

# So Send I You, Inc.

## Our Mission:

We exist to engage and involve African-American and Latino-American congregations in global mission(s) work and activity around the world by bringing together congregations and individuals for specific mission projects, resulting in a greater mission impact.

## Our Vision:

We envision a covenant community of local congregations committed to educating, nurturing, and cultivating missional leaders and congregations from within the African-American and Latino communities, resulting in a deeper level of congregational and personal involvement and participation in missional projects around the world. **SO SEND I YOU, INC.** envisions this community of local congregations more actively engaged in sharing the good news of what God has done for the world in and through the life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## Our Specialties:

- Building and sustaining missional partnership among local congregations, individuals, organizations, and the mission fields.
- Organizing, promoting, and leading short term mission trips to give both clergy and lay-persons firsthand exposure to and experience on the mission field.
- Organizing, promoting, and leading missional projects especially designed to deliver a stronger missional impact. We do this by gathering local congregations, individuals, and organizations around specific mission projects.



Roof-A-Church Project for Malawi

# WELCOME TO THE 2022 LENTEN JOURNEY

Dr. William B. Sutton, III, Dr. John W. McVicker, Sr., along with the entire Board of Directors of **SO SEND I YOU, Inc.**, join me in inviting and welcoming you to the 40-day journey through the 2022 season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022 and ends on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022. Millions of Christ's disciples around the world look forward to making the 40-day journey with eager anticipation. We pray you will be one of them.

As always, this six-week journey will certainly be challenging, to say the least. But as serious followers of Jesus Christ, we are encouraged to test and reclaim our call to discipleship. This 40-day journey provides us with a wonderful opportunity to embrace this challenge along with the broader community of faith.

This devotional is carefully designed with the disciple in mind, and is intended to be used as a tool to lead the disciple to find and experience spiritual renewal and revitalization by engaging in four particular important but very often neglected spiritual disciplines: **daily engagement with the Scriptures; daily fasting** (voluntarily abstaining from certain foods for a very specific period of time for spiritual benefits); **daily intercessory prayer**; and **daily sacrificial giving**.



SO SEND I YOU Mask for Malawi Project

It is our sincere prayer that at the end of this six-weeks journey with us, you will have been drawn closer to Jesus Christ, Who is the center of our faith; and as a result, you will be inspired to follow Him more closely, love Him more sincerely, and serve Him more diligently.

We give God thanks for the contributing writers, most of whom are pastors who have distinguished themselves as faithful servants of Jesus Christ in the communities where they are called to serve, and beyond. Without their involvement and participation, a project of this nature would be very difficult to pull off.

Read the entire recommended daily passage. Try to step inside the passage and walk around in it, which will help you to better appreciate the context in which the passage is set. Each daily devotional is followed by a very brief prayer built around the theme for that particular day. Do your best to make this prayer your very own, reflecting on it throughout the day.

The pictures you find in this devotional reflect the work of **SO SEND I YOU, Inc.** in different spots around the world. Many of the people in these pictures are in desperate need of food, clear drinking water, and medication. Some yearn for an education to enable them to live fruitful and productive lives. They are all, in spite of their circumstances in life, very receptive to the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Your daily prayers for this 40-day journey, please be careful to pray for all such people world-wide.

As we move through the 40-days of Lent, we challenge you to set aside one dollar (\$1.00) per day for each of the 40 days (which does not include Sundays). At the end of the 40 days, you will have set aside forty dollars (\$40). That forty dollars is critical to what we do at **SO SEND I YOU, Inc.**, and it goes a long way easing the pain and suffering of needy people around the world.

Also, this year, **EVEN SO SEND I YOU, Inc.**, will host an Ash Wednesday service on our Facebook page (and Zoom) on Wednesday evening, March 2, 2022 at 7 :00 PM Eastern Standard (6:00 PM Central time and 5:00 Mountain Time). All of our participating churches across the nation are invited to join us there as we kick-off the forty-day Lenten journey.

This year, we will again host our weekly Sunday evening 7:00 PM Eastern Standard Time Zoom Call centered around discussing the contents of the devotionals for the week, and you may join us by using the Zoom ID: 5428337127 and use the access code: 147292. If you are dialing in by telephone for the Zoom meetings on Sunday evenings, please dial 646-558-8656 and use the access code of 147292.

Finally, please find in the back of this devotional an envelope, designed to inspire and encourage you to surrender your \$40 offering for the forty-days of Lent. Please make all checks and money orders (no cash, please) payable to **SO SEND I YOU, Inc.**, and mail to our office at:

**SO SEND I YOU, INC.**  
**P.O. Box 1699**  
**Lincolnton Station**  
**New York, NY 10037**

You may give your \$40 contribution by CashApp at: \$SSIYWorld.

To learn more about **SO SEND I YOU, Inc.**, please visit our web page at: [www.evensosendiyouworld.org](http://www.evensosendiyouworld.org).

This is done,  
Because of Calvary

Dr. J. Albert Bush, Sr.,  
Founder and CEO, **SO SEND I YOU, Inc.**



SO SEND I YOU, INC, in partnership with Bethel Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, AL, Dr. Schmitt Moore, Pastor, funds digging of well in Malawi.

## THE MEANING OF LENT

The forty-day season of Lent (which does not include Sundays) always begins on Ash Wednesday of each year, which marked for early Christians the beginning of the final preparation for new converts to be baptized into the faith at the great Easter vigil. Thus, the season of Lent is marked by its baptismal character.

During the forty days of the Lenten Season (excluding Sundays) the dominant theme is the personal call to repentance and spiritual renewal. This call to repentance and renewal is echoed by way of the prophet Joel in a passage that is often read at Ash Wednesday services: “Yet even now, says the LORD, return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing” (Joel