

A decorative orange frame surrounds the central text. It consists of multiple concentric lines with various patterns: solid lines, dashed lines, and dotted lines. At each of the four corners, there is a circular icon: a cross, a sunrise, a pair of hands in prayer, and an open book.

# MORE LIKE JESUS

A decorative orange frame surrounds the text at the bottom. It consists of multiple concentric lines with various patterns: solid lines, dashed lines, and dotted lines.

A 40 DAY DEVOTIONAL  
JOURNEY TO EASTER

# Welcome

The period of time that leads to Easter is called Lent. It begins on Ash Wednesday (March 6 this year) and ends on Easter Sunday. “Advent” is the season that brings us to Christmas, “Lent” is the season that leads to Easter.

If you’re math minded, you may notice that there are more than 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. That’s because Sundays aren’t included in the Lent season. Lent is usually focused on repentance, confession, and facing the more difficult aspects of our lives. Sundays during Lent are “little Easters” where we can look towards resurrection hope and joy!

This is why if you’ve ‘given something up’ for Lent, you’re technically allowed to have it on Sundays. You can thank me later for telling you that.

We think that worshipping together is the best way we can celebrate those “little Easters” which is why this devotional doesn’t provide content on Sundays. Instead, we point you towards our weekend worship service.

I Pray that the Holy Spirit would use your practice of daily reading and prayer over the next 40(ish) days to make you more like Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit!

-Tyler Fuller, Missions Pastor

**More Like Jesus - Journey Towards Easter**

# Wednesday, March 6

## Road To Freedom

**There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus, for the power of the life-giving Spirit freed you through Jesus Christ from the power of sin that leads to death.**

**Romans 8:1**

Like Saul on the road to Damascus,  
With life's true meaning moving past us,  
We're on a crooked path that leads to death,  
With murderous grumbling on our breath.  
Self-righteous defined by where we've been,  
Bags packed with past and present sin.  
It's hard to steer past all the damage,  
So loaded down with all our baggage.  
Can't find the way, but in hot pursuit  
Of someone to blame or persecute.  
Seeking prisoners to claim a victory,  
All the while living contradictory  
To what we've been taught and learned as true.  
Sidetracked, but convinced of what we do.  
So caught up in judgement and in fear--  
Hours become days become weeks become years.  
We keep fooling ourselves, not living in truth.  
Of self-deception, we're living proof.  
Then we find ourselves lost, but not alone.  
As in labor, all creation groans.  
Waiting for freedom from daily decay,  
When God intervenes to save the day.  
Like a flash of heavenly light,  
Knocked to our knees by loving might.  
Left speechless, in awe of this saving hour.  
Left sightless, struck by wondrous power.  
Happy to be led by faithful friends,  
To healing waiting at journey's end.  
Our appetite for revenge has past,  
No longer thirsty for what doesn't last.  
Hands upon us, and to our surprise,  
Something like scales fall from our eyes.  
Now fully redeemed, restored to sight.  
Filled with His Spirit, wrongs made right.  
Baptized clean from condemning strife,  
Strengthened by the bread of life.  
Receiving grace, we find his peace.  
Our hearts alight, our joy's increased.  
We were so blind but now we see...  
Through Jesus Christ, we've been set free.

**Heavenly Father, thank you for Jesus and the power of your Holy Spirit to turn my blindness to sight, my bondage to freedom and my condemnation to salvation. Amen**

**- Kelly Gurney -**

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# Thursday, March 7

## The Journey

**Go in peace. Your journey has the LORD's approval. Judges 18:6**

I've spent most of my life waiting to get somewhere else. But each time I got there, thinking all my dreams would come true, I found myself still longing. I thought that life would begin and be wonderful as soon as I arrived at this mystery location, the pinnacle of my existence. And every time I arrived at what I thought THAT was, I looked around and realized this new place was just as disappointing as the old.

The mystery of this whole undertaking actually lies in the journey, not the destination. The glory and the gore, the magic and the mundane, the adventure and action...it all lies in the path along the way, not in the final product. The struggle along the way IS the story of our life. The ways that we get there and what we do along the way, the here, NOT the "somewhere else"...that's where the good stuff is found.

Lent is a time that we pause and recognize the glory of the journey. We often want to rush ahead to the beauty of Easter. To the resurrection and the light; triumph and power! But we miss something essential if we skip the process that it took to get to Easter. There's a whole journey that our Lord took on the road to Calvary that is filled with community and loneliness; success and failure; darkness and light. Without those things, we can certainly understand and celebrate Easter. But WITH those things the destination of Easter becomes deeper, brighter, truer.

**God, as we embark on this journey to Easter, allow us to pause along the way to enjoy the process, to savor the moments, and to find peace in the struggle.**

- Carrie Burnett -

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# Friday, March 8

## Making All Things New

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:  
The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17**

My favorite hobby, since as early as I can remember, has been woodworking. Restoring or refinishing old furniture not only gives me a lot of satisfaction but also affords me time to meditate as the process takes shape. While working on a chest for a friend, the thought kept returning that we in many ways are like that piece of furniture. In the beginning we were all new and adored. As time passes with many years of use, neglect, and abuse, we like that chest lose the glow we once had. As I stripped away the old finish and scraped and sanded, the beauty of the original grain began to come through. As the new stain and varnish was applied, more and more of the original beauty came back.

My thoughts turn to Christ and His church. We all, through the trials of life, get worn and battered, sometimes by our own choices and sometimes by others. But when we turn to Christ and the community of fellow Christians, we too can be restored. Crosspoint offered me that restoration through the ministry of Celebrate Recovery. In that program no matter the hurt, habit or hang-up, one finds a fellowship that helps us strip away the old painful past and restore Christ's image in us.

**Heavenly father, we gratefully thank you  
for your restoration in Christ. Amen.**

- Stan Justice -

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# Saturday, March 9

## Tarnished Silver

**But with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 1 Peter 1:19**

I'm a Southern girl who loves silver and monogramming. When I got married it was still popular to give silver trays, pitchers, and fine china as gifts. It's never been used, but our dining room graces a large gaudy serving tray given by my in-laws. It hangs like a treasured photo. Unlike many southern women, I don't mind a tarnished piece because it represents the authenticity of sterling. I procrastinate, but every few years I spend an hour rubbing and scrubbing every little curve and crack with a soft brush and sponge. Even then, dark clouds remain in the creases after a soapy wash. It's strong-willed determination, but I dig the sponge back into the polishing cream. Even with doubled scrubbing time, it will never be as blemish free as the day I opened the package. It doesn't take long before the shine fades, and the graying returns.

