

A STUDY GUIDE &  
DEVOTIONAL PRAYER JOURNAL

# HOLY WEEK



PALM SUNDAY  
HOLY MONDAY  
HOLY TUESDAY  
HOLY WEDNESDAY  
MAUNDY THURSDAY  
GOOD FRIDAY  
HOLY SATURDAY  
RESSURECTION SUNDAY

AN INVITATION TO STEP INTO THE STORY

CARL D. WRIGHT

**HOLY WEEK**

*AN INVITATION TO STEP INTO THE STORY*

By Carl D. Wright

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# **DEDICATION**

This book is dedicated to JESUS!

My only goal and hope is that this would serve as tool to draw people closer to you, that your name would be glorified and that you would receive the reward of your sufferings.



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# INTRODUCTION

## AN INVITATION TO IDENTIFICATION

*(Holy Week)*

“...and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; **that I may know Him** and the power of **His resurrection**, and the fellowship of **His sufferings**, being conformed to **His death**, if, by any means, I may attain to **the resurrection from the dead.**” - *Philippians 3:9-11*

As we prepare to celebrate Holy Week, beginning on Palm Sunday, I want to invite us to look deeply into the Word of God and to take the time to cultivate your heart. This is more than a season of remembrance. It's an invitation into identification. This is a “*that I may know Him...*” kind of invitation. This is the goal of our faith. Not just to believe about Jesus, but to actually know Him intimately, powerfully, painfully, fully.

Here's the truth - You didn't find God, He found you and for some of us even when you might not have been looking for Him. This is what Jesus does, He has come to seek and to save the lost. He gets a hold of us, then He sets a desire in our hearts for Him. It takes God to want God. Jesus starts us on this journey - an eternal journey - of getting to know Him. Then Paul lists out how: “That I may know Him in the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.” We love that first part: “The power of His resurrection.” Glory! Shouts and screams and runs. Hallelujah! He's alive! But then it goes on: “...and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.” - THAT PART, right! We usually breeze past this part, but I want you tonight to sit in it. Because this is an invitation. The fellowship of His suffering. Being conformed to His death. Paul is essentially saying: I want to know Him in the resurrection - and this is how I get

there. Holy Week is an invitation to walk with Jesus. Not as casual observers, but as those who carry His cross and commune with His heart.

Holy Week is one of the most sacred and significant moments in the Christian calendar. It walks us through the final days of Jesus' earthly life - from His entrance into Jerusalem to His death on the cross, and ultimately, His resurrection from the grave. It's the story of His suffering, sacrifice, and victory over sin and death.

For centuries, the global Church has set this week apart through prayer, fasting, communion, and worship. Especially on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Resurrection Sunday. And what's beautiful is that this is one of the few times each year when the whole world - even if just for a moment - turns its eyes toward Jesus.

Some may say, "Well, we should remember Jesus every day," and that's true. We should, and hopefully we do. But there's something uniquely powerful about slowing down and walking through this week with fresh eyes. Something holy about letting your heart break with Him on Friday and rise with Him on Sunday, as we witness Him fulfill Passover as the Lamb of God.

This isn't just about tradition, but again, It's an invitation - to draw near, to enter in, to feel the weight of what He carried and the wonder of what He conquered. Holy Week isn't just a memory. It's a moment. And if we'll step into it, God will meet us in a way that marks us forever.

With this guide in your hands, may each day be a doorway - into the garden, to the cross, through the tomb, and into resurrection life. May this journey serve as a holy invitation into something deeper than just days on a calendar or religious tradition. This is the invitation to identification. May you answer it fully, and may you never be the same!

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# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This is more than a devotional - it's an invitation to walk with Jesus through the most sacred week in history. Each of the ten sections in this guide corresponds to a key moment in the Holy Week journey - from Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday, and finally, your personal response. Every day includes:

- **Scriptural Accounts** - Readings from the Gospels to anchor your heart in God's Word
- **Biblical Teaching** - Rich, reflective insights to draw you deeper into the story
- **A Devotional Thought** - A personal moment to connect truth to your heart
- **A Guided Prayer** - A written prayer to guide your response and communion with Jesus
- **Reflection Questions** - Space to journal, process, and be still with the Holy Spirit

## Take Your Time

You can follow the days in real-time during Holy Week, or work through them at your own pace. You may want to take one section per day, or linger longer on certain days that speak deeply to your season. Even if it isn't ACTUALLY Holy Week, this would be a life changing study or devotional to aide you in your walk with God.

## **Bring a Pen and an Open Heart**

This guide is meant to be written in. Don't rush. Journal slowly. Let the questions become conversations with Jesus. Don't worry about perfect answers - presence is more important than performance.

## **Create a Sacred Rhythm**

Find a quiet space each day where you can read, reflect, and pray without distraction. Light a candle. Play worship. Turn off your phone. Let this become a time of encounter, not just study.

## **Let the Story Shape You**

Don't just read Holy Week - enter into it. Sit at the table. Weep in the garden. Stand at the cross. Step into the tomb. Let this journey mark you.

# USING THIS GUIDE WITH A GROUP OR FAMILY

This journey is powerful when taken personally - but it can be even more transformative when shared. Whether you're reading with your small group, your family, a few close friends, or your church team, here are some ideas to go deeper together:

- **Read aloud** - Take turns reading the scripture and devotional portions out loud. Let the words settle in the room before rushing to discussion.
- **Reflect and share** - After journaling individually, come together and invite open-hearted discussion. No one has to share everything - but honesty invites healing.
- **Pray together** - Use the written prayers as a springboard. Pray them aloud as a group, or take time to respond in your own words.
- **Create space** - Don't feel pressured to finish a full day in one sitting. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead. Sometimes one paragraph, one prayer, or one question is enough for a whole session.

## **Tip for Families with Kids:**

You can simplify or summarize the daily themes and read the key scripture together at the dinner table. Let the reflection questions spark conversation - even with young hearts.



# **ENTER WITH HIM**

**IN THE TENSION OF TRIUMPH**

*(Palm Sunday)*

## **Scriptural Accounts:**

Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-19

Holy Week begins with a parade of praise and a donkey ride that set in motion the following series of events that changed the world! Palm Sunday commemorates the day Jesus entered Jerusalem - just days before His crucifixion. What looked like a celebration was, in reality, a prophetic fulfillment drenched in tension. Crowds gathered, cloaks were thrown on the road, palm branches were waved, and the shouts of "Hosanna!" filled the air. But beneath this praise was a deep misunderstanding - a divine confrontation. To understand Palm Sunday rightly, we must see it not merely as a parade, but as a prophetic collision between human expectation and divine mission.

## **The Passover Connection**

Palm Sunday didn't happen in isolation - it was timed perfectly within the calendar of God's redemptive story. This was the week of Passover, the central Jewish feast that commemorated God's deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage (Exodus 12). Every year, Jewish families remembered the night when the blood of a lamb caused death to "pass over" their homes. They were instructed to commemorate this

annually with a sacred meal, reminding them that they were a people rescued by mercy.

Jesus, as a devout Jew, would have celebrated Passover every year of His life (Luke 2:41). It was one of the three pilgrimage feasts where all Jewish males were commanded to go to Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 16:16). On one level, Jesus was simply fulfilling the Law. But this moment was more than tradition - it was fulfillment.

Jesus wasn't just going to celebrate Passover - He *was* going to fulfill it as the Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7). In fact, many scholars note that He entered Jerusalem on the very day families were selecting lambs for sacrifice. His entry was a declaration: *"I am the Lamb. I am the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets."*

## **The Triumphal Entry**

In the ancient world, a conquering king entered cities on warhorses. But a king coming in peace would ride a donkey. Jesus chose the lowly animal to announce His kingdom was not of this world. He was royal - but not in the way they expected. He came with royal humility, cloaked in meekness, not military might. Each Gospel records this scene (Matthew 21:1 - 11, Mark 11:1 - 11, Luke 19:28 - 44, John 12:12 - 19), and they all highlight the same striking feature: Jesus rides in on a donkey. This wasn't accidental - it was prophetic.

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Behold, your King is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation is He, humble and mounted on a donkey..."

**- Zechariah 9:9**

As He entered, the people laid down palm branches and shouted:

*"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"*

**- Psalm 118:26**

"Hosanna" means *Save now!* - it is a cry for deliverance. The crowd believed their Messiah had come to overthrow Roman oppression. But Jesus came to conquer a far

greater enemy - sin and death. The people celebrated Jesus with their voices, but misunderstood Him in their hearts. They praised Him for what they thought He would do, not for who He truly was.

## **The Irony of Misplaced Worship**

Palm Sunday begins with praise, but by the end of the week, that same crowd demands the release of Barabbas, a violent rebel and murderer (Mark 15:6 - 15). Pilate offers them a choice: Jesus, the innocent Lamb - or Barabbas, the insurrectionist. And they chose Barabbas.

