

AN 8-DAY DEVOTIONAL FOR YOUR HOLY WEEK

2026



EASTER
with THE WAY CHURCH



INTRO

This devotional was written by a group of people who love Jesus. A group of people who are themselves broken, but have found healing in the powerful embrace of Jesus Christ. A group of people from our very own local church. May this be a joy to your heart and soul as you reflect on the great work of Christ. May this be a blessing to your life that helps you to remember, *Because He lives*, there is hope for the hopeless, healing for the broken hearted, and eternal life for sinners.

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

The 8 days from Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday are known as Holy Week, or Passion Week. Each reflection in this booklet is designed to align your soul with the great work God accomplished on your behalf. Included are also scriptures to read and questions to reflect on. You can read these devotionals individually, with a friend, or as a family.



SUNDAY

Behold Your King

MATTHEW 21:1-11 *When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage at the Mount of Olives, Jesus then sent two disciples, telling them, "Go into the village ahead of you. At once you will find a donkey tied there with her colt. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them at once." This took place so that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled: Tell Daughter Zion, "See, your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did just as Jesus directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt; then they laid their clothes on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their clothes on the road; others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them on the road. Then the crowds who went ahead of him and those who followed shouted: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven! When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in an uproar, saying, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."*

We call it Palm Sunday because a crowd of Jesus' disciples, followers, and gentiles gathered in town for the Passover festivities. They had spread their palm branches and clothes on the ground as Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding in on a donkey.

Jerusalem was a very exciting place around this time of the year. Passover is one of the great pilgrimage festivals for the Jewish people. A city with a population around forty thousand held about six times that many people at this time of year. People would come from everywhere. It was an exciting place; a busy and crowded place. And a place which the Romans worried about during this week because of the number of Jews gathered together and excited about their religion. Rome wanted to make sure they kept control of that.

The way Jesus entered the city mounted on a donkey, fulfilled the prophecy of Zachariah, that the Messianic king would enter the city of Jerusalem exactly this way. This was very significant because it

mirrored how king Solomon entered the same city when he was declared king. The message, visually and spiritually, was unmistakable. Here the Messianic king came to enter God's holy city Jerusalem.

The crowds responded with excitement because many of them had heard about the Messiah and were expecting a national deliverer to reestablish the rabbinic kingdom. Jesus was one who talked with authority, far exceeding other religious teachers. He was one who healed and even raised the dead.

This very much looked like the part of the promised Messiah.

So, they welcomed him and prepared the way for him as the rabbinic king entering the Holy City of Jerusalem. Jesus was entering a very volatile situation then. We can understand how his entrance into the city, and some of the things that ended up happening that week, could be overwhelming.

There was a lot of concern from the Jewish authorities who wanted to keep a good reputation with Rome as well. They didn't want things to get out of hand either because they wanted a good relationship with the powers that governed over them. And so, entering the city this Palm Sunday was a pressurized situation for Jesus and his disciples.

Palm Sunday is the start of the last week of Jesus's earthly life.

What were all these people expecting of the coming messiah?

What made this situation, in particular Jesus' actions, so volatile for the Jewish and Roman leaders?

Reflect:

- *Have you considered whether your ideas of Jesus align with what His character and purpose is in your life?*
- *Does Jesus' Kingship threaten any areas of your life, which you would rather leave untouched and unbothered?*



MONDAY

Our Unbelief, His Mercy

John 12:37-50 *Even though he had performed so many signs in their presence, they did not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet, who said:*

Lord, who has believed our message?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

This is why they were unable to believe, because Isaiah also said:

He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,

so that they would not see with their eyes or understand with their hearts, and turn, and I would heal them.

Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke about him.

Nevertheless, many did believe in him even among the rulers, but

because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, so that they would not be banned from the synagogue. For they loved human praise more than praise from God.

Jesus cried out, “The one who believes in me believes not in me, but in him who sent me. And the one who sees me sees him who sent me. I

have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me would not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and doesn’t keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but

to save the world. The one who rejects me and doesn’t receive my sayings has this as his judge: The word I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own, but the Father himself who sent me has given me a command to say everything I have said.