The word "tarnish" got me thinking after spending an hour recently polishing the tray. Sin is like tarnished silver – it slowly encompasses God's beautiful creation. The blemishes will always be deep down in the creases of our sinful natures, but daily communion with God will prevent excessive tarnish so pure authenticity will shine for HIM. Jesus was, is, and will be the only tarnish-free one to walk on earth. The perfect lamb slain for you and me.

**Dear God, Your Living Word teaches from the beginning how we needed a Savior to rescue our tarnished souls. Open our eyes to reveal valuable lessons in everything we do and see.  
In Your Name, Amen.**

- Rose Marie Martin -

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# Sunday, March 10

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# Monday, March 11

## What is your Purpose?

**In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16**

You've heard it before; everyone has a purpose. Jesus had a purpose; to die on the cross for our sins so that we can be forgiven. When you think about Jesus and the cross, His was the ultimate mission, the ultimate sacrifice. We can never do anything like that—we aren't God. But we do have a purpose and role in the Kingdom of God: to be the hands and feet of Jesus and show others God so that they, too, can believe.

We often feel like what we do doesn't matter much in the grand scheme of things. However, you can't measure purpose by size. God gave you your purpose and he knows exactly what it is. I can assure you, your purpose is not unimportant. When you leave your old life behind and put God above all, it will show. When you follow God's will, His light shines bright through you. Someone will notice, and their perspective may change. That small moment may be the seed that blooms into a relationship with Jesus.

**Father God, I pray that your light shines through me so that others can know you. Amen.**

**- April Barger -**

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# Tuesday, March 12

## Christ Offers Himself - Life!

### I am ...the way, the truth and the life. John 14:6

What blessed gifts we come to possess through the resurrection of our Savior. Forgiveness. Peace. Joy. Purpose. Belonging and community. It is beyond anything we ever dared to hope for! Yet there is another gift that is far greater than all of these: that is the gift of Christ Himself.

Jesus Christ wants so much more than mere friendship with you and me. He lived and died as a human so that we could become partakers in His life. A Life defined by purity, goodness, justice, and Godliness. A life characterized by affectionate love, overflowing joy, generous kindnesses and still more....

His life is the passion behind the Word(s) we study. The zeal in the praises we sing. The comfort, affection and understanding by which we warmly embrace one another. The dedication that moves us to serve others.

This is the life Christ wants for us, the life he offers us. It doesn't matter how much money we have. It doesn't matter what we do for a living, or even what our skills and gifts are. It does not matter if we're beautiful or smart. It makes no difference if we're able bodied. Every sort of human mind, on every scale and spectrum, is invited to relationship. His desire is for all to embrace and know Him.

Yes, let us be diligent in mining the depths of truth and knowledge his Word holds. Let us be earnest in our efforts to live a Godly life. But, in these most fervent endeavors may we never forget that it is, above all things, life with Jesus that our Savior died to provide.

**Eternal Father, thank you for your life. May I never neglect to remember what it cost for me to lay claim to it. And from its abundance, may I be quick to share with the world around me the One Who gives life as it is truly meant to be known.**

- Annie Pearson -

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# Wednesday, March 13

## Hold My Hand

**Though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand. Psalm 37:24**

Every time I'm at church, I watch parents struggle to direct their children to and from the buildings and the parking lots. I know what it feels like, since Chuck and I have dealt with the same issue with our grandchild.

Like "herding cats," we try to maneuver the children in the right direction. More importantly, we want to protect them from being hit by a car. We know the dangers, the risks, and the facts about how these accidents happen. But our children are oblivious to these dangers. When they're small, we can get them to hold our hands and thus protect them. But eventually, they'll resist our hands to fight for independence. It's frightening for us adults to let them go knowing they're vulnerable to danger.

The Bible has over 1000 references to hands. God's hands are mentioned in half of them, representing His blessing, His healing, His control, His creation, His possession, His power, His sustaining and His protection. Many times in Psalms, David pleaded with God to uphold him with his right hand for protection.

In Acts 9:8, after Saul was blinded, he was led "by the hand" to Damascus. Why? 1) Because he couldn't see where he was going, 2) he didn't know where to go, 3) he couldn't see danger along the way.

In the same way, we also need to be led by God's hand. Only He knows where we need to go, how to get there, and what dangers we might face on the way. Shouldn't we, like David, seek God's hand to lead and protect us?

**Lord, please hold my hand and lead me.**

**- Marilyn Turk -**

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# Thursday, March 14

## A Blinding “WOW GOD” Experience

**He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.” he replied. Acts 9:45**

To say that Saul “walked away from the faith” would be an understatement. Saul was on a mission to eliminate anyone who had anything to do with Jesus. Sure, he had heard of the miracles and the almighty power of God’s son, but for whatever reason, that wasn’t enough to get him on the right path. So, what did God have to do? He came and met Saul right where he was with blinding light, so that in the end he would know first hand the power of God’s son and tell everyone about it.

In what ways has God tried to get your attention lately? You know of the signs and wonders that come from Him, but sometimes we get so consumed in our own lives, it takes a blinding “WOW GOD” moment to bring us to our knees and remember that He is God and we are not. Take time out each day to recognize and appreciate the power of God in your life. It helps you stay connected, focused and grateful.

**Thank you, Lord, for your power in my life. Help me to stay aware of your presence in every moment, so that I may tell of your love daily. In Jesus name, Amen.**

**-Shareese Warfel -**

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# Friday, March 15

## No More Fear

**Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you”. Isaiah 35:4**

**The fear of human opinion disables; trusting God protects you from that. Proverbs 29:25**

Sometimes we allow fear to creep into our minds, to control us and overrun our thoughts. Fear of failing, fear of what others think, fear of the future. I've recently been struggling with the fear of how others see me during worship. Am I too “over the top” too loud or emotional? What my Lord has revealed to me is that we are his creation, and he knew from our first breath how we would feel and who we would be. He is our author and maker and he doesn't make mistakes. 2 Tim 1:7 says he did not give us a spirit of fear “but one of power, of love and of self-discipline.” So stand courageous! Choose to be abnormal; choose to worship with your all and share your God story with everyone you meet. We are only here for a very short time and we must step out in faith and be BOLD for our savior!