This choice exposes the heart of the people. Barabbas represented *the kind of deliverance they wanted*. A fighter. A political symbol. A revolutionary. Jesus represented surrender, sacrifice, and a kingdom they couldn't fully comprehend. They chose rebellion over redemption. And if we're honest, so do we - whenever we trade surrender for self-will. This is the tragedy of misplaced worship - we cry "Hosanna" with our lips, but secretly want a Jesus who fits our agenda.

## **Jesus Weeps: Divine Grief, Not Defeat**

As Jesus descended the Mount of Olives and looked over Jerusalem, He did something no one expected.

*"And when He drew near and saw the city, He wept over it..."*

*- Luke 19:41*

The Greek word used for "wept" here is not a quiet tear - it implies gut-wrenching sobs. Jesus was broken over what Jerusalem had missed. They had religion, but no revelation. They had rituals, but no relationship. They knew the Law, but ignored the One who fulfilled it that day and was in their midst. "You serve your expectation of me, not who I actually am."

He prophesied their destruction - a devastation that came in A.D. 70 when Rome razed the city. But His tears weren't self-pity. He wasn't weeping for *His* suffering. He was weeping for *theirs*. For the pain that could have been avoided. For the peace they could have embraced. This is the heart of God in judgment: not cold wrath, but grieving mercy. He knew He would be rejected - but He still rode in. He still gave His life. He still offered peace...and He still does!

Palm Sunday wasn't just the start of a celebration - it was the start of a **confrontation**. Jesus entered a city that was spiritually asleep. He came to challenge its systems, confront its corruption, and cleanse its temple. The very next day, He would flip tables in that temple. But the flipping started here - with expectations, assumptions, and illusions about who Jesus really was.

And the question still remains: Will we welcome the real Jesus - or just the one we hoped for?

## Devotional Thought

The image of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey is tender, yet sharp. It challenges us. We want a triumphant King to fix our problems - but what happens when that King comes lowly, with a cross in hand? How many times have I asked Jesus to ride into my situation, only to be disappointed when He came with a cross instead of a crown?

It's easy to worship Jesus as long as He's meeting expectations. It's harder when He disrupts them. Palm Sunday calls us to let go of our false images of Christ - the political Savior, the cosmic problem-solver, the "give-me-what-I-want" Messiah - and to receive the *real* Jesus: the humble, weeping, all-knowing Lamb who sees our hearts and still chooses to ride in. He doesn't just ride into cities - He rides into temples. He rides into hearts. And He'll flip the tables if He has to.

The beauty of this moment isn't just that He came. It's that He came knowing full well they would reject Him. And He still wept. He still offered peace. He still laid down His life. That's the kind of King He is.

Palm Sunday is not just about waving branches - it's about waving the white flag. It's a call to surrender. To stop cheering from a distance and start following up close. To stop shaping Jesus in our image and let Him reshape us in His. He is the Passover Lamb. The fulfillment of every promise. The One who walks into our chaos and still chooses to save.

## **Prayer**

Jesus, You are not the King I would have expected - but You are the King I've always needed. You come in ways I don't anticipate. You move in ways I don't always understand. Yet still, You ride in. Still, You come.

Forgive me for the times I've praised You with expectations instead of surrender. For when I've cheered from the crowd but resisted You in private. I don't want to trade You for Barabbas - for anything that seems easier but leads me away from You.

Today, I lay down my palms and pick up my cross. I welcome You - not just into my praise, but into my pain, my pride, my religion, and my rebellion. Ride in, Lord Jesus. Flip the tables. Confront what needs confronting. Cleanse what needs cleansing. I open the gates of my heart to the real You. Hosanna. Save me now. And reign in me forever.

**Amen.**

# Reflection Questions

*(Palm Sunday)*

Let these questions become more than words on paper - turn them into a conversation with Jesus. Ask Him to sit with you as you write. Invite the Holy Spirit to expose what's hidden, heal what's hurting, and shape what's forming. This isn't just a devotional exercise. It's an invitation to let Palm Sunday mark you. This isn't about performance - it's about presence. Pray through the questions and then pray through your answers and see what God does.

- 1. Am I following Jesus for who He is - or for what I want Him to do for me? What expectations might I need to surrender this week?**

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- 2. Where in my life do I tend to choose what's easier or more comfortable instead of truly surrendering to Jesus?**

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- 3. What part of my heart might Jesus still be weeping over today?  
Where have I resisted His peace, even though He's offered it?**

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- 4. What beliefs, assumptions, or traditions is Jesus challenging in me  
this Holy Week?**

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- 5. How might I move from praising Jesus in public to welcoming Him  
in the private, uncomfortable places of my heart? Where is He  
asking to enter that I've closed off?**

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# CLEANSE WITH HIM

## IN THE TEMPLE OF THE HEART

*(Holy Monday)*

### **Scriptural Accounts:**

Matthew 21:12 - 17, Mark 11:15 - 19, Luke 19:45 - 48, John 2:13 - 17

After the Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday, Jesus returns to Jerusalem the next day and walks straight into the temple. What He finds there is not worship, but corruption. Not reverence, but resistance and what follows is one of the most startling and passionate scenes in the Gospels:

“Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, ‘It is written, “My house shall be called a house of prayer,”

but you have made it a den of thieves.” - ***Matthew 21:12 - 13***

We know this scene. Jesus flipping tables. Driving people out. Calling out injustice. But this wasn't just about bad behavior or greedy business practices. There was actually something much deeper going on, something much more insidious and what we see isn't just Jesus losing His temper. This was Jesus asserting His authority as the Son of God and confronting a system that had lost its way in more than a few ways. It wasn't just what they were doing and what they weren't doing but it was also about WHERE specifically they were doing it at - I'm not talking about the fact

that they were doing these things in the house of God but I'm saying the very specific SPOT in the house they choose to do it had greater implications.

## **The Court of the Gentiles**

The outer court of the temple, known as the **Court of the Gentiles**, was the only area where non-Jews were allowed to come and pray. It was intended to be a space of welcome, intercession, and reverence for the nations who were seeking the God of Israel.

But that's exactly where the religious leaders allowed commerce and chaos to take over. The space meant for seekers had become a marketplace. The area designed for prayer had become a place of profit.

“Is it not written: ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it a den of thieves.”

- **Mark 11:17**, (quoting *Isaiah 56:7*)

This is what ignited Jesus' holy anger. It wasn't just corruption - it was exclusion. They weren't just making money - they were blocking access. They had built a system where the presence of God was no longer available to those who were hungry for it - especially outsiders, Gentiles, and the broken. And so Jesus flips the tables. In love. In zeal. In judgment. And in mercy.

## **Letting Jesus Flip the Tables in Us**

But this wasn't just about a physical building. It was a prophetic act pointing to a greater truth:

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you?”

- **1 Corinthians 6:19**

We are now the temple of the Holy Ghost. And Jesus still walks in. And sometimes, He still flips tables. When Jesus comes close, He doesn't just come to be praised - He comes to purify. He comes to confront everything that hinders intimacy, blocks access, and pollutes the purpose of your life. He lays His hand on motives, on attitudes, on patterns we've normalized. And He says: "That doesn't belong here.", "This is My house now.", "This place was made for prayer." And the question is: Will you let Him flip the tables?

## **Sanctification Isn't Always Pretty**

We often ask Jesus to come in and we assume He'll come gently, quietly, softly. We don't expect Him to start flipping over our pride. To drive out our idolatry. To challenge our prejudices. To confront our nationalism, our religiosity, or our selfish ambition. But when you follow Jesus - and especially when you pursue holiness - there comes a time when He takes you through the School of the Holy Ghost if you will and begins to clean house and purge you out of everything that is holding you back so that you can pass your grade. This is sanctification. It's not surface. It's surgical. And it's necessary.

## **Prayer Is the Purpose**

When Jesus cleared the temple, He wasn't just reacting to greed. He was restoring the original purpose of God's house. It wasn't just about the people that couldn't get in...though that was obviously a major part to play but it was also the fact that God's house was being used for everything BUT what He originally intended. It was that the people that were in the house AND the people that wanted to get in but couldn't were not doing what he purposed for them to do which is to COMMUNE WITH HIM in HIS HOUSE.

"It is written, 'My house shall be called **a house of prayer.**'"

- *Matthew 21:13*

Let that sink in. Prayer isn't part of the house - it **is** the house. Everything else flows from that posture of communion with the Father. We've made it about a lot things - platforms, programs, performance. But Jesus makes it about presence. The house of God was always meant to be a place of encounter. A place of worship. A place of intercession. A place of repentance. A place where the nations could come - not just to observe, but to *meet Him*. And yet... it had become something else entirely. A business. A show. A system. So Jesus didn't just cleanse the courts - He called the house back to its ORIGINAL PURPOSE AND DESIGN.

