



EASTER

DEVOTIONAL 2020

DAY I: THE SERVANT

"When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

John 13:12-17

Jesus continually gave his life to serve others. During his ministry, Jesus gave his time and attention to the disciples, to the sick, to the lost and demonstrated unconditional love. He lived as a servant leader to those who followed him (Mark 10:45).

Jesus taught that servant leaders lead well because they do not try to seek their own good, but honor those they lead (Philippians 2:3-4). Serving with the correct perspective, with humility, reminds us of God's sovereignty over our lives. When Jesus—who is our master and who sends us—humbly served in this way, He set the ultimate example for how we should live. Jesus came as a servant leader, to give his life for others, see their needs met, and save those who put their trust in Him.

Reflect today on the example Christ has given. He devoted his life to serve his disciples to prepare them to continue the mission that he began. How can you love and serve those in your life today as a servant leader? What is one thing you can do to serve someone in your life today?

NOTES



MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020

DAY 2: THE SOURCE

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

John 15:5-8

Jesus is the source of all good things in our lives. As we remain in Him, and He in us, good things begin to overflow from our lives. This is a spiritual, supernatural truth that should cause both joy and inspiration to seek God with all of our heart!

The Bible explains this in many ways: That as good is stored up in us, good comes from our lives (Matthew 12:35); that real love grows from a seed of righteousness (Hosea 10:12); that as we receive God's truth He produces blessing for us (Hebrews 6:7-8); that as we depend on the Holy Spirit in us we experience joy, peace, patience, kindness, and more amazing patterns of godly character (Galatians 5:22-25).

This is the promised blessing of a life focused on Jesus; a life surrendered to His ways. As we choose to remain in Jesus, by His Spirit in us, we will experience spiritual abundance that will not only be a significant blessing to us, but also to others around us.

What are a couple of small things you could do daily to cultivate your relationship with Jesus and His word in your life? How will you allow Jesus to change the patterns in your life to fit the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-25? And how will you pass this along to others 'proving to be His disciple' as mentioned in John 15:8?

NOTES



TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020

DAY 3: THE TESTIMONY

"I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours... My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

John 17:9, 15-23

Jesus did not pray that believers would be secluded and taken out of the world, but to be strengthened and protected while in it. He prayed that when temptations and desires for things other than God come up, believers would run to Him and His Word for strength, while continuing to live in a way that displays God to unbelievers. This testimony, our lives displaying God's strength, is one of the best ways to show His sovereignty and the purpose of Christ's death and resurrection.

Jesus prayed for His disciples, but He also had the heart and the vision to pray beyond them. He prayed for all those who would come to faith through their testimonies. He prayed for us. He prayed for you. And He pray for those you will share this testimony with. As God strengthens you, share with others how He is working through your life, boldly tell others about how He has saved you!

Take a moment to reflect on what it means to be set apart for God's service and mission. Who in your life right now needs to know about the love and forgiveness of Christ? Who can you invite to Easter at Home with Chico Community Church to hear about God's love?

NOTES



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020

DAY 4: THE LAST SUPPER

"When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.' After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, 'Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.'

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.'"

Luke 22:14-20

This was a passionate moment for Jesus. He had arrived at the central reason why He came to earth: to institute a new covenant, a promise, between God and man, based on His own sacrifice.

As we eat the bread, we remember how Jesus was broken, pierced, and beaten for our redemption. As we drink the cup, we remember that His blood, His life was poured out on the cross for us. He took our place and endured the penalty of our sin to make us right with God. When God looks at those who put their faith in Jesus, He sees the righteousness of Jesus; He no longer sees sin, but His children redeemed by Christ. We can now have fellowship with Him because Jesus' righteousness has reconciled us with God.

Take a moment and ask yourself if you have truly put your trust in Jesus. Do you live in a way that shows that Jesus is Lord of your life? Are you taking time each day to reflect on and live out of the righteousness of Jesus? Write down how you can continue to grow in your daily remembrance of God.

NOTES



THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2020

DAY 5: THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

"Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.'

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.'

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. 'Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?' he asked Peter. 'Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.'

He went away a second time and prayed, 'My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.'

When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!'"

Matthew 26:36-46



FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020

DAY 5: THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

What Jesus experienced in the Garden of Gethsemane is a beautiful picture of pressure, power, and purpose. These are the final moments before Jesus would be facing betrayal, torture, and death on a cross. As Jesus considers what lies ahead, knowing that He must bear the full weight and burden of our sin, face God's wrath, and experience separation from God, He pleases with the father: "Take this cup from me."

Jesus was willing to wrestle with God, asking God to take the situation from Him; to give Him a different way through the difficulty. But as He wrestled with God, He chose to submit Himself to God and remained confident that God's way would be best, saying "not my will but your will be done." And in His submission to God's plan, by the power of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 9:14), He walked courageously forward into God's will for Him, even in the face of danger, even though He wanted there to be another way.

When Jesus saw trial and torture coming, He also saw triumph! He saw a glorious victory that would result in God's love being poured out to the world. He saw the purpose of the Father, better than He would have planned for Himself in that moment, and He chose to submit to God's plan and power knowing that eternal purpose was on the other side of this moment of pressure.

Next time you face pressure, will you choose to trust God's plan, depend on His power, and walk forward into His purpose? Will you choose to trust that God is working all things for good in better ways than you could dream of, for hopeful purposes, even when you have a hard time seeing it?

See also: Hebrews 5:7-9, Romans 8:28, Ephesians 3:20, Jeremiah 29:11, Isaiah 43:19

NOTES



FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020

DAY 6: THE RESURRECTION

"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you.' So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples."

Matthew 28:1-8

When both Marys arrived at the tomb, they heard something they did not expect to hear; Jesus was no longer dead, already headed back to town, and they would soon see Him again! Wouldn't that be a huge shock? Jesus had defeated the grave! He overcame death and was now alive! And Jesus is alive today! As followers of Christ, we have so much to celebrate!

We can celebrate that Jesus defeated death and was risen not just to life again, but to eternal life.

We can celebrate that fear no longer is master over us.

We can celebrate that eternal joy is ours through fellowship with Christ.

We can celebrate that as followers of Jesus, through Christ, we have already defeated death and will one day live forever in eternity with God.

We can celebrate that God has equipped us to share what Jesus did on the cross with the whole world.

As we look forward to celebrating Easter tomorrow, take a moment right now and give thanks to God for all that you have to celebrate.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2020