**Lord, my gracious father I am so grateful you saved me and pulled me from my darkness into your light. Help me to be bold for you; to trust you for the strength to not fear others view of me and to always WORSHIP you!**

**-Stephanie Wedel -**

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# Saturday, March 16

## Get Over Yourself

**Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.” Matthew 16:24-25**

When people use the phrase “get over yourself,” it’s often received as a negative statement. In this verse however, it is actually the best thing you could ever do for yourself. Coming to the realization that we do not have all the answers, and that our way isn’t the best way can be humbling and life-giving all at the same time. Holding on to old ways and expecting different results simply cannot work. In Matthew 16:25, Jesus promises us a better life, if we are willing to give up the one we created for ourselves. Today take Jesus up on his promise, and GET OVER YOURSELF, and take on a NEW SELF IN CHRIST.

**Father, today I choose to get over my own way of doing life,  
in exchange for your way of truly living it.  
I know your ways are higher,  
and your thoughts are greater than mine,  
so I surrender all that I am  
and take on all that you would have for me and my family.  
In Jesus name, amen.**

**- Shareese Warfel -**

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# Sunday, March 17

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# Monday, March 18

## The Jesus Prayer

### Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me! Luke 18:38

I am a pastor, so it may be surprising that faith has never come easy for me. I'm all for love, justice, commitment, and discipline. But when it comes to believing God will do things that I don't usually see, I struggle.

For this reason, I have a tough time with 'conversational prayer.' If all I do is 'talk to God' it's very hard for me to get out of my own head. My prayers become more a reflection of my mental and emotional state, than a tool for connecting to God who is above and outside those things. The tool that has helped me overcome this is using 'formula prayers'.

Bear with me, as we take a short trip outside of protestant circles. You're already reading a Lent devotional, so it shouldn't be that tough. If I want to move myself from a self-focus, rational, mostly frustrating prayer—to a true connection with God—I do a breathing exercise.

I take very slow, deliberate breaths in, then I release them very slowly. While I breathe, I repeat a prayer that Orthodox and Catholic Christians have loved for a very long time. I do this over and over. For a long time. Until I'm done.

It's not magic, but it's also not the sort of meaningless repetition Jesus warned of. Try it with me.

*(Slow breath in)* **Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God**  
*(Slow breath out)* **Have Mercy on Me a Sinner**  
*(Repeat, until you're done).*

- Tyler Fuller -

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# Tuesday, March 19

## Fervent Prayer

**The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.  
James 5:16**

My youngest daughter's pregnancy was normal. Then, after eight months and three weeks, the baby's kicking stopped. She went to her doctor.

"Oh, you're just a new mother, anxious and worried about nothing."

Two weeks later, she went back to her doctor.

"You're just a bit late, no worries."

"No, doctor. Something is wrong, terribly wrong. My baby has not kicked in two weeks."

She underwent a C-section on the same day. Emory was suffering a full-fledged stroke when he came out.

My oldest daughter, a nurse, had gone to Colorado to be with her sister.

My telephone rang at eight-ish. "Dad, are you sitting down?"

I was standing at the sink but lied and told her I was sitting. She gave me the bad news. Emory had been flown to a specialty hospital. My daughter would not see her baby for three weeks.

In my Life Group at Crosspoint, I broke down and sobbed uncontrollably as I told my friends about my grandson.

The teacher pulled a chair to the center of the room and asked me to sit in it. He asked all the members to gather around and lay their hands on me and pray for my grandson. Each prayed in turn. That was all we did for the whole hour.

Each Sunday, my group prayed for my daughter and her newborn son.

Today, five years later, I am happy to report that Emory has been tested and has an IQ of 127. Pretty amazing for a little boy whose brain was bombarded with blood clots at birth.

**Lord, just as you have promised,  
we are asking with the assurance  
that it shall be given to us. Amen**

- Steve Duke -

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# Wednesday, March 20

## The Road to Lesser Things

**Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. Isaiah 55:2**

Recently my daughter was rebellious and refused to do her reading homework. In keeping with her therapist's suggestion for changing her behavior through positive reinforcement, I offered Panda Express for lunch. She still refused to read and got a peanut butter and jelly sandwich instead. Why did she settle for a sandwich, when she could have orange chicken and chow mein (her favorite). Why settle for less, when she could have the best? But she didn't care about the best. She wanted to be in control. She didn't want to read. She didn't care if she missed out, as long as she got her way.

In my frustration, the Holy Spirit nudged me. Are you really any different? Jesus invites all of us to a great banquet and yet we often settle for measly meals. We think we know what is best. Because we are naturally steeped in sin, we can be stubborn and strong-willed. We want what we want, when we want it, how we want it. We may even go to extremes to manipulate our circumstances, our relationships and even our prayers to acquire what we think is best. But in doing so, we miss out. We settle. But if we submit to Him who knows what is best and offers the best, we will truly have the best.

**Jesus, today, through the power of your Holy Spirit, and by my submission to Your will, help me not choose lesser things but instead find delight in all the good You have for me. Amen**

- Kelly Gurney -

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# Thursday, March 21

## Be Still

**Be still and know that I am God; ... I will be exalted in the earth.  
Psalm 46:10**

Solitude to many of us means loneliness. However, solitude comes from a root word meaning to mend. It infers a ceasing, an idling and/or withdrawing. Loneliness, on the other hand, is sadness brought on by a lack of company or friends. It infers isolation, rejection and abandonment. Solitude is a command given by the Father for our good, our wellbeing through the ebb and flow of life. He Who created us well knows the enemy who wars against us and the insidious tools he uses to inflict confusion, hurt, and fear. Though the psalmist writes of “nations raging” (Psalm 2:1), kingdoms falling and the fire of battle one can’t help but acknowledge the confident assurance and grounded awareness springing out of his assertion “the Lord of Hosts is with us” (Psalm 46:7a)! When you and I purposely withdraw from the frantic pace of life in this world to recall the exploits of our God, to profess He alone reigns, and to magnify His Name with abandon we too are infused with that same boldness and sense of security. We’ll join with the writer proclaiming, “The Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.” (Psalm 46:7)

**Eternal Father, my daily path in life is just that—daily. All too often I find myself entangled by unchecked emotions rising forth from difficult relationships and troubling circumstances. Spirit of promise, bring these words to my remembrance that I may abide by the Father’s command. For He indeed is my strong tower.**

- Annie Pearson -

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# Friday, March 22

## Tentmakers

**Paul went to see them, and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. Acts 18:2b-3**

Paul was a tentmaker by trade.