There is nothing necessarily wrong with all the things, praise God for active people but something you have got to know is that activity does not mean progression. We can have lots of movement and still be spiritually stagnant. We can have lots of sound - but no surrender. We can host services without ever hosting Him. It's entirely possible to be busy in church, building programs, growing platforms - and still be completely disconnected from the presence of God. That's what Jesus was flipping tables over.

God's house is not a house of strategy. Not a house of events. Not a house of clout or crowds. It is a house of prayer. Prayer is where the power is. Prayer is where hearts are softened, idols are shattered, and lives are healed. Prayer is where the fire falls - not on performance, but on true surrender and this is the place, in the presence of God, that transformation happens!

Transformation doesn't come from all your witty ideas. Transformation comes from the anointing of the Holy Ghost. You can have degrees, leadership development, and all the latest growth tactics - but without the presence of the Lord, it's all in vain. We don't just need good ideas - we need consecrated hearts. We don't just need vision - we need intercession. We don't just need pomp and circumstance - we need power and power comes when Jesus reclaims His house, which is YOU.

## **Devotional Thought**

Jesus loves us too much to leave our temples in disrepair. His confrontation is not rejection - it's restoration. The tables He flips are not just about judgment - they're

about mercy. He wants to make space again for what matters most: prayer, presence, and power. This is personal. We are the temple now. And Jesus wants to make **you** a house of prayer.

When you begin to commune with Him, He purifies the vessel. He begins to do a work in you So ask Him: “Lord, is there anything in my heart that’s crowding You out?” “Have I filled the courts of my soul with activity, but no intimacy?” Let Him flip whatever needs flipping. Let Him clear out what doesn’t belong.

So today, let Him walk through the halls of your heart. Invite Him to inspect every corner. It might sting, but it will save you. He is still cleansing temples. He is still restoring identity. He is still reordering what we’ve cluttered.

This isn’t just a moment in history - it’s a pattern of grace. He comes not just to forgive, but to refocus. Not just to cleanse with fire, but to fill with glory - If we’ll let Him.

## **Prayer**

Jesus, I open the door of my heart to You today - not just as a guest, but as Lord. Walk through every area of my soul. Shine Your light on what I’ve hidden. Flip the tables of what I’ve allowed to take up space where there should of been room for worship. Cleanse me from the inside out - not because You’re angry with me, but because You love me enough to restore me.

I don’t want to be a temple that looks good on the outside but is empty on the inside. Make me a house of prayer. A place of Your presence. A resting place for Your glory. Confront what needs confronting. Heal what needs healing. And fill what’s been empty. In Jesus Name, Amen.

# Reflection Questions

*(Holy Monday)*

Let these questions become more than words on paper - turn them into a conversation with Jesus. Ask Him to sit with you as you write. Invite the Holy Spirit to walk through the temple of your heart, to expose what's hidden, heal what's hurting, and clear out what's cluttered. This isn't just a devotional exercise. It's an invitation to let Holy Monday cleanse you. To let the King flip tables and restore what's sacred. This isn't about performance - it's about presence. It's about becoming a house of prayer again. So pray through the questions. Then pray through your answers and see what God will do.

- 1. What tables in my heart might Jesus be trying to flip right now?  
What have I allowed to take up space that should belong to Him?**

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- 2. Are there places in my life where performance, busyness, or fear  
have replaced true communion with God?**

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**3. What distractions or idols have crept into my worship or walk with God? What would it look like to clear those out?**

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**4. Am I willing to let Jesus confront me - not to shame me, but to restore me? Why or why not?**

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**5. If my body is a temple, what kind of atmosphere have I cultivated within it - chaotic or consecrated? What needs to change?**

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# TEACH WITH HIM

## IN THE COURT OF TRUTH

*(Holy Tuesday)*

### **Scriptural Accounts:**

Matthew 21:18 - 23:39, Mark 11:20 - 13:37, Luke 20:1 - 21:38

After cleansing the temple, Jesus returns again on Tuesday with authority - and He doesn't waste a moment. He spends the day teaching, confronting hypocrisy, answering challenges, and revealing the Kingdom. It's one of the most theologically dense days in the final week of His life. Jesus taught in the temple courts daily, but this day was different. This was His final public teaching before the cross. And He used it not to appease, but to awaken.

“And He taught daily in the temple, but the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy Him, and could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear Him.”

**- Luke 19:47-48**

Y'all see this? The last part of that - listen to what it says: They wanted to destroy Jesus. The teachings made them mad. But the people were so attentive, they couldn't figure out how to do it. Can you imagine if we as the body of Christ had an alertness and attentiveness like this? You're in the house of God, the Word of God is going forth. Is something in your heart that says, “The Word is going forth, I've got to hear what He's saying. What's being taught? I've got to hear it. My heart wants to learn of Him.” There's an expectation in the text and it **DISRUPTS** the plans of those that are plotting to destroy Jesus.

“Heaven and earth will pass away,  
but My words will never pass away.”

- **Matthew 24:35**

His words cut through tradition, shook religious systems, and exposed the hearts of men. He confronted the Pharisees, corrected the Sadducees, and clarified the greatest commandment. He taught in parables, revealed prophetic insight, and invited people to truly *see*. This wasn't casual teaching - it was kingdom confrontation. It's truly astonishing as you look through the sheer amount of teaching Jesus accomplished in these last few days. He literally **POURED OUT** so much.

## **Parables, Prophecy, and Power**

Jesus uses this day to unfold so many layers of truth:

- **Parables of Judgment** - Like the tenants (Matthew 21:33 - 46) and the wedding banquet (Matthew 22:1 - 14), revealing how Israel rejected the invitation of God.
- **Conflict with Religious Leaders** - They question His authority (Mark 11:27 - 33), test Him on taxes (Mark 12:13 - 17), and challenge Him on the resurrection (Mark 12:18 - 27).
- **The Greatest Commandment** - When asked which law is greatest, Jesus reveals that love - for God and neighbor - is the foundation of the entire Law (Mark 12:28 - 34).
- **Woes to the Pharisees** - He rebukes religious leaders for their hypocrisy and spiritual blindness (Matthew 23).
- **The Olivet Discourse** - As He leaves the temple, He turns to His disciples and delivers one of the most powerful end-times teachings in all of Scripture (Matthew 24 - 25, Mark 13, Luke 21).

Even in His final hours, Jesus is still pouring out truth. Still inviting people to see. Still pleading with hearts to wake up. Jesus is still teaching - but the question is, *are we still listening?*

Holy Tuesday calls us to sit under the weight of His words again. To stop scrolling, performing, or rushing - and truly *receive truth*. His teachings weren't meant to inform us - they were meant to transform us. And we can't be transformed by a truth we never slow down to hear. He invites us into His court - not to condemn us, but to correct us, to reveal Himself, and to call us higher. The same Jesus who flipped tables now flips our perspectives. The same Jesus who silenced hypocrites still calls out pretense in us today.

## **Devotional Thought**

Sometimes we want Jesus the miracle-worker, but we resist Jesus the truth-teller. But Holy Tuesday shows us a Savior who speaks even when it's uncomfortable. Who tells the truth, not to shame, but to set us free. Let Him teach you again. Let His Word confront, comfort, and call you deeper. Sit with the parables. Wrestle with the warnings. Marvel at the wisdom. This is not religious content - it's eternal truth. And it's meant for you.

## **Prayer**

Jesus, I want to sit at Your feet again. To listen - not just with my ears, but with my heart. Let Your Word pierce through my distractions, my pride, and my assumptions. Speak, even if it stretches me. Reveal what I need to see.

I don't want to be religiously informed - I want to be spiritually transformed. Teach me truth, and give me the courage to follow it. Shape me with Your voice. Strip away the noise. And let me live as one who hears and obeys. In Jesus Name, Amen.

# Reflection Questions

*(Holy Tuesday)*

Let these questions become more than words on paper - turn them into a conversation with Jesus. Ask Him to sit with you as you write. Invite the Holy Spirit to teach you again, to speak truth into your heart, to confront what's unclear, and confirm what's eternal. This isn't just a devotional exercise. It's an invitation to let Holy Tuesday search you. To let the Word expose what's false and establish what's true. To let Jesus, the Teacher, shape your thinking, your living, and your loving. This isn't about performance - it's about presence. It's about letting truth take root and bear fruit. So pray through the questions. Then pray through your answers. And watch how truth transforms everything.