I know that his command is eternal life. So the things that I speak, I speak just as the Father has told me.”

Jesus came to this earth knowing He had a very specific mission: to die for our sins. He performed many miracles in His life, and although there were many that believed in Him, there were also many that did not.

In the beginning of our passage, we read that Isaiah’s prophecies are being fulfilled because of those who proclaimed they believe, but never confessed. They chose to protect their reputation before proclaiming who Jesus was to them.

There are many moments in our lives where we have to choose between proclaiming that we believe in Jesus, or shy away from sharing this in order to not feel a certain type of way because of how people might think about us.

Belief often times comes from things that are seen. Jesus in His ministry, demonstrated that He was the Son of God in human form, yet people still did not believe. In our time, we have faith in who Jesus was and is, even though we cannot see Him. Our unbelief can come from many sources; distraction, other priorities, friends and even family at times. In *John 12:46*, we read, *I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me would not remain in darkness.*

And in *John 12:48*, Jesus goes on to say, *The one who rejects me and doesn't receive my sayings has this as his judge: The word I have spoken will judge him on the last day.*

His words may seem harsh at first, but just in the verse before this, He tells us how He came to save the world. However there are consequences to our unbelief. God the Father has sent Jesus to save us from our sins and unbelief, all we have to choose is to believe that the things that Jesus tells us is are not only true, but they comes from the one true God.

It is a beautiful thing when we can proclaim Jesus without shame. It is a beautiful thing that we have the freedom, still, to talk about who Jesus was and what He did. It is a beautiful thing that we still have the opportunity to believe in Jesus.

Reflect:

- *How many times have we put ourselves over and before confessing or believing in Jesus?*
- *How does my unbelief (at times), affect my relationship with God?*



TUESDAY

Leaves Without Fruit

Matthew 21:18-19 *Early in the morning, as he was returning to the city, he was hungry. Seeing a lone fig tree by the road, he went up to it and found nothing on it except leaves. And he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" At once the fig tree withered.*

One day I was visiting a friend's house, and to my surprise they had a beautiful bowl of fruit displayed on their kitchen table. Me, being hungry, asked if I could have an apple. My friend said, "sure you can take one", so I grabbed an apple, and to my surprise, the apple was actually styrofoam covered in plastic. My friend got a good laugh out of it.

As Jesus enters Jerusalem He was hungry, in the distance He sees a fig tree with leaves in bloom. Fig trees, unlike other trees, can bear fruit before the leaves begin to bloom, or often times will produce figs as the leaves bloom. Upon closer examination, Jesus sees the fig tree is barren, no figs were on the tree. So He curses the tree, and it rots to its core. The disciples witness the tree become withered and they marveled at it.

But what was Jesus doing?

Was he upset because he was deceived by the leaves?

Was He angry because He was hungry and couldn't eat?

Did He curse this tree to show His power to the disciples?

After all, this seems out of character for Jesus, the child welcomer; meek & lowly; the compassionate healer. Why so harsh a treatment to an innocent tree minding its own business?

Lets dive deeper to examine what God wants us to learn from the cursing of this tree.

Throughout the old testament God's people are referred to as God's vineyard, tree, or planting (*Judges 9:8-15, Isaiah 3:14, 5:1-7, Jeremiah 12:10, Ezekiel 17:2-10*). The call for God's people has always been to bear fruit (*Psalms 1:1-3, Jeremiah 17:8-10*).

Granted that the fruitlessness of God's people is not always based on the amount of fruit one is failing to produce.

Fruitlessness is often tied to judgement on a rebellious people (*Dt. 11:17*).

Jesus is using the fig tree as a symbol of God's people who have become a people that seem to produce fruit but in reality are fruit-less.

Think back to Jesus' call for His people to produce fruit (*Mathew 3:8-10*, *John 15:1-5*, *Luke 3:7-9*). The call for all of Gods children, is a call to produce good fruit!