Sometime after his conversion on the road to Damascus, Paul traveled to Corinth where he encountered Aquila and his wife, Priscilla. Paul stayed and worked with the couple, because they were tent-makers, too. When Paul wasn't making tents, he was engaged in the work of telling people about Jesus.

And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. Acts 18:4

His work permitted him to travel and share the good news of Christ while he contributed to the communities around him. Unlike the disciples who left their work as fishermen and tax collectors to follow Jesus, Paul continued his work in order to further the kingdom.

What then is my reward? That, when I preach the gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge... 1 Corinthians 9:18

Even today, the term Tentmaker refers to a Christian whose sole motivation in working is to spread the gospel. A Tentmaker doesn't work to advance himself, but to share the good news about Jesus.

While many of us willingly use our testimony and our example at work, we may not intentionally spread the gospel to the people we encounter there. We haven't accepted the role of Tentmaker because we feel ill-equipped and unprepared. God may be developing your skills and preparing you for work as a Tentmaker. Ask Him to reveal your mission field and give you boldness to share the gospel in your job.

**God, remind me that my vocation comes from you, and that my work isn't separate from my ministry to the community and the people around me.**

- Shannon Rasmussen -

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# Saturday, March 23

## Storm Clouds

**He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. Psalm 91:4**

In the spring and summer here in Florida, the storms come suddenly. Dark, threatening skies appear where it was sunny, beautiful, and tranquil a moment before. Our lives can be like that too. We think our plans are going well, and then a cloud burst happens and we are soaked, wondering where to find shelter.

I have turned to other sources for protection and shelter besides the One Who is always there watching my coming and going. I have been single now for almost 11 years, and it's been a long hard journey. I've stumbled over obstacles that were sometimes my own doing, blinded by needs that were in some respect just greeds. Longing for the perfect Facebook life was a constant source of ambition and pain. Just as I settled into a relationship, my dreams of perfection would be drowned in the reality of a storm—the lightning of arguments, the shattering thunder of family disagreements, and the soaking rain of a loneliness that never ends. Yet, after each storm passed, the sun would come out, and in the remnants of the moist air a beautiful rainbow of color would proclaim the promise of God. He's never left me alone, just unaware that I was being sheltered and protected under His wings.

We are never alone in the storms of life, merely unaware that God is present with us. His protective banner over His children is love, love that never ends.

**Dear Jesus, please never let us forget that You alone are the protection and source for all our needs in every storm of life. In Your Name, Jesus, Amen.**

**- Wanda Rogacki -**

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# Sunday, March 24

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# Monday, March 25

## Nobody Cares

**...love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7**

Do people in your neighborhood know that you follow Jesus? Do people you work with? What about at the gym? Is there anyone who sees you at least once a week, who has no idea what you believe?

Don't tell them. We live in a post-Christian society, your neighbor isn't interested in the fact that you believe God is One God expressed in three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). They probably don't care if you go to church, or which one, or how often. Words are wind. Which is why this devotional entry is now over.

*Get to Work:*

Spend ten minutes thinking of an out-of-the box, over-the-top way you can show someone love today. Then do it. If you want someone to know God, to see God in you, go out of your way to show love. And do it today, in a concrete way.

**God, inspire me to show your love, give me courage, and put someone in my path that you love (who feels disconnected from you). Amen.**

Bonus Content: Amen means "so be it/it is so" if you just said Amen, then go make it happen!

- Tyler Fuller -

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# Tuesday, March 26

## Set Free

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come.  
The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17**

This is my absolute favorite verse in the Bible. It reminds me that the past doesn't rule me. It is very easy to be consumed by our shame and guilt. Things in our past can easily be used by the enemy to pull us away from Christ. But when I allow thoughts of shame or self-doubt into my mind, I give the devil a foothold, a place for him to pick at and use against me to separate me from my Lord. What we must remember is that God is with us always. He gave us new life in him! We can turn from our past and strive to be the amazing people God intended. Just give all your guilt, shame, defeated thoughts over to him and ALLOW him to work. We are children of the Most High! As followers of Jesus we are to stand tall, take humble pride in who we are and what God has brought us through. Use your story to encourage others and seek our Lord with all your being.

**Lord my God, you are the amazing redeemer! Thank you for bringing me from where I was and to where I am. Thank you for making me NEW! Help me to follow you and remember that you have forgiven every fault and have chosen me to live with you forever.**

**Stephanie Wedel**

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# Wednesday, March 27

## Random Acts of Kindness

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.  
Galatians 5:22**

Waiting at Reagan National Airport for my flight home, I noticed the weather outside began to look ominous. Severe storms approached with lightning striking all around. Next came the announcement over the public address system: All flights out were canceled for the night. People immediately rushed to reschedule flights for the next available departure. Grumbling and complaining to airline staff was common. By the time I got a flight out for the next morning, all the local hotel rooms were taken.

I was stranded for the night. A crew came in rather late to work lighting and windows. Some folks slept on cardboard boxes and others found benches or chairs. I noticed an elderly couple trying to rest on a not-so-comfortable bench. They looked bewildered. Then the young (20-something) foreman of the work crew approached the elderly couple. He introduced himself and asked if he could help. This young man who lived in nearby Alexandria called a taxi, gave the couple the keys to his apartment, and arranged for the taxi to bring them back for their flight in the morning. He told them he had to be there all night to supervise the work detail and it was his privilege to help.

An example of kindness at its best.