- 1. When was the last time I truly sat still and let Jesus teach me - not through others, but through His Word directly?**

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- 2. Am I more comfortable with Jesus the healer than Jesus the truth-teller?**

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**3. Which of Jesus' teachings from this day confronts me the most - His parables, His rebukes, His end-time words, or His command to love?**

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**4. Where in my life has religion or routine taken the place of real obedience?**

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**5. If Jesus were to walk into my "court" today, what truth would He want me to hear most clearly?**

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# REST WITH HIM

## IN THE HOME OF FRIENDSHIP

*(Holy Wednesday)*

### **Scriptural Accounts:**

Matthew 21:17, Matthew 26:6 - 13, Mark 14:3 - 9, Luke 21:37, John 12:1 - 8

After the some very intense public moments in the temple on Monday and Tuesday, Jesus retreats. He withdraws to Bethany, the village just over the Mount of Olives, to rest in a home where He is known, loved, and welcomed. Bethany wasn't random. It was the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus - dear friends of Jesus. He had wept there. He had dined there. He had raised the dead there. Bethany was sacred because it was safe. It was a home of friendship, of intimacy, and of genuine love.

“And He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there.”

*- Matthew 21:17*

“And in the daytime He was teaching in the temple, but at night He went out and stayed on the mountain called Olivet.”

*- Luke 21:37*

This moment of rest is a quiet pause before the storm of betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion. It is here, on this midweek day of Holy Week, that we are invited to rest with Him, to quiet ourselves in friendship and reflection. But the peace of Bethany is

layered with so much meaning. As Jesus reclines at the table, something sacred unfolds.

## **An Alabaster Offering: Extravagant Worship**

“Now when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table.”

**- *Matthew 26:6 - 7***

John 12 gives us more detail. The woman is Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. She breaks open a flask of very costly oil - pure spikenard, a fragrance worth a year's wages - and anoints Jesus in an act of prophetic worship. Her devotion is misunderstood by others at the table. The disciples, especially Judas, question her actions:

“‘Why this waste?’ they said. ‘This could have been sold for much and given to the poor.’”

**- *Matthew 26:8 - 9***

But Jesus defends her:

“Why do you trouble the woman? She has done a good work for Me... For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial.”

**- *Matthew 26:10,12***

Mary's offering wasn't just expensive, it was prophetic. It was an act of revelation. She wasn't honoring Jesus merely for what He had done, she was acknowledging who He was. This becomes the place where someone finally recognizes His worth - not just His works. Jesus, in his defense of her is saying to the others in the house, “You don't get it. If you understood - I'm worthy of this. I'm actually worthy of so much more.” And because of this, Jesus said that her act would be told wherever the Gospel is preached.

## **Betrayal in the Background: Judas Sells the Savior**

While Mary is pouring out what is most precious, Judas is plotting to sell what is holy. Look at this...

“Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, ‘What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?’ And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.”

**- *Matthew 26:14 - 15***

The betrayal of Jesus, what begins to unfold on Wednesday, is not accidental. It is deliberate, premeditated, and done by one who shared His table, who was trusted, who walked closely beside Him. And yet - Jesus allows it.

## **Understanding the Timeline: Why We Reflect on Both**

Some may wonder: *Did Mary’s anointing and Judas’ betrayal actually happen on the same day?* The answer is: not exactly.

According to John 12:1, the breaking of the alabaster box likely took place six days before the crucifixion, probably the Saturday before Palm Sunday.

However, the Gospel writers - especially Matthew and Mark - place the story of Mary’s act of worship alongside Judas’ betrayal not necessarily for the sake of strict chronology, but to help us understand a thematic tension.

While one is pouring out her devotion, the other is scheming in deception. Devotion and betrayal are both in the room. Mary is remembered. Judas is revealed.

In many traditions, Holy Wednesday becomes a space to reflect on both:

- The sacred love that values Jesus above all (Mary),
- And the selfish ambition that would trade Him away for silver (Judas).

This is not accidental. The contrast is the point.

Mary shows us what it means to respond to Jesus with abandon, to pour out what is costly because we recognize His worth. Judas shows us how someone can walk with

Jesus, hear His words, and still harden their heart - choosing profit over presence, control over surrender.

This is the tension of Holy Wednesday:

- Jesus is being anointed in love and sold in secret.
- Worship and betrayal are unfolding in parallel.

And here's what's most sobering: both hearts shared the same table. It's wild when you really think about it but the contrast is greatly sobering.

## Devotional Thought

We live in a world that glorifies productivity, but Holy Wednesday invites us to pause and pour, and it calls us into the tension of devotion and deception. While Mary is pouring out everything in worship, Judas is plotting everything in betrayal. Both hearts sat at the same table. And Jesus washed them both.

As we reflect today, the invitation is deeply personal:

- Am I pouring out my heart like Mary? Or am I holding on to control like Judas?
- Am I posturing for proximity, while resisting true surrender?

This is the moment to rest with Him in the place of friendship, and also to let the Holy Spirit search your heart. Let Him reveal the motives you hide. Not to shame you, but to redeem you. In the chaos of life, He invites you to make room, not to do more, but just to be with Him. To love Him not just as Savior and King, but as Friend and Lord. Let today be the day you break the flask. Let it be the day you welcome Him home - not just as a leader to follow, **but as a Friend to honor.**

## Prayer

Jesus, You're not just worthy of my service, you're worthy of my love. Teach me to slow down, to clear the noise, and to make space for you. Let my heart become a Bethany - a place where you are welcomed, known, and honored. I don't want to follow you at a distance; I want to sit close, where friendship lives.

Help me not to withhold what is costly. Show me where I've been calculating instead of worshiping, protecting instead of pouring. I don't want to be someone who's near to you in proximity but far from You in surrender. Search my heart. Reveal any places where I've chosen control over communion.

Give me the grace to break the alabaster box of my heart and to pour what I've been saving and release what I've been managing. Let my life become a fragrance that fills the room, not out of pressure or performance, but from a place of friendship and deep devotion. Thank You for being the kind of King who rests in homes like mine, who receives my worship, and who honors even the quietest offering of the heart. In Jesus Name, Amen.

# Reflection Questions

*(Holy Wednesday)*

Let these questions become more than words on paper - turn them into a conversation with Jesus. Ask Him to sit with you as you write. Invite the Holy Spirit to settle your soul, quiet the noise, and draw you into the stillness of His presence. This isn't just a devotional exercise. It's an invitation to let Holy Wednesday become a sacred pause. To let the Friend of your soul recline at your table, and receive what you've been saving just for Him. This isn't about performance - it's about presence. It's about slowing down long enough to pour out your love. So pray through the questions. Then pray through your answers.

- 1. Where in my life do I need to slow down and make room for Jesus - not just as Lord, but as friend?**

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- 2. What am I holding onto that He may be asking me to pour out in worship? What does "breaking the flask" look like in my life?**

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**3. Do I ever withhold affection or devotion out of fear of what others might think - like Judas did?**

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**4. Am I creating space in my life where Jesus can rest - not just be served, but be welcomed? What would that space look like practically?**

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**5. How is Jesus inviting me into deeper friendship? What could that look like this week?**

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# SUP WITH HIM

IN THE COVENANT OF LOVE

*(Maundy Thursday)*

## Scriptural Accounts:

John 13:1 - 38, John 14 - 17, Luke 22:7 - 38, Matthew 26:17 - 30, Mark 14:12 - 26

As we come to Thursday of Holy Week, we enter into one of the most sacred, layered moments in all of Scripture. In the church calendar, it's called Maundy Thursday - a word taken from the Latin "*mandatum*", meaning command, drawn from Jesus' words in **John 13:34**:

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another;  
as I have loved you, that you also love one another."*

This is not just the day before the cross, it's a day of deep inner work. Not only is Jesus preparing for the cross but he takes the time to prepare His people to carry His heart. On this one night, He washes feet, institutes the New Covenant, and exposes betrayal. And He does it all in love.

John 13 opens with this moment:

*"Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come...  
having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end."*

**- John 13:1**

Jesus knew. He knew the time had come. He knew Judas was about to betray Him. He knew Peter was about to deny Him. He knew suffering was ahead. And still - He

got up and served. He rises from supper, lays aside His garments, and takes a towel. He pours water into a basin and begins to wash the feet of His disciples, all of them, even Judas. This wasn't just a nice gesture - this was divine humility. He knew exactly what was about to happen. And still, He washed the feet of the one who would betray Him.

When He gets to Peter, Peter resists: *“Lord, do You have to wash my feet?”* Jesus responds: *“What I’m doing, you don’t understand right now - but you will know soon.”* Peter says, *“You will never wash my feet.”* And Jesus answers him: *“If I don’t wash you, you have no part with Me.”* That phrase hits differently when you realize He was trying to teach them something. It wasn't about hygiene - it was about heart posture. *“If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”*

This was an invitation into radical humility, forgiveness, and servanthood. Jesus was preparing them for what was about to happen by showing them how to love when betrayal is in the room. That's what it means to sup with Him in the covenant of love. He was exemplifying for them and for us, how we respond when people do us wrong. I mean can you imagine, Sold his teacher and friend for a bag of silver...if it happened to Jesus, SURELY it could happen to you and you've got to be prepared to handle it well, to respond in the way exemplified by JESUS.

