell them the truth**.

#### **Prayer:**

Jesus, forgive me for the times I have been silent when I should have spoken. Give me the **courage to stand for You**, to share my faith with boldness and love. Help me to never be ashamed of the **greatest truth**—that You are my Savior, my Redeemer, and my Hope. Amen.

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## Day 7: The Reward of Following Christ

#### **Scripture: Mark 8:35**

*"Whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it."*

#### **Reflection:**

Following Jesus may **cost us something**—friends, opportunities, comfort, or even our lives. But Jesus promises that **whoever gives up their life for Him will find true, eternal life**. The greatest joy is found not in holding onto our own plans but in **surrendering everything to Him**.

#### **Story:**

Emily had a **dream career**, earning a six-figure salary in the corporate world. But something was missing. She felt called to **missions work**, but leaving her job **terrified her**. What if she failed? What if she ended up with **nothing**?

For months, she wrestled with the decision. Then, one night, she read **Mark 8:35**, and it hit her: **True life isn't found in security—it's found in surrendering to Jesus**. She quit her job, moved overseas, and started working with **orphans and refugees**.

It wasn't easy, and there were days she missed her old life. But she also experienced **God's faithfulness** in ways she never had before. She saw **lives transformed**, people healed, and communities changed. She had once feared "losing her life," but in the end, she **found it in Christ**.

#### **Prayer:**

Father, help me trust that when I give my life to You, I gain something **far greater**. Give me the faith to surrender everything—my plans, my desires, my fears—knowing that the reward of following You **far outweighs any sacrifice**. Let me live fully for You. Amen.6