**Father fill us with your spirit, that we express the fruit of kindness by random acts.**

**- Stan Justice -**

**More Like Jesus - Journey Towards Easter**

# Thursday, March 28

## The Cost

**Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it." Matthew 16:24-25**

If you choose to follow Jesus, it's going to cost you. When you say yes to Christ, you've put a mark on your forehead, telling the world you march to a different drumbeat and take orders from a King whose kingdom is not of this world. When you say yes to Jesus you will offend some and discomfort others. When you say yes to Jesus you will suffer. Ridicule is sure. Misunderstanding is certain. Sacrifice is absolute.

Saying yes to Jesus means you will say no to things you once held dear. Self-reliance and ego are replaced by meekness and humility. Doing the right thing becomes important, and love is the foundation of all you do. Choosing to follow Jesus means you trade your agenda for your own cross. Jesus' name has new meaning. You consult Him often. You love Him foremost. You align your heart with His. You desire to be kind and are quick to defer. Being right is not a fight as you release your rights to Him. When you choose to follow Jesus, you fling aside facades and find freedom. You cannot love Jesus from afar. He demands that you come close. There is a constant gaze and a knitting of the heart, yours with His, as He takes your hand. When you choose to follow Jesus, the beauty of His radiance is irresistible.

**Lord, I choose to follow you, all the way, no matter how difficult or uncertain the path, for you are always with me.**

**- J.B. Powell -**

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# Friday, March 29

## What's In A Name

**Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name Philippians 2:9**

1. Find a small paper notepad (or open up a note on your phone).
2. Say the name “Jesus” out loud, right where you are.
3. Make a hashmark on your notepad, you have said “Jesus” one time today.
4. Before you go to bed, try and get 10 hashmarks.

It's Lent, what better time to intentionally focus on Jesus? Your words typically follow your brain (or your heart, according to Jesus)—but it can work the other way as well. Use your words to direct your heart and mind towards Jesus today. Plus, you may end up having “Jesusy” conversations that wouldn't have happened otherwise!

Use the name of Jesus a lot today, by yourself or in conversation. Before you go to bed, see what it did for you.

**Thank you, Jesus, for the radical power and love that your name represents.**

**- Tyler Fuller -**

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# Saturday, March 30

## Sharing, Caring

**“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” Luke 10:36-37**

Let us not become numb to those who are in need,  
Let us stop to lend a hand, let us next stop to plant a seed.  
Each seed may only bear one plant, and if it's of the right sort,  
Its fruits will prove bountiful and provide many with comfort.  
Be it apple, grape, orange, olive, pear, or coffee,  
There shall be enough to sell, use, and give out for free.  
Let us not hoard with greed, rather, share what we yield,  
Let us help one another in life's grand open field.  
For greed serves no purpose, has not a place in life's lane,  
None come with us as we return to dust, the collections we gain,  
Here on Earth, is the one place they truly shall remain.  
Everything the Lord Giveth, so can He retract as He sees fit,  
Wealth and fortune can dissipate like sand into a pit.  
The moon's tides are not solely the ones which may turn,  
Open hearts and hands to help, for help some doth yearn.  
Let us be stewards in this life, giving out more than specks,  
So that we may render aid in this life and rejoice in the next!

**Lord, help us to realize our many blessings, and to share far and wide, what we have been given from you.**

- Mel Irons -

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# Sunday, March 31

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# Monday, April 1

## The Road to Jericho

**Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.” Joshua 3:5**

Even before Jesus’ famous parable about the Good Samaritan, the road to Jericho had long been one where God taught His people about the economy of His Kingdom. In Joshua 3, God calls the Israelites (his chosen people) to take possession of the land He promised them—first stop, Jericho. We could skip ahead to the “exciting part” where the trumpets blow some serious structural damage into the formidable walls, but we’d miss the obedience that set the stage for the miracle.

The Memorial Stones (Joshua 4) – God told the people to pause and set up an altar of 12 stones in the most unlikely place (the middle of the Jordan river) at the most unlikely time (peak flood season). Why? So that as they journeyed to the Promised Land, the Israelites would posture their hearts to acknowledge God as their provider. So that when— not if— God made good on his promise, their children could come to that place and know His faithfulness. Honor the Provider before the provision has arrived.

After the battle, God asked the people to honor Him again by giving him the spoils from Jericho before continuing to take over more territory. Their obedience brought later financial abundance. God doesn’t need your treasure; he wants you to treasure Him.

**God, show me how I can honor your provision and make You my ultimate treasure.**

**- Meredith Freeman -**

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# Tuesday, April 2

## Giving

**Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on. Mark 12:43-44**

The story of the widow's mite is one of the earliest Bible stories I remember. I could close my eyes and picture that widow giving all she had.

Giving has been ingrained in me since I was a child. My father taught me to give ten percent, save ten percent and live off the eighty percent I had left. When I was paid twenty-five cents to shine my father's shoes, he would give me five nickels, and I'd put one in my Sunday School envelope to take to church.

My secular friends think I am a fool to give the church anything at all. But the proof is in the pudding. My home and vehicles are paid for, and I have no other bills but utility bills.

Together, we can do great things. We've built churches in the Congo, outfitted the pastors with bicycles, and dug wells to give villagers clean drinking water. My financial offering alone could not have accomplished this, but our collective offering can accomplish these things for the Kingdom.

Be sacrificial in your giving. It will bless others. The one most blessed will be you.

**Lord, when I make a decision to give, touch my heart;  
help me to commit to giving sacrificially.**

- Steve Duke -

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# Wednesday, April 3

## Love Your Neighbor

**And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. Luke 10:27"**

Love thy neighbor seems easy enough; be nice. But God calls us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. He doesn't call us to just smile or say hello. When interacting with others, think of how you would like to be treated and do better than that. In Luke 10:30-37, Jesus gives an example of a good Samaritan that gives their time, energy and resources to help someone who had been attacked by robbers.

What would have happened to the battered man had no one stopped to help him? Society would tell us someone else would've helped, or that it's not our problem. But as Christians, we are called to love our neighbors, our brothers and sisters. They are God's children too. He loves them, just as he loves you.

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:16-18

There are many verses in the Bible about giving. If you're unsure of how you can be a good steward of your finances, pray. Ask God, he will guide you.