## **He Shares the Table**

After washing, Jesus shares one last passover meal with His disciples. We call it the Last Supper, but really - it would become the first table of the New Covenant.

“Then He said to them, ‘With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.’”

**- Luke 22:15**

I love that line: *“With fervent desire I have desired...”* Jesus wasn't just checking off a ritual. He longed for this moment with them to give His body before it's beaten and

pour His heart before it's pierced. He in this moment transforms the Passover Feast by completing it (symbolic of the old) and instituting the NEW covenant in His Blood.

“And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.”” - **Luke 22:19-20**

What once remembered deliverance from Egypt, now remembers deliverance from the bondage of sin and death, through the cross. Receiving what some call “The Lord’s Table” or “Communion” is not just a ritual, it’s a reminder that we are a covenant people, brought in by His sacrifice, and called to love like He loved. This is the place where we are reminded of the great cost of our communion with Him.

## **He Confronts Betrayal**

But the meal wasn’t free of tension. Jesus, troubled in spirit, says:

*“One of you will betray Me.”*  
- **John 13:21**

This line always gets me:

*“The disciples looked at one another, doubting of whom He spoke.”*  
- **John 13:22**

They didn’t say, “It’s definitely Judas.” They asked, “*Is it me?*” *nJesus didn’t expose Judas to shame him, but rather I believe He revealed it to awaken the table if you will.*” Sometimes exposure comes not to destroy us, but to give us the chance to ask: “*Lord, is it me?*” Jesus was testifying - not just of Judas’ betrayal - but of the reality that any of us are capable of turning away if our hearts aren’t truly surrendered and that introspection, that searching of our own hearts is so key to the journey.

This is the tension of Maundy Thursday: love and betrayal sitting at the same table. Devotion and deception in the same room. A covenant being offered while a conspiracy is unfolding.

## **A Night of Surrender, Love, and Invitation**

Thursday is a day of invitation to inner work. Jesus was showing us how to respond - not just to power or praise - but to pain, fear, and the uncertainty of what's coming next. He shows us:

- How to serve instead of dominate,
- How to love instead of accuse,
- How to pour out, even knowing betrayal is near.

He then ends the night in deep teaching (**John 14 - 16**), and then prays that famous prayer in John 17, which is actually the LONGEST recorded prayer in the gospels - as Jesus lifts His eyes to heaven and prays what we now call the High Priestly Prayer, He says something that almost feels backwards to our instincts:

*“I do not pray that You should take them out of the world,  
but that You should keep them from the evil one.”*

**- John 17:15**

This is striking - because most of us, when life gets hard, when betrayal is thick, when the cross is looming, we want out. We pray for escape. For breakthrough. For rescue - and not just when its hard but in other places in scripture we learn that the closer we grow to Jesus, that Maranatha cry is naturally develops in our Hearts... but Jesus doesn't ask the Father to take His people out of the world. He asks that we would be kept in it. Preserved. Guarded. Sealed.

He's not asking for separation. He's asking for sanctification in the middle of it all. This is what makes Holy Week so powerful. It's not just about Jesus dying and rising again - it's about what His death and resurrection makes possible for us who are still

here. We now carry resurrection life, not in some distant realm - but right in the middle of a broken, dark, chaotic world. Right where pain and betrayal still exist.

Jesus doesn't pray that we'd be removed from the world because there is purpose in our remaining. There is glory He wants to reveal through us, not just around us. And so He prays:

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”

**- John 17:17 - 18**

That's Holy Week. That's resurrection life. Not just that we're saved - but that we're sent. Not just that we're delivered - but that we're devoted to a purpose. Not just that we're cleansed - but that we're called to walk it out in a world that still needs light.

So yes, Jesus is thinking about us - even as He's preparing to bleed for us. He's not just preparing a cross - He's preparing a people. He's not just making a way out of sin - He's praying us into mission and He knows we can't fulfill that if we're removed from the tension. So He doesn't pray us out - He prays us through. That's resurrection power: not the removal of struggle, but the presence of God that keeps us in it!

## **Devotional Thought**

Jesus didn't just give His body on the cross - He gave it first at the table. He poured out His heart before He poured out His blood. He didn't just invite us to remember His sacrifice - He invited us to receive it. And to live in light of it. He showed us what love looks like: it kneels, it gives, it forgives, it serves. The Upper Room is a mirror for our hearts. It asks us: Will you serve like Him? Will you love like Him? Will you surrender like Him? This isn't just communion - it's covenant. It's not just about the bread and cup - it's about a life laid down in love.

## Prayer

Jesus, thank You for the table. Thank You for not pulling away - even knowing what was coming. You washed dusty feet. You welcomed broken hearts. You served when You could've been served. You gave not just Your body - but Your whole heart.

Thank You for staying - even with betrayal in the room. For loving - to the end. For offering a covenant to people who still don't fully understand what You're offering.

Teach me that kind of love. The kind that kneels. The kind that forgives. The kind that doesn't need recognition, just revelation. Let me live in covenant, not just comfort and convenience. Let me lean in, not just to receive - but to become.

Let this day mark me. Let the weight of the cup and the beauty of the bread stir me again. Search my heart. Show me if there's anything hiding - any pride, any offense, any place I'm trying to posture instead of surrender. Cleanse what's unworthy. And draw me back to Your heart.

You didn't pray for me to be taken out of this world - You prayed I'd be kept in it. So keep me. Keep my mind. Keep my heart. Keep me walking in Your truth, steady in Your love. Give me grace to remain. I want to stay at the table - with clean hands and a tender heart. In Jesus Name, Amen.



# Reflection Questions

*(Maundy Thursday)*

Let these questions become more than words on paper - turn them into a conversation with Jesus. Ask Him to sit with you at the table as you write. Invite the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart like He prepared the room - gently, intentionally, and with love. This isn't just a devotional exercise. It's an invitation to let Maundy Thursday shape you. To let the Servant King wash your feet. To let the Bread of Life feed your soul. To let the cup of covenant stir your heart again. This isn't about performance - it's about presence. It's about receiving what He's still offering, and responding with surrender. So pray through the questions. Then pray through your answers and see what God does.

- 1. What part of Jesus' example at the table speaks to me most deeply - His humility, His love, His sacrifice, or His teaching? Why?**

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- 2. Am I living as someone in covenant with Jesus - or has communion become routine? What might He be inviting me to rediscover?**

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- 3. Is there anything hidden in my heart that needs to be brought into the light before I receive what Jesus offers?**

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- 4. What does it look like for me to wash someone else's feet - not literally, but through service, forgiveness, or sacrificial love?**

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- 5. How can I carry the spirit of the table into my everyday life - at work, in family, in ministry, in conflict?**

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# **PRAY WITH HIM**

## **IN THE GARDEN OF SURRENDER**

*(Gethsemane - Holy Thursday Night)*

### **Scriptural Accounts:**

Matthew 26:36 - 46, Mark 14:32 - 42, Luke 22:39 - 46, John 18:1

After the Last Supper, after the washing of feet, and after revealing the betrayal, Jesus leads His disciples out to a quiet, familiar place: Gethsemane. A grove of olive trees on the Mount of Olives. The name Gethsemane means “oil press.” It was a place where olives were crushed to produce oil - a vivid symbol of the spiritual and emotional crushing Jesus was about to endure.

“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.”

**- Matthew 26:38**

As Jesus brings His disciples to the garden to pray, he leaves the group and he takes a smaller group of them, namely - Peter, James and John with him further into the garden and he tells them as his soul is grieved and beginning to feel the full weight of what is being laid on Him - He says “Watch and PRAY lest you fall into temptation.” The admonishment is that we OVERCOME temptation by PRAYING. I think what is significant here is that Jesus is of course admonishing them to watch for danger and trouble and enemies - sure - but I believe an even greater truth laced into this text is that Jesus is inviting His disciples to WATCH HIM - to watch what he does with his agony, his grief, the weight of sin and temptation and bondage...to watch HOW he

wrestles in prayer until he is brought to that place of submission and surrender. The Scripture says that Jesus only went a stones throw from them to pray. He didn't go far, He was still proximate, still close enough to be seen and heard.

Here, in the darkness of night, the Jesus wrestles with the full weight of what's ahead. His Humanity and His Divinity are in a full on tussle as He brings himself to a place of submission. He knows the cross is coming. He knows betrayal is moments away. And yet He chooses to pray - not with cute polished words, but with honest agony.

“Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me;  
yet not My will, but Yours be done.”

- **Luke 22:42**

Luke tells us Jesus was in such anguish that He sweat drops of blood - this is what some say is a rare but real condition called hematidrosis, linked to extreme emotional distress. He wasn't performing strength. He was praying through weakness. The “cup” He speaks of represents the full wrath of God against sin. It was your sin, my shame, our separation from the Father - and Jesus chose to carry it. This is a powerful picture of what it looks like to come to the end of yourself and bring yourself fully to a place of saying “yes Lord.”

What you have to know is that God is not interested in breaking your will, killing your will or taking your will away. As a Human, God designed you to have a will and volition and as such it is GOOD for you to have it. However, what God does want is our surrendered will. That sometimes can take a lot, to bring us to a point of letting go and trusting HIS. The submitting of ones will to the Lord is THE RESPONSE that JESUS is WORTHY OF. To truly be able to say “*NEVER THE LESS, not my will but YOURS be done*”!

Jesus obedience was costly, and it was won in the garden before it was ever accomplished on the cross. This is where the victory of Calvary began - not with nails, but with “nevertheless.” Though in many ways this can feel like the end, it is

actually the beginning. The reality is that for the born again believer, your sanctification journey doesn't even really BEGIN until you get to that place.

## **The Disciples Were Sleeping for Sorrow**

When Jesus finishes praying through much agony, after being stregthend by the angels to go and die, he returns to find His disciples ASLEEP!

“He found them sleeping, exhausted from sorrow.”

- **Luke 22:45 (NIV)**

Something that I believe is so necessary to point out here is that Jesus disciples weren't asleep simply because they were tired, but rather they were emotionally overwhelmed. Look at the scripture, it says they were EXHAUSTED FROM SORROW. I don't think for most of my walk with Jesus I ever even noticed that until I took the time to sit in the scripture and it HIT ME! The Greek word used here, *lypē* (λύπη), speaks of deep grief and inner turmoil.

They had just heard Jesus say: One of them would betray Him, He was about to suffer and die, Peter would deny Him, And He had spoken about His body being broken and His blood being poured out. Don't just breeze past these things, we have the privilege of reading the end of the book but put yourself in the story and imagine if you were them not REALLY knowing what was to come, your savior and teacher who you have been following and learning from and building with and all of this stuff is just back to back to back transpiring. Like so many of us, they shut down under the weight of confusion and fear. Sometimes sorrow doesn't make you cry - it makes you tired. And the danger in Gethsemane isn't just fear, it's spiritual drowsiness in the midst of a battle.

They were sleeping through the lesson they needed most. That prayer is the place where we DEAL with that turmoil so we can come to place of surrender where Gods plan for our lives wins out. But look at how Jesus responds, He doesn't scold them in

anger. He invites them again: “Watch and pray.” Not to impress Him - but so they’d be strong enough to endure what was coming.

## **The Place of Surrender for Us Too**

Gethsemane is not just a scene to observe - it’s a place to identify. This is where we learn to say “yes” to the Father, even when it costs us comfort, control, and clarity. It’s the quiet place where flesh wrestles with spirit, and where surrender isn’t a concept - it’s a cry. This is the place Jesus invites us to return to - not to perform for Him, but to pray WITH Him.

## **Devotional Thought**

The Garden of Gethsemane shows us that obedience is forged in the secret place. Jesus didn’t fake strength - He wrestled for it. He fell on His face. He cried out to the Father. He bled through surrender. And in that holy moment of agony, He gave Heaven its greatest yes. If Jesus - the sinless Son of God - had to wrestle in prayer to surrender, how much more must we? Let Gethsemane be a sacred reminder: your surrender doesn’t have to be clean, quiet, or quick. It just has to be real. And if you’ll pray through the pressure, grace will meet you there.

## **Prayer**

Jesus, I meet You in the garden tonight. I don’t want to rush past the weight of what You carried. You knelt in agony so I could stand in freedom. You said yes to the Father when everything in You felt the pain of what it would cost. I don’t want to just observe but Lord, let me truly identify with you. Bring me into the moment and let me feel what you feel.

Teach me to pray like You prayed. To surrender even when it hurts. To trust even when I’m tired. And to wrestle through until peace comes. Forgive me for the places I’ve shut down when You invited me to stay awake. Help me watch. Help me pray.

Don't allow my heart to be overwhelmed with the cares of this world and weighted down with all the things that I feel but God bring me to that place where my heart desires YOU above all else, so that my response is to bring it to you until you transform by it.

Let Gethsemane mark me truly. Let it break me. And let it make me more like You. That as Paul said in that I may conformed to your death so that I may attain to the resurrection. In Jesus Name, Amen.

# Reflection Questions

*(Gethsemane - Holy Thursday Night)*

Let these questions become more than words on paper - turn them into a conversation with Jesus. Ask Him to meet you in the garden as you write. Invite the Holy Spirit to search your heart like He searched the sorrowful places of Gethsemane - honestly, gently, and with love. This isn't just a devotional exercise. It's an invitation to let the Garden shape you. To kneel where Jesus knelt. To pray through the pressure. To surrender before the suffering. This isn't about performance - it's about presence. It's not about praying perfectly - it's about staying awake. So pray through the questions. Then pray through your answers

- 1. What part of Jesus' example at the table speaks to me most deeply - His humility, His love, His sacrifice, or His teaching? Why?**

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- 2. Am I living as someone in covenant with Jesus - or has communion become routine? What might He be inviting me to rediscover?**

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**3. Is there anything hidden in my heart that needs to be brought into the light before I receive what Jesus offers?**

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**4. What does it look like for me to wash someone else's feet - not literally, but through service, forgiveness, or sacrificial love?**

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**5. How can I carry the spirit of the table into my everyday life - at work, in family, in ministry, in conflict?**

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# WEEP WITH HIM

## AT THE CROSS OF SUBSTITUTION

*(Good Friday)*

### **Scriptural Accounts:**

Matthew 27:27 - 56, Mark 15:16 - 41, Luke 23:26 - 49, John 19:16 - 37

Isaiah 53, Psalm 22, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 2:20

On Good Friday, we don't rush to resurrection. We stop at the foot of the cross. We take the time to draw near and we weep, we wonder, we remember.

Jesus - beaten, mocked, bloodied - walks the road to Golgotha carrying the instrument of His own execution. Stripped and stretched out, He is nailed to a Roman cross. Above His head, a sign reads "*King of the Jews.*" But few recognize the royalty bleeding before them.

“He was pierced for our transgressions,  
He was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on Him,  
and by His wounds we are healed.”

**- *Isaiah 53:5***

This is substitution. This is the Lamb of God taking our place - not just in theory, but in reality. He stood where we should have stood. He bore what we could not bear.

The punishment, the shame, the wrath of sin - all of it fell on Him so that mercy could fall on us.

“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree...”

- **1 Peter 2:24**

Jesus didn't just die *for* us; He died *instead* of us. Every lash, every nail, every agonizing breath was absorbed in our place. The Innocent One became sin, so the guilty could be made righteous. Everything you've ever carried - every failure, every burden, every scar - was laid upon Him.

“The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

- **Isaiah 53:6**

“God made Him who knew no sin to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

- **2 Corinthians 5:21**

Jesus became what He never was - so you could become what you could never be on your own. He took the wrath we deserved so we could receive the grace we could never earn. The Holy One became cursed, so the cursed could become holy. This isn't just sacrifice - it's **exchange**.

## **He Didn't Just die for Us, He Died AS Us**

He didn't just die *for* us - He died *as* us. This is the holy exchange that defines our redemption: Jesus took our death so we could receive His life. He took on our sin, our shame, and our story so that we could take on His righteousness, His sonship, and His name. He didn't simply cover what we did - He replaced it. The record of our wrongs, the book of our failures, the inherited stains of how we were born - it was all cast into the sea of forgetfulness. And in its place, we received the spotless, eternal life of the Lamb. Now, when we stand before God, the books won't be opened to our

story - they'll be opened to His. And because our names are written in the Book of Life of the Lamb, we are no longer defined by what we've done, but by what He has done. No longer judged by where we've been, but by where He's seated. We are found *in Him* - hidden in His righteousness, clothed in His perfection, and welcomed as beloved children. The old has passed away. Behold, all things have become new.

## **He Saw You**

As Jesus hung on the cross, He was mocked by the crowd, abandoned by His friends, and temporarily separated from the Father as He bore the fullness of sin. But He saw *you*.

“For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross...”

- ***Hebrews 12:2***

You were the joy. You were the reason He stayed. He could have called down angels, but He chose to bleed. He saw your face in full reconciliation to the Father and said, “*It is worth it.*”

## **The Cross Is Where You Die Too**

The cross is not just a historical moment - it's a personal one.