But in Jerusalem, its all become one big spectacle. The Passover celebration, the feast & festivals, the crowds, the singing, its all one big show. Lots of action; lots of lights; lots of signs; lots of glitz; lots of glamour; but no righteousness, no adoration. Leaves, with no fruit.

Could this be true of you? Can you look like the pastor, the ministry leader, the devoted church goer, mother or father, the Christian that everyone can think, "*WOW! They look like they have it all together*". Yet in reality, you know, you are a fig tree, that seems to be blossoming, but you bear no real fruit (*Galatians 5:22-23*).

Good works, sacrificial praise, generosity, a devoted prayer life, love for the word, disciple making, sharing the gospel, putting others before yourself, forgiving those who hurt you: Can you say honestly, "*I'm bearing some of these fruits*". If not, the question is why? Could you be the person that God says about, *They worship me with their lips, but their heart is far from me* (*Matthew 15:8*).

The cursing of the fig tree is a stern warning to Gods people. God is not pleased by empty sacrifices of strange fire, but desires obedience from His children (*1 Samuel 15:22*).

But hope is not lost, Jesus knew that He would die a sacrificial death in the place of His people, and raise from the grave defeating death and its power over us. But not only that, by His perfect life, His sacrificial death, and His miraculous resurrection, He would enable us to bear much fruit by the Holy Spirit that He would send. Because He lives, we can bear much fruit!

All Glory Be To Christ

Reflect:

- *Begin a fruit inspection of your own life.*
Am I a tree covered with leaves, but without fruit?
- *Ask God in prayer to begin to prune you in the areas of your life where you need to bear fruit.*



WEDNESDAY

A Warning From Judas

Matthew 26:14-16 *Then one of the Twelve, the man called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they weighed out thirty pieces of silver for him. And from that time he started looking for a good opportunity to betray him.*

Judas is such an interesting person in the unfolding of Holy Week and leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. I think we can all agree that he made a horrible and evil decision.

Judas decided on this day that he was going to betray Jesus.

What makes this so interesting is that Judas wasn't some random guy on the outside.

He wasn't a stranger following Jesus and the disciples around waiting to strike.

He was a disciple himself.

He was one of the 12.

He was indeed a close friend to Jesus. Judas walked with Jesus.

He learned from him. He watched him do miracles.

And yet, he chose betrayal. How could he?

What is different about Judas and a genuine follower of Christ, is the condition of the heart. Yes he walked with him, learned and served but he never truly surrendered his heart. He wanted the benefits of being near to Jesus without letting Jesus transform him.

A genuine believer and follower is someone whose heart is truly aligned with Christ. We may stumble and struggle, but our desire is to follow Him, obey Him, and let Him change us from the inside out. Faithfulness grows from a life full surrendered, not just a life that looks close on the outside. **John 8:31** says *"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples."* Let's hold to his teaching every single day.

I pray this story can remind us that “closeness” to Jesus doesn’t guarantee faithfulness. Just because we go to church, serve, or even know Jesus personally, doesn’t mean we are immune to making decisions that go against Him.

If Judas could fall, what makes us think we can’t?

Paul writes in **1 Corinthians 10:12**,
So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!.
We are all at risk of drifting or turning away.

But that’s what makes Jesus’ invitation and his free gift of salvation so remarkable. He hasn’t pulled anything back. He hasn’t seen your most recent mess up and said, *“that’s it! I’ve had it with you!”*

Wednesday reminds us that even those closest to Jesus can fall. Yet because He lives, there is grace to meet us, conviction to guide us, and life that can never be taken away.

Reflect:

- *In what ways might you be close to Jesus outwardly, but distant inwardly?*
- *How can you invite Jesus into the places in your heart that feel most vulnerable or uncertain?*



THURSDAY

Going After God's Own Heart

John 14:15-17 If you love me, you will keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.