**Father God, open my heart to others, guide me in giving and trusting you in all things. Amen.**

- April Barger -

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# Thursday, April 4

## Walking the Path of Love

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and Love your neighbor as yourself. Luke 10:27**

I was headed on my own path one day  
When a very young girl got in my way.  
She was dirty and torn, with matted hair  
She looked at me and said, "Life isn't fair."  
With tears in her eyes, and no shoes on her feet  
I wanted to go to the other side of the street.  
But something just wouldn't let me pass  
I had to stop, kneel down, and ask--  
What had happened that got her so low?  
How had our community let her go?  
Her parents were gone to who knows where?  
And she was left in the cold open air.  
I gave her my coat and walked her home  
To my house, a meal, a bath and some hope.  
Today she knows Jesus just as I do  
I was blessed to have helped as God wanted me to.

**Heavenly Father, grant us the ability to see the suffering of others and offer what we can to alleviate that suffering—to give what we can in whatever form we can, and do it in love.**

**- Myke Atwater -**

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# Friday, April 5

## God Changes Part I - Saul -

**As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"**  
**Acts 9:3-4**

In today's scripture we find Saul, a man who had built quite a reputation for himself as the best Christian persecutor of his time traveling to Damascus on a mission to stop Christians from teaching the Gospel when Jesus revealed Himself to him, forever changing his life and Christian history all at once.

Do you ever wonder why God doesn't stop us from doing what we want to do right away? God waited until Saul was on the road, perhaps wanting to isolate him from everything and everyone else. I can only imagine what evil thoughts Saul was thinking. We know that he had never heard Jesus' voice before because he had to ask: "Who are you, Lord?" The old Saul would die in his sin, as he would sit in the dark for three days unable to see. And Paul would be brought to life as a redeemed follower of Christ.

I believe that when Jesus sets out to meet you, He waits for the perfect place and time where you are, at the end of your rope, the bottom of the pit, the darkest place, so that your only way out is Christ.

**Jesus, let those who need You come face to face with You today. Take hold of their hearts and don't let them go until they are ready to be resurrected in Your spirit and live a life for You.**

- Esme Graff -

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# Saturday, April 6

## God Changes Part II - Others -

**Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.  
Acts 9:17**

Yesterday we read about God changing Saul and today we read that God changed people’s opinion of Paul. How many times are we the ones judging others by their past, questioning if their faith is real or not? God did not just have a plan to change Paul’s heart. He also had a plan to change the heart of those who knew about Paul and were going to question his faith and conversion.

In Acts 9:13-15 Ananias tells God about Paul’s reputation as a Christian persecutor. And I just love God’s answer back to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument...”. Ananias was being judgmental, but there are two key elements of his godly character worth imitating.

1. Ananias’ love for God allowed him to put his personal feelings aside and obey God’s command to go see Paul.
2. Ananias placed his hands on Paul, calling him “brother,” showing love and acceptance without barriers.

We don’t know much about Ananias, but we know he was obedient to Christ. What if the world only knew that your love of God was greater than your own opinion of others, and that love enabled you to see others as brothers and sisters? Isn’t that something worth living for?

**God our Father, I pray whatever walls we have built in our hearts and minds will fall down so we will be able to love You above all and love others the way you love us.**

- Esme Graff -

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# Sunday, April 7

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# Monday, April 8

## Because I Said So

**“Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Go south to the road—the desert road....So he started out....The Spirit told Philip, ‘Go to that chariot...’ Then Philip ran up to the chariot....”**

**Acts 8:26a, 27a; 8:29a, 30a**

Given instructions, toddlers often say “no” and teenagers frequently respond, “Why?” When Philip received these instructions from the Lord, he understandably might have given a toddler or a teenager’s reply. “No” may have been appropriate because the desert road was surely hot and uncomfortable. Asking “Why?” would be appropriate if Philip needed an explanation for undertaking this road trip.

To Philip’s credit, he gave neither of these replies. The biblical account does not indicate Philip verbally responded. Instructed to go to the desert road, Philip responded by going. Instructed to approach a chariot there, Philip RAN to it. Philip’s responses were simply ones of obedience.

Harried parents may retort to a child’s “why?” with a snappy “Because I said so.” This response conveys that obedience is expected because the parent has the authority to direct the behavior. God, our Heavenly Father, may want to slap his heavenly forehead when Christians act like teenagers and boldly challenge His instructions by demanding an explanation why. Philip’s response of immediate obedience surely made God a proud parent. Philip acted because God said so.

When given directions by our Heavenly Father, the choice is ours. Will we react like a toddler or a teenager and say “no” or “why?” or will we emulate Philip and merely obey?

**Dear God: Help me to trust and obey you by acting on your directives because You said so. Amen**

**- Alice Murray -**

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# Tuesday, April 9

## God's Timing

### Acts 8:26-40

While God transcends time and is not impeded by it, He functions in time. His guiding hand moves with impeccable timing. Therefore, we must be quick to follow God's timetable. Acts 8:26-40 depicts the importance of operating according to God's divine timing. Without warning, an angel appeared and spoke to Philip. Philip heard what the angel said (8:26), Philip heeded the angel (8:27), and Philip hastened with the angel's agenda (8:30).

To heed God's emissary, Phillip needed a listening ear. The angel talked. Philip listened and obeyed. He allowed the angel to interrupt his schedule and made God's agenda his priority. Philip was told to go toward Gaza. Desert roads posed the danger of bandits and wild animals, so Philip could have rationalized that the trip was too ambiguous and dangerous.

Despite the uncertainties, Philip hastened toward Gaza and Divine Providence led him to a seeking heart. There sat Queen Candace's royal official reading the scrolls. Philip ran toward the official (8:30), and asked the most poignant question: "Do you understand what you are reading?" In other words, Philip asked him if he understood the gospel of Jesus Christ. The eunuch responded, and God opened the door for Philip to share the truth of the Messiah to the queen's treasury official and those traveling with him. The official was converted and took the gospel to Ethiopia.

**Dear Lord, on any given day, you may ask me to engage a stranger or share my resources. May I allow you to interrupt my schedule and be quick to listen and obey.**

- J.B. Powell -

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# Wednesday, April 10

## What Can Stand

**As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” Acts 8:36**

Few things irritate us more than when something stands in our way. People who have full conversations in the middle of the walkway, locked doors in front of a prized room/possession, family members with a knack for standing right in front of the TV when your favorite show is on. Some of those things we can easily move out of the way, but others we are either powerless to move or prohibited from doing so. As pesky as they are, it's not a good idea to hit the swinging arm when the neighborhood gate code doesn't work!