“I have been crucified with Christ...”

- ***Galatians 2:20***

“Our old self was crucified with Him...”

- ***Romans 6:6***

We don't just weep at the cross - we die with Him there. Our pride, our sin, our striving, our old life - it all goes on the altar. Because before we can rise with Him, we must die with Him.

The cross isn't just something to observe - it's something to *Identify with*. If we don't see ourselves on that cross, we'll never truly understand what grace cost, or what it means to walk in resurrection life. We have to ask God to give us revelation of us in His precious bleeding side.

## **Devotional Thought**

There's no shortcut through Friday. No skipping over the suffering. No bypassing the blood. The cross is not something we can rush past - it's where we must stop and see. This is where love bled out. Where mercy poured down. Where wrath collided with grace and sin met its end. It's not just a symbol - it's the sacred intersection where justice was satisfied and redemption was secured. Let the cross wreck you again - not out of guilt, but out of deep, unshakable gratitude. Let it quiet your striving, soften your defenses, and draw you to your knees. Let it remind you that you are fully seen, deeply known, completely forgiven, and endlessly loved... even to death.

## **Prayer**

Jesus, I pause at the foot of Your cross today. I refuse to rush past this moment. I want to feel the weight of what You carried - the depth of the suffering, and the cost of the love that held You there. You bore what was mine. You became what You were not, so I could become who I was always meant to be. Forgive me for the times I've treated grace lightly or forgotten the blood that was shed. Let the cross mark me again. Let it humble me. Let it heal me. I bring You my old life, my sin, and my shame - and I thank You for nailing it to that cross forever. You were pierced so I could be made whole. You were wounded so I could be healed. Thank You, Jesus, for loving me to the end. In Jesus Name, Amen.



# Reflection Questions

*(Good Friday)*

Let these questions become more than words on paper - turn them into a conversation with Jesus. Ask Him to sit with you at the foot of the cross as you write. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you see the Lamb who was slain - not just for the world, but for *you*. This isn't just a devotional exercise. It's an invitation to let Good Friday mark you. To feel the weight of grace. To stare into the eyes of mercy. To see what it cost - and what it covered. This isn't about performance - it's about presence. It's about being still long enough to let the cross speak. So pray through the questions. Then pray through your answers and see what God will do.

- 1. What does it mean to me personally that Jesus bore *my* sin, *my* shame, *my* wounds on the cross?**

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- 2. Is there anything I've been carrying - guilt, fear, regret - that Jesus already paid for but I haven't let go of?**

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**3. What part of my old self is Jesus inviting me to crucify with Him today?**

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**4. How have I viewed the cross in this season - casually, distantly, emotionally, intimately? What needs to shift?**

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**5. What kind of gratitude, surrender, or lifestyle change does the cross call me into today?**

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# WAIT WITH HIM

## IN THE SILENCE OF SATURDAY

*(Holy Saturday)*

### **Scriptural Accounts:**

Matthew 27:57 - 66, Luke 23:50 - 56, John 19:38 - 42,

Isaiah 55:8 - 9, Psalm 88, Luke 24:13 - 21

Good Friday is full of pain. Resurrection Sunday is full of power. But Holy Saturday is full of silence. It's the space in between - the waiting room of redemption if you will. The day when Jesus' body lay lifeless in a borrowed tomb. When heaven didn't thunder and the earth didn't shake. When the disciples didn't preach, didn't heal, didn't gather. They hid. They wept. They waited. And the waiting wasn't peaceful - it was painful. It felt like the end. God felt distant. And hope felt buried.

We know this because of the words spoken by two disoriented disciples walking the road to Emmaus. When the resurrected Jesus met them - unrecognized at first - they confessed what so many hearts still whisper today:

*"We had hoped He was the one to redeem Israel."*

**- Luke 24:21**

*We had hoped.* Hope, past tense. They believed once. They dreamed once. They had expectation - but now it felt foolish. That phrase, "we had hoped," captures the very soul of Holy Saturday. It tells us that Saturday wasn't just quiet - it was devastating.

The Savior they trusted was dead. The redemption they longed for seemed lost. All that remained was confusion and questions - and yet, that space between Good Friday and Resurrection morning is precisely where most of us live.

Holy Saturday represents the in-between. The place between “*It is finished*” and “*He is risen.*” Between promise and fulfillment. Between prayer and breakthrough. It’s what theologians call the “already, not yet” tension of the Kingdom. God has spoken - but we’re still waiting to see it come to pass. And in that space, we can feel like maybe we misunderstood Him. Like maybe the story really is over. But it’s not.

The silence of Saturday doesn’t mean God has stopped moving. His stillness is not His absence. In fact, the tomb is not the end of the story - it’s the **womb** of something new. Hope isn’t buried there - it’s being planted. And just like the seed that must first fall to the ground and die, something is taking root beneath the surface. So if you find yourself in a Saturday season - in the space between what God said and what you see - don’t rush through it. Let the silence form you. Let the tension teach you. Because resurrection is coming. And when it does, you’ll see that God was closer in the quiet than you ever realized.

## **Devotional Thought**

Waiting is one of the hardest things God ever asks us to do. It stretches our faith, exposes our fears, and tests our hope. But it’s often in the waiting that God does His deepest work. Holy Saturday reminds us that silence is not failure, and stillness is not absence. Even Jesus - the Son of God - spent a day in the dark, hidden behind the stone, so we would know we’re not alone in ours.

If you're in a season where the heavens feel quiet... where grief still lingers... where promises feel distant and hope feels buried... then this day is for you. The disciples didn’t know Sunday was coming. All they had was pain and memory. All they could

say was, “We had hoped...” And yet, even in that sorrow, God was already setting resurrection in motion. If you’re in that place - the space between what was and what will be - hold on. Resurrection is coming. But today, we wait.

## **Prayer**

Jesus, thank You for not skipping Saturday. For stepping fully into the silence, the sorrow, and the stillness. When I can’t hear You, help me trust that You’re still near. When I don’t see the answer, remind me that You’re still working.

I give You my waiting. My questions. My confusion. My “we had hoped.” And I choose to trust - not in what I see, but in who You are and who I KNOW you to be. You are the God who works in silence. The God who waits with us. And the God who always finishes what He starts. In Jesus Name, Amen.

# Reflection Questions

*(Holy Saturday)*

Let these questions become more than words on paper - turn them into a conversation with Jesus. Ask Him to wait with you as you write. Invite the Holy Spirit to sit with you in the silence. This isn't just a devotional exercise. It's an invitation to let Holy Saturday shape you. To embrace the pause. To feel the weight of what's not yet resolved. To believe that even in silence, God is still working. This isn't about performance - it's about presence. It's about learning to wait well. So pray through the questions. Then pray through your answers and see what God will do.

- 1. What am I waiting on God for in this season? Where does it feel like nothing is happening?**

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- 2. Where have I silently said, "We had hoped..." like the disciples on the road to Emmaus? What disappointments or delays am I still carrying?**

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**3. How do I typically respond to the silence of God? Do I shut down, panic, distract myself, or draw closer?**

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**4. What would it look like to *wait with Jesus* instead of just waiting on an outcome?**

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**5. Can I trust that God is still working in the dark, even when I don't understand? What truth can I hold onto in this silent season?**

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# **RISE WITH HIM**

## **IN RESURRECTION POWER**

*(Resurrection Sunday)*

### **Scriptural Accounts:**

Matthew 28:1 - 10, Mark 16:1 - 8, Luke 24:1 - 12, John 20:1 - 18

Romans 6:4 - 5, Romans 8:11, Colossians 3:1 - 4

It's Sunday... and guess what? The stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty. Death has been defeated. And the One who was crucified - beaten, pierced, and buried - walks out alive, never to die again. Just as He said. After three days and three nights in the "heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:40), the wrath of God was satisfied, the debt of sin was paid in full, and Jesus - our Redeemer - rose in victory. But He didn't rise quietly or cautiously. He rose triumphantly, stirring up a holy disruption in hell. He snatches the keys of death, hell, and the grave, and rose with all power in His hand!!!

"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said."

**- *Matthew 28:6***

**JUST AS HE SAID!** This wasn't just the revival of a broken body - it was the inauguration of a new creation. He got up out of the grave and gave gifts to men. He was the first fruits of the resurrection and the beauty - resurrection is not just something that happened to Jesus, it's something that now is happening in us and something we have to look forward to.

“If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,  
He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your  
mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

- **Romans 8:11**

That means this isn't just about going to heaven one day, it's about living fully alive right now. Because He lives, you can rise from shame, fear, bondage, and the lies that used to hold you captive. You don't just get to admire the resurrection, you get to live it.