The night before He was arrested Jesus was having a meal with his disciples. Amongst the many life-changing things he spoke about, was this:

Jesus answered, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. The one who doesn't love me will not keep my words. The word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me (John 14:23-24).

I really want to highlight what Jesus is speaking about regarding loving and obeying Him. We tend to look past this part. God cares about our obedience. Jesus modeled the ultimate obedience to the Father by coming to us, taking our punishment, dying for us, and ultimately, rising from the grave for our hope unto Salvation.

Jesus and God are one. This has been told since the old testament.

1 Samuel 15:22 foreshadows Jesus' own words in John 14.

Then Samuel said: Does the LORD take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord?

It's not about just coming to church and "looking the part."

Take it further back to Deuteronomy 11:13, *If you carefully obey my commands I am giving you today, to love the LORD your God and worship him with all your heart and all your soul, I will provide rain for your land in the proper time, the autumn and spring rains, and you will harvest your grain, new wine, and fresh oil.*

Christ follower, to truly follow Jesus, keep his commands. He cares about your love and devotion to himself and abiding in him. He cares about how you treat others around you. That you LOVE one another and care for one another. Truly live what Jesus models for us to live like. Just to mention a few examples of holy living:

Do you worship God alone? Is there something else, or someone else you are worshiping more than God? A phone, an artist, a famous sport team, your partner or even your kids? You may not say it, but there's a chance you could be living it. Ask God to examine your heart.

Are you keeping yourself pure? To the married, you must be faithful to your spouse, in your mind and physically. To the unmarried, do not waste love before it's time.

Now, what about what we aren't doing that we SHOULD be? Are we proclaiming the Gospel to those around us? Are we praying for one another in the church? Are we seeking God's WILL and not just having God accompany our lives?

We need to read HIS word that he's left for us, and to know the commands that he has for us.

This is why Jesus came. Because WE NEED HIM!

We couldn't be holy on our own.

Rest assured, because he lives, we can live too! And with him we can live how he wants us to live. Let him guide you to obedience.

Reflect:

- *Where in my life am I claiming to love Jesus, but struggling to actually obey Him, and what is one specific step I can take today to align my actions with His commands?*
- *Am I relying on the Holy Spirit daily to guide me into obedience, or am I trying to live the Christian life in my own strength, and how can I become more aware of His presence "with me and in me"?*



FRIDAY

GOOD Friday

MARK 15:13-14 *Again they shouted, “Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Why? What has he done wrong?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!”*

The day has come. It's not just any Friday. It's "Good Friday". But when we read the scripture, it's anything but that! It's a dark, brutal and somber day in history. Jesus was mocked, tortured and murdered on a cross...because of you; because of me; because of our ongoing sinful nature, and our selfishly-hardened hearts.

And yet, it was a day that changed the fate of us ALL.
So it was GOOD.

Very early in the morning Jesus asks his disciples to keep watch while he takes a moment to pray. He leaves them and falls to his knees crying out to God praying for what's to come.

Mark 14:36 *“Abba, Father,” he cried out, “everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”*

Jesus returns to his disciples to see they have fallen asleep. Not once, not twice, but three different times. How could they do this!? They could not obey a simple task and keep watch, for such a time is near. Do they not see? It's infuriating. It's humiliating. It's shameful.

Truth is, we are no better than the disciples in this case. We all disobey and we all fall short... CONSTANTLY. We are not worthy of the coming sacrifice that Jesus will endure that very day.

At this point, after being betrayed, denied, and deserted by his disciples, the Messiah that was once followed, loved and praised, was now chosen to be murdered in place of an actual murderer himself- Barabas!

Mark 15:13-14 *They shouted back, “Crucify him!” “Why?” Pilate demanded. “What crime has he committed?” But the mob roared even louder, “Crucify him!”*

As the result, the murderer Barabbas is released. Jesus' fate is sealed by the crowd around him. To be whipped.. flogged.. nailed and crucified to a cross with a crown of thorns piercing his brow. They mock him, "King of the Jews". They sneer and laugh.