When it comes to walking down the road with Jesus, there are plenty of things that try to stand in our way. Our past, habits, fear of the future, doubts—even good things like relationships, money, and careers can become obstacles if we don't make Jesus more important. All of those things are real barriers, but we serve a God who is strong enough to overcome them. He paved the road; he sets the speed limit; He's the ultimate Highway Patrol. Wherever Jesus is leading you, remember that while your road may have obstacles, NOTHING can stand in the way!

**God, thank you for being powerful enough that \_\_\_\_\_ can't stand in the way of my obedience to you.**

- Meredith Freeman -

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# Thursday, April 11

## Seeing Clearly

**Immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. Acts 8:18-19**

We all have opportunities in life to have the scales removed from our eyes. Whether or not we take that opportunity is another matter. Sometimes in our most desperate hours, it's when we have that opportunity and become baptized again with a newness of hope. When we are lost in the darkness of the low times in life, and see no way out under our own power, is when God can pick us up, dust us off, and give us a new beginning through his Grace and Mercy.

This happens to all of us. Frequently, because God grants us free choice, we forget about this, and take charge of our lives in a way that is not God's way. We like to feel we have the power. The outcome has been, all too often, disastrous. It is only when we truly give up our power that we find the light and the redemption of mercy from our Father in heaven. The disciples felt that sense of despair and fear when Jesus was crucified. However, joy came in the morning three days later, when they heard the Good News that Christ had risen from the grave and would ascend into heaven just as prophesied. Joy can come in the morning for each of us when we let the scales fall from our eyes and see the light that is offered to us by the forgiveness, grace, and mercy paid with the blood of the Lamb.

**God, grant us the ability to shed the scales from our eyes and see that we have Grace because of the sacrifice and triumph of Jesus, your Son, for forgiveness from the sins of the world. Amen.**

- Myke Atwater -

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# Friday, April 12

## Rogue to Evangelist

**But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.... Philippians 3:7-8**

Saul's conversion to Jesus was a major swing of the pendulum. He was on a heartfelt mission on behalf of the Jews to snuff out the spread of Christianity. The last verse of Acts 7 states Saul approved of Stephen's stoning. He was a rogue, for sure. When the scales fell off his eyes, God changed this man's life so radically that He changed his name to Paul. His mission became to proclaim the name of Jesus to everyone he was in contact. He was well known for his violent anti-Christian warpath, so all those who heard him were utterly blown away by the 180-degree shift in beliefs.

Have you ever heard a testimony as ear-perking as Paul's? Maybe not quite as dramatic, but we've heard testimonies that cause us to smile and say, "Only God could do that!" Sensational salvation stories are a reminder to never assume a person won't embrace Christ as their Lord and Savior based on current lifestyle observations. Never give up on anyone. God is always working.

**Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift of Your spirit living in us. Fill us with the excitement and confidence to share the good news of the resurrection with those who've been placed in our lives. May we never be ashamed to share the best news the world will ever hear.**

**In Your Name, Amen.**

**- Rose Marie Martin -**

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# Saturday, April 13

## His Way on the Highway

**Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do. Acts 9:6**

Saul was a planner. He knew how, where, and why he was going on a trip. Saul planned to travel the road to Damascus on foot where he would track down followers of The Way, take them prisoner, and haul them back to Jerusalem.

Well, that was Saul's plan, but God had other plans for Saul. God stopped Saul in his tracks en route to Damascus so Saul could see the light, literally as well as figuratively. Saul's way was not God's plan for Saul. Rather than being a persecutor of The Way as Saul planned, he was going to be used mightily by God to spread the news of the one true way—Jesus.

We may laugh at Saul's audacity in planning to take Christians down, but aren't we guilty of doing the same thing? We may not be out to get anyone like Saul was, but we are out to get our own way. We make our plans and do not give a thought to checking with God about what He has in mind for us. We can go down the highway of life trying to do things our way or we can seek direction from God who will always point us the right way—His way.

**Dear God: Be with me and show me the way you want me to take as I travel down the highway of life. Amen.**

- Alice Murray -

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# Sunday, April 14

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# Monday, April 15

## Who's Carrying Your Baggage?

**Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). John 19:17**

What's a trip without all the luggage you take? Not sure of what we will need, most of us over-pack. We struggle to maneuver our suitcases through the airport to the ticket counter.

Life is also a trip. While we may not carry visible baggage with us on this journey, we all have it. We are weighed down by worries, fears, and yes, even sin. The ultimate destination is the same for all of us—physical death.

Jesus understands what it is like to struggle down life's road towards certain death. While we speak of it figuratively, Jesus lived it literally. Physically battered and bruised, He was forced to travel the road to Golgotha, a skull-shaped hill outside Jerusalem, where a gruesome death awaited Him. Adding insult to injury, He was forced to carry the instrument with which He would be tortured and killed—a cross.

Because Jesus completed this road trip to Golgotha, He has provided us the means to travel life's journey to our death without the baggage of sin. By sacrificing His life on a cross, Jesus became our baggage carrier and took sin off our shoulders. But unless we call upon Him to save us, we will continue down life's road burdened with sin's heavy baggage. In life, do like you do at the airport; turn over your baggage to the baggage carrier.

**Dear Lord: Thank you for carrying the baggage of my sin for me.  
Amen.**

**- Alice Murray -**

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# Tuesday, April 16

## Life In The Face Of Death

### **Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10**

Jesus knew. He knew in the weeks leading up to his death. He dropped hints along the way to the disciples. He did his best to prepare them for what was coming. He walked around with the huge knowledge of the darkness ahead. But he also continued to heal people and teach people. He continued to break bread and commune with people. He continued to celebrate and mourn. He continued to FULLY live his life, even though he knew death was near.

We live our lives too, knowing. We know that hard things are ahead. We know life isn't easy. But we often walk around with that knowledge, afraid. Anxious. Worried. So busy trying to control and manage the outcome that we miss the life right in front of us. As Jesus approached that Holy Week, he did so knowing it would end in death, but He was free from anxiety, stress, and fear. His focus that week, and always, was simply God and making God known.