And this changes everything. When Jesus rose from the grave, sin lost its grip, shame lost its voice, fear lost its power, and death lost its sting. The resurrection isn't a sweet ending to a tragic story, it's the explosion of hope that launched a whole new world. It rewrites the story of humanity. It silences the voice of condemnation. It declares that the old is gone and the new has come. And because of that, your past no longer has the final say - Jesus does.

“If we have been united with Him in a death like His,  
we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.”

- **Romans 6:5**

The cross may have marked the end of your sin, but the resurrection marks the beginning of your new identity. You are not who you were. You've been raised with Christ. So live like it. Hope like it. Pray like it. Worship like it. Walk in it. Because Jesus is alive and so are YOU.

## **Resurrected People Live Differently**

To rise with Christ is to live with new eyes. New purpose. New power.  
You're no longer a slave to sin - If you have put faith in Jesus and followed on to know Him, you're a child of resurrection!

“Since you have been raised with Christ,  
set your hearts on things above...”

- ***Colossians 3:1***

You don't live from shame - you live from victory. You don't strive for approval - you live from beloved identity. You don't fear the grave - you live with eternal perspective. The resurrection is not just an event to remember. It's a power to walk in. God doesn't just require us to be holy but he PUTS the ability to do so IN US, He puts the identity to be so IN US, this is afforded to us BECAUSE of the resurrection... Jesus has become the resurrection and the life and it is JESUS who is living in us!

## **Devotional Thought**

The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead now lives in you. Let that settle into your soul. The power that shook the grave, rolled the stone, and breathed life back into the crucified Son of God now dwells inside your mortal body. This is not a distant doctrine or poetic metaphor - it is your present reality. And because of that, your story doesn't have to end where it broke.

“If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,  
He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies  
through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

- ***Romans 8:11***

You may have been buried in addiction, regret, fear, grief, shame, or sin - but if Christ is risen, then you can rise too. Resurrection power isn't just for Jesus - it's for everyone who is in Him. What looked final isn't. What felt dead doesn't have to stay buried. You don't have to keep reliving the trauma of your past or dragging the chains of old identities. The same Spirit that raised Christ now lifts you - out of the grave of your own making, into the freedom of resurrection life.

This is what resurrection power does: It lifts what was laid low, heals what was hopeless, and breathes life into what was lifeless. It restores dignity where shame once ruled. It revives dreams that died in discouragement. It breaks chains that generations before you couldn't break. You don't have to clean yourself up or prove yourself worthy. This isn't about earning it. It's about receiving it. This new life isn't your reward - it's His gift.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.  
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

- **2 Corinthians 5:17**

So rise today. Not in your strength, but in His. Not because you feel ready, but because He is risen and His Spirit now empowers you to live. You are no longer in the grave. You are no longer who you were. You are in Christ - and that changes everything. You may still walk with a limp, still bear scars, still feel the weight of what you've come through - but the grave is behind you, and resurrection is in your lungs.

You are alive because He is alive. And that resurrection power? It's not a one-time event. It's a new way of living.

## **Prayer**

Jesus, You rose - and by grace, I rise with You. Thank You for defeating death, not only in the grave, but in my life. Thank You for carrying my sin to the tomb and leaving it there, buried for good. Thank You for calling my name, just like You called Mary's at the empty tomb, reminding me that I am seen, known, and fully Yours.

Help me to live in the power of Your resurrection - not just on Sunday mornings, but in every ordinary moment. Let resurrection shape the way I think, speak, forgive, and love. Teach me to walk in the freedom You purchased, to stand with confidence in what You've finished, and to move forward with purpose, knowing that Your Spirit

lives within me. Let my life be a living witness that You are not only risen - but that You are alive in me.

Today, I rise. Not in my strength, but in Yours. Not because I deserve it, but because You offered it. I step out of what once held me, and I step fully into the life You died and rose to give. In Jesus Name, Amen.

# Reflection Questions

*(Resurrection Sunday)*

Let these questions become more than words on paper - turn them into a conversation with Jesus. Ask Him to rise in you as you write. Invite the Holy Spirit to bring resurrection power into the places still buried. This isn't just a devotional exercise. It's an invitation to live raised. Pray through the questions. Then pray through your answers and see what God will do.

- 1. What part of my life has felt buried - but is now being called to rise again in Jesus? What has He been resurrecting in me?**

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- 2. How does knowing Jesus is alive shift how I face my past, my future, or my daily life?**

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**3. Where have I been living like I'm still in the grave, when Christ has already brought me out?**

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**4. What does it look like for me to walk in resurrection power today - not just emotionally, but spiritually and practically?**

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**5. How can I help others see and experience the life of Jesus through my own story of resurrection?**

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# **RESPOND TO HIM**

## **WITH A HEART MARKED FOREVER**

*(Your Life's Response)*

### **Scriptural Foundations:**

Philippians 3:10 - 11, 2 Corinthians 5:15, Romans 12:1, Hebrews 10:19 - 23

This is not just a summary - this is the sending. After nine days of walking with Jesus from the streets of Jerusalem to the garden, to the cross, and out of the tomb - we now answer the call to live marked by what we've seen, heard, and received. Holy Week doesn't end with the resurrection. It ends with response.

The resurrection isn't a finish line - it's a starting point. You've been invited into something deeper than religious observance. You've stepped into a story that rewrites your life. Now comes the question: How will you live because of what you've seen?

“And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

**- 2 Corinthians 5:15**

This is your moment to rise with purpose. To respond with your life. To say not just thank You, Jesus - but You can have it all, Jesus. This is truly the only reasonable response - a life laid down, offered in appreciation for who is is.

## **Marked by the Cross. Moved by the Resurrection.**

To respond to Jesus is to surrender. It's to say: "I don't want to go back to normal. I want to live awakened." It's to walk differently. Love differently. Forgive more freely. Serve more boldly. Because once you've walked through Holy Week with open eyes, you can't walk through life the same.

"Therefore... offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God  
this is your true and proper worship."

**- Romans 12:1**

## **Draw Near. Hold Fast. Live Sent.**

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith...  
Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering,  
for He who promised is faithful."

**- Hebrews 10:22 - 23**

This is how we respond:

- **Draw Near** - Keep pressing into His presence. Don't stop at the empty tomb. Run into the upper room. Into the secret place. Into the daily rhythm of communion with Him.
- **Hold Fast** - Stand firm in what you've seen. The enemy will try to cloud it. Culture will try to steal it. Life will try to distract you. But hold on - because He who promised is still faithful.
- **Live Sent** - You've seen too much to stay silent. You've been raised to carry resurrection to others. Don't just reflect on the Gospel - embody it. Don't just carry a cross - carry His heart into the world.

## Devotional Thought

This whole journey has been about *knowing Him* - in His suffering, in His surrender, and in His resurrection. But now, it's about making Him known - through your life. The world doesn't need more casual Christians. It needs people who are marked. People who remember the weight of Friday, the ache of Saturday, and the roar of Sunday - and live every day as if the stone is still rolling. Let your story be one of response. Not obligation, but overflow. Not performance, but presence. Not religious duty, but resurrection life.

## Prayer

Jesus, thank You for inviting me into this sacred journey. For allowing me to walk with You through the road of suffering, the garden of surrender, and the triumph of resurrection. Thank You for not just letting me observe from a distance - but for drawing me close, for showing me Your heart, and for letting Your story shape mine.

Now I offer You my life - not just in word, but in response. I don't want to simply remember Holy Week as a season; I want to live every day marked by it. Marked by the cross that broke the power of sin. Moved by the resurrection that declared death defeated. Made alive by the Spirit who now dwells within me. Let every part of me - my thoughts, my time, my purpose, my relationships - reflect the beauty of what I've just walked through.

Draw me near, Lord, and keep me near. When life gets heavy and hope feels distant, help me hold fast. Remind me of the cross that bore my burdens and the tomb that couldn't hold You. And when You send me, send me full of Your love, grounded in Your truth, and marked by Your mercy. Let my life be more than remembrance. Let it be a response. In Jesus Name, Amen.

# Reflection Questions

*(Your Life's Response)*

Let these questions become more than words on paper - turn them into a conversation with Jesus. This isn't just the end of a devotional. It's the beginning of a new way of walking. Pray through the questions. Then pray through your answers and see what God will do.

- 1. How has this Holy Week journey changed the way I see Jesus?  
What has become more real to me about His heart?**

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- 2. What do I feel Jesus is asking me to surrender, shift, or step into now that this journey has come to an end?**

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- 3. What area of my life needs to reflect the resurrection more clearly?  
How can I respond with boldness and obedience?**

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- 4. What practical rhythms will help me “draw near” to Jesus beyond  
this devotional? How can I make space for His presence daily?**

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- 5. Who needs to experience the Jesus I’ve encountered this week -  
and how can I live sent toward them with love and intentionality?**

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