Mark 15:33-34 At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Think of the anguish Jesus is enduring. To be forsaken by God. Who deserves this? Think of the very people who called him to the cross; those who cannot stay awake; those who feel envious of their neighbors; those who lie or steal; those who idolize the things of this world; those who curse His name. Did they deserve a Savior? Do we?

Mark 15:37-38 Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

The exact moment the earth shook and the curtain tore in two signified the very beginning of a direct relationship between God and humanity. "It is finished!" The fulfillment of God's plan was delivered through Jesus Christ! A debt paid for us, unworthy sinners.

So again, it's not just any Friday. It's GOOD FRIDAY. Because without this beautiful sacrifice, that we did not deserve, we truly are hopeless. But Because The Lamb of God was slain to take away the sin of the world, we are now hopeful!

Good Friday is more than history. This very moment marks the day that atonement was made and reconciliation between God and man becomes a reality, for those who truly believe in Christ and faithfully follow Him!

Reflect:

- *Take a moment to read and reflect on Mark 15: 1-47.
Pray that God will speak to you through the reading of his Word.*
- *Where would you be if God chose to let the cup pass from Jesus?*



SATURDAY

Dear Diary...

Matthew 27:59-60 So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in clean, fine linen, and placed it in his new tomb, which he had cut into the rock. He left after rolling a great stone against the entrance of the tomb.

This could have been a journal entry on this day 2000 years ago:

I don't think that I have ever felt so alone, so empty as today. I hardly slept last night and my ribs ache from the continual bouts of crying uncontrollably. The events of the last few days have left its scars on my mind and body like nothing I have ever experienced.

Yesterday I witnessed the death of a man that I called a friend even though I was just one of the crowd who followed Him. He was so kind, so loving and He cared about everyone that He came into contact with. There was no boundary in which He would not cross to demonstrate His love towards an individual.

*He cared about the little children, the lepers and the outcasts of society, claiming that He had come as their physician. And He said that He came for me, because He said that **"He came to bring life and life abundantly"** (John 10:10).*

And He said that He came in His Father's name and that His Father loves mankind and me personally. (For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16)

The religious leaders had no answer for His words. Time after time they tried to trick Him to expose some kind of fault or blemish in Him, and time after time He foiled their plans with questions of His own. The people said that He spoke like no other because He spoke with authority and not like the teachers of the day who quoted other teachers to give their words weight.

They called Him "The Son of David" the "Messiah" the "Anointed One". And I believed that this is who He was indeed because He did what only the Promised One could do. He healed the sick, cast out demons, made the blind to see and the lame to walk, and He said that He forgave sin, which only God could do.

*But they arrested Him, they beat Him and punched Him so severely that He should have died, then they nailed Him to a cross and put a sign above Him saying **"JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS"** (John 19:19).*

While He lived, He raised the dead back to life, but now He was dead and how would He do all the things that He said that He would do? I don't understand, and I am lost.

His first words on the cross were, "*My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me.*" I recognized those words. I recognized this as the beginning of a Psalm I grew up hearing and reciting (Psalm 22). David was describing things happening to him that did not happen to him. He must have seen this moment that Jesus was going through. I saw everything that was said in that Psalm unfolding on this man on that center cross.

His bones were out of joint as He was nailed to a cross. His strength was dried up as His tongue stuck to His jaw. He was surrounded by dogs waiting for Him to die. He was beaten and abused as if He deserved it, but He didn't. People mocked Him as His blood drained from His body. Soldiers laughed at Him and gambled for His clothing.

His life gave meaning to my life, His promises gave me hope and joy but now my heart has been torn out of my chest and scattered into an endless waste. I can't see life the same way without Him here. I am alive but I have no meaning because my purpose has been stolen from my life. He made me want to be a better person. He made me want to live for more than just myself and this life. I am so afraid that His words will fade away as life goes on without Him. I will never be the same again.

The emptiness of a life that so changed my life even if it was only for a little while rings so loud that it's shouting in my ears moment by moment and I want Him back. He is laying in a cold tomb with a stone rolled in front of it, sealed by Caesar and guarded by soldiers. That is the closest I can get to him but my heart needs more.

Our eyes only connected a few times as I followed Him with others but I know that He didn't just see me as a face in the crowd, because I felt His eyes pierce deep within me, understanding who I am and loving me anyway. I will never again enjoy the peace and love that Jesus gave me. We were distant friends but He was my best friend.

This journal was written on the other side of the resurrection.

But we are blessed to know the end of the story.

Reflect:

- How would your life be affected if you shared this individual's feelings?
- How has Jesus made you want to live for more than just your own life and circumstances, & how powerful is the hope of His life to you?



SUNDAY

Jesus Lives!

Luke 24:1-8 *On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. They went in but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothes. So the women were terrified and bowed down to the ground. "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" asked the men. "He is not here, but he has risen! Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee, saying, 'It is necessary that the Son of Man be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day?'" And they remembered his words.*

In the 1970's Gloria & William Gaither wrote a hymn that would be immortalized into Christian culture, especially around Holy Week.

In an interview about the song they said,

"'Because he lives' was written in the midst of social upheaval, threats of war, and betrayals of national and personal trust. It was into this world at such a time that we were bringing our third little baby. Assassinations, drug traffic, and war monopolized the headlines. It was in the midst of this kind of uncertainty that the assurance of the Lordship of the risen Christ blew across our troubled minds like a cooling breeze in the parched desert."

What strikes me about their words, both of the song and the interview, is that the same is still true today. The world remains a place filled with sensational headlines, uncertainty of the future, fear, pain and struggle. Despite this, and more importantly, Jesus remains the same. Dependable, trustworthy, near, and still on the throne.

It is against the backdrop of the resurrection of Jesus by which we view the hardships all around us.

Do we ache? Yes. But because He lives, we are comforted.

Do we have reason to weep? Yes. But because He lives, we are embraced into the arms of a loving Father.

Do we fear uncertainty? Yes. But because He lives, we fall into the secure arms of the one still in control of every unknown to us. Do we suffer loss? Yes. But because He lives, we are never in despair. Do we sin? Yes. But because He lives, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.

The Gaither's put it best in the chorus of their hymn,
*"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow!
Because He lives, All fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living, Just because He lives!"*

Friend, take comfort in this, that Jesus lives, and He intercedes on your behalf.

He sees the young man or woman struggling to remain pure in a corrupted society. He sees the tired dad's working long hours to provide for their families and yet feeling that they aren't doing enough. He sees the working moms, whether laboring at the workplace or at home, or both, feeling like they've lost their own identities. He sees the senior citizens battling health or a lifetime of regrets for what could have been. He sees the the fractured families, the rocky marriages, and the neglected child (even if now adults). He sees the stressed-out, the burnt-out, the left-out, and the ones who just want out.

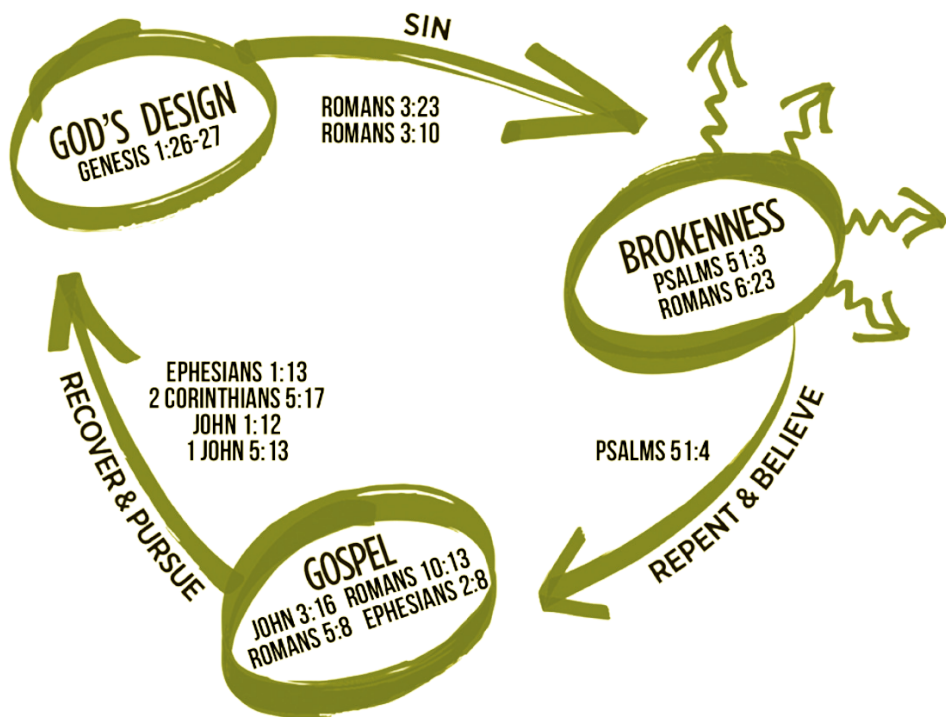
The undeniable proof that Jesus sees you, and furthermore cares for you, is that He, being God, became a man, like us. He suffered loss, He experienced grief. He felt abandoned. He worked long hours. He traveled the difficult path of this world that every human must tread. And He died. He really died. Love for you bound Him to the death He did not deserve. But He rose. He really rose! And His love binds us to a life filled with hope that we did not deserve.

Because He lives, you can endure. Because He lives, you can overcome. Because He lives you can trust that eternal life has been secured for you.

Reflect:

- *The angels asked, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" In what areas of your life are you still searching for hope, security, or identity in things that cannot give life, instead of in the risen Christ?*
- *If "because He lives" is truly the lens through which you view your hardships, how would that reshape the way you respond to your current fears, struggles, or uncertainties today?*





God's Design

We see beauty, purpose and evidence of design all around us. The Bible tells us that God originally planned a world that worked perfectly, where everything and everyone fit together in harmony. God made each of us with a purpose, to worship and walk with Him

Sin

Life doesn't work when we ignore God and His original design for our lives. We selfishly insist on doing things our own way. The Bible calls this sin. We all sin and distort the original design. The consequence of sin is separation from God, in this life and for all eternity.

Brokenness

Sin leads to a place of brokenness. We see this all around us and in our own lives as well. When we realize life is not working, we begin to look for a way out. We tend to go in many directions trying different things to figure it out on our own. Brokenness leads to a place of realizing a need for something greater.

Gospel

At this point we need a remedy, some good news. Because of His love, God did not leave us in our brokenness. Jesus, God in human flesh, came to us and lived perfectly according to God's design. Jesus came to rescue us, to do for us what we could not do for ourselves. He took our sin to the cross, paying the penalty of our sin by his death. Jesus was then raised from the dead to provide the only way for us to be rescued and restored to a relationship with God.

Repent & Believe

Simply hearing this Good News is not enough. We must admit our sinful brokenness and stop trusting in ourselves. We don't have the power to escape this brokenness on our own; we need to be rescued. In this, we must ask God to forgive us, turning from sin to trust only in Jesus. This is what it means to repent and believe. Believing, we receive new life through Jesus and God turns our lives in a new direction.

Recover & Pursue

When God restores our relationship to him, we begin to discover meaning and purpose in a broken world. Now we can pursue God's Design in all areas of our lives. Even when we fail, we understand God's pathway to be restored, this same Good News of Jesus. God's Spirit empowers us to pursue His Design and assures us of His presence in the life and for all eternity.

Response

Now that you have heard this Good News, God wants you to respond to him. You can talk to him using words like these: "My life is broken and I recognize its because of my sin. I need you." "I believe Jesus came to live, die and was raised from the dead to rescue me from my sin." "Forgive me. I turn from my selfish ways and put my trust in you." "I know that Jesus is God, and I will follow Him."