Is there something in front of you that God has called you, to but you're missing it because of fear, anxiety, or worry? Is there something looming ahead of you that takes up all your headspace and is preventing you from connecting with this present moment? Take a deep breath. Still your heart. Live THIS moment with the knowledge that peace is waiting.

***God, give us grace to live in this present moment, as Jesus did.***

**- Carrie Burnett -**

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# Wednesday, April 17

## It is Finished

**When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished": and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. John 19:30**

Tetelesthai. That is the Greek word for Jesus' saying, "It is finished." Only one word is needed to complete the greatest work ever done. Jesus' work on the cross is done. He has borne the sin of the world. Jesus is now ready to die and be raised again. Jesus has now glorified the Father. This word also suggests that he is ready to dispense the Spirit.

There are two things in the context that suggest this. First, John tells us that he gave over his spirit. In John's Gospel, Jesus repeatedly spoke about giving out the Spirit (John 7:37-39; 14:26; 15:26-27; 16:7-15) and this may be John's way of communicating both Jesus' death and his readiness to give out the Spirit. Second, John tells us that when the soldier pierced Jesus' side, "blood and water flowed out immediately" (John 19:34). This recalls Jesus statement in John 7:38 "From within him will flow rivers of living water." John is telling us that Jesus' work on the cross is complete to the point that He can now send the Spirit. And this Jesus does at Pentecost.

*Lifted up was He to die;  
"It is finished!" was His cry;  
Now in Heav'n exalted high.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!*  
Philip P. Bliss

**Lord, we are grateful for the work of the Cross. Thank you for always finishing the good work you start in us and our world. Let our life, today, reflect the power of your Spirit in our lives, help us overflow with living water.**

- Charles Powell -

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# Thursday, April 18

## Staying the Course

**Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus and led him away. John 19:16**

Discipline is the very foundation for every achievement, big or small, and every person who makes an impact does so with the investment of time and sweat. When we think of Christ's mission of the Cross, we sometimes overlook the discipline it took for him to fulfill the Father's plan. Jesus lived with the Cross in view and everything He did was somehow connected to God's purpose for Him. The Father's purpose required Christ to die, and such death was more than physical. Jesus had to die to his will, his ambition, and his ability.

Jesus died to his will when He allowed Pilate to pronounce His fatal sentence. As Pilate delivered Jesus to the chief priests, who seethed with hate, Jesus surrendered Himself into their hands. He did not fight. He did not quarrel. He did not lash out. Jesus relinquished His innate power of deity to become human. He was equal with God, yet He did not laud His position nor flaunt His power. He lessened Himself. He could have called angels to deliver Him. He could have raised His hand and released their grasp, but He transfixed His eyes on the Father's purpose and stayed the course. Perhaps you are on a course that, though spirit-led, is laden with trials and pain; and it may be that you want to step away, but you must transfix your gaze on Jesus and stay the course.

**Lord, it is you who gives strength and hope when my natural ability wanes. Only you can uplift my soul when loneliness sets in. Help me to fix my eyes on you and stay the course.**

- J.B. Powell -

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# Good Friday Worship

Tonight Crosspoint Will Celebrate  
Good Friday  
On The Niceville Campus  
Community Life Center

**Join us at 6:00**

For A Time Of Prayer  
And A Tactile / Art Experience  
That Will Be Part Of The Worship Service

**The Service Will Begin  
With Holy Communion at 6:30**

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# Friday, April 19

## Road to the Lighthouse

**Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.  
Proverbs 3:6**

“Are you sure we’re on the right road?” I asked my husband Chuck. Pointing to the lighthouse map, he said, “According to this, we are.” But the rocky dirt road gave no hint a lighthouse was near. All we could see was woods and no trace of water.

We were on a lighthouse trip to see as many lighthouses in Michigan as we could squeeze into two weeks. We’d seen some already, but they had been easy to find. This remote road was too far from a tower for our cellphones to pick up GPS. We seemed to be headed nowhere and wondered if we should turn around and go back to the highway. Were we going the right way or were we lost?

Then we spotted a tree with a little round sign showing a picture of a lighthouse with an arrow pointing straight ahead. We thrilled to get that little bit of affirmation that we were on the right road! Several more miles passed before we saw another sign, then eventually another, each encouraging us to keep going. Finally, we came to the end of the road, and with great joy, saw the Crisp Point Lighthouse on the shores of Lake Superior before us.

But if we hadn’t stayed on that road, we wouldn’t have found the lighthouse.

Isn’t life the same way? Sometimes you aren’t sure you’re doing the right thing, following the right road, but then God sends you a little sign assuring you that you are and to keep going until you reach the right destination.

**Lord, please show me the right path and keep me moving forward.**

- Marilyn Turk -

**More Like Jesus - Journey Towards Easter**

# Saturday, April 20

## The Road You Knew

**It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. John 13:1**

This was no surprise to You—  
the crowds,  
the rejection,  
the verdict.  
You knew, didn't you?

The guards didn't need to show you the way to the cross.  
the hill you created,  
the traitors you loved,  
the exchange you insured.  
You knew, didn't you?

The pain would be unimaginable—  
searing nails,  
stabbing thorns,  
suffocating separation.  
You knew, didn't you?

Today I stand on my own road.  
with You,  
because of You,  
needing You.  
I still don't know why you went, but  
You knew, didn't you?

**Jesus, thank you for walking the road I couldn't so that I could walk with you forever. The weight of that love is too much for me to grasp; thank you for knowingly choosing me.**

- Meredith Freeman -

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# Sunday, April 21

## **EASTER IS HERE!**

Church folks have a tradition,  
A "Call And Response"  
You may be familiar with...

The leader calls

**"He Is Risen"**

The people respond

**"He Is Risen Indeed"**

So, Here I Am - sending the call your way:

**"He Is Risen"**

I'll See you at worship,  
Where you can respond!

Find Service Times Here:  
[yourcrosspoint.org](http://yourcrosspoint.org)

## **More Like Jesus - Journey Towards Easter**

# Thanks!

Many thanks to Marilyn and Chuck Turk  
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for pouring their heart and soul into their entries

Many thanks to you, for walking with us for 40 days

-Tyler

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