THE PASSION WEEK

		MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN	LOCATION
	SUN	21:1-11	11:1-10	19:29-44		MOUNT OF OLIVES
			11:11			JERUSALEM
			11:11			BETHANY
	MON	21:18-19	11:12-14			MOUNT OF OLIVES
		21:12-13	11:15-18	19:45-48	12:20-35	JERUSALEM
					12:37-50	
			11:19			BETHANY
	TUE	21:19-22	11:20-26	21:37-38		MOUNT OF OLIVES
		21:23-27	11:27-33	20:1-8		JERUSALEM
		21:28-32				
		21:33-46	12:1-12	20:9-19		
		22:1-14				
		22:15-22	12:13-17	20:20-26		
		22:23-33	12:18-27	20:27-40		
		22:35-40	12:28-34			
		22:41-46	12:35-37	20:41-44		
		23:1-39	12:38-40	20:45-47		
			12:41-44	21:1-4		
		24:1-51	13:1-37	21:5-36		MOUNT OF OLIVES
		25:1-46				
	WED	26:3-5	14:1-2	22:1-2		JERUSALEM
		26:14-16	14:10-11	22:3-6		
	THU	26:17-19	14:12-16	22:7-13		
6:00 PM		26:20	14:17	22:14-16	13:1	
				22:24-30		
					13:2-17	
		26:21-25	14:18-21	22:21-23	13:18-30	
		26:26-29	14:22-25	22:15-20		
					13:31-35	
		26:31-35	14:27-31	22:31-38	13:36-38	
					14:1-30	
		26:30	14:26		14:31	
12:00 AM	FRI				15:1-16:33	
					17:1-26	
		26:36-46	14:32-42	22:39-46	18:1	MOUNT OF OLIVES
		26:47-56	14:43-52	22:47-53	18:2-12	
3:00 AM					18:13-14	JERUSALEM
					18:24	
		26:57-68	14:53-65	22:54-72		
		26:58-75	14:54-72	22:54-62	18:15-27	
		27:1	15:1	22:66-71		
		27:3-10				
6:00 AM		27:2-14	15:1-5	23:1-7	18:28-38	FIELD OF BLOOD
				23:8-12		JERUSALEM
		27:15-23	15:6-14	23:13-22	18:39-40	
		27:27-31	15:16-19		19:1-3	
		27:22-26	15:12-15	23:20-25	19:4-16	
9:00 AM		27:31-34	15:20-23	23:26-32	19:16-17	
12:00 PM		27:35-44	15:24-32	23:33-43	19:18-24	CALVARY
3:00 PM		27:45-50	15:33-37	23:44-46	19:25-30	
		27:51-56	15:38-41	23:45-49		
		27:57-61	15:42-47	23:50-55		GARDEN TOMB
		27:62-66			19:31-42	
	SAT			23:56		AT HOME
	SUN	28:1-8	16:1-8	24:1-8	20:1	GARDEN TOMB

MARY MAGDALENE, JOANNA, & MARY THE MOTHER OF JAMES COME TO THE TOMB AND FIND JESUS RISEN

CONTRIBUTORS

Behold Your King

Ramon Barrera

Our Unbelief, His Mercy

Claudia Parra

Leaves Without Fruit

Gavin Buchanan

A Warning From Judas

Marcos Gomez

Going After God's Own Heart

Melisa Rangel

GOOD Friday

Erica Buchanan

Dear Diary

David Halla

Jesus Lives!

David Rangel



easter 2026

PALM SUNDAY:
MARCH 29TH, 11 AM

MIDWEEK:
APRIL 1ST, 6 PM

GOOD FRIDAY:
APRIL 3RD, 7 PM
tenebrae service of shadows

CHURCH WIDE FAST:
APRIL 4TH

SUNRISE SERVICE:
APRIL 5TH, 6 AM
breakfast to follow

RESURRECTION SUNDAY:
APRIL 5TH, 11 AM
egg hunt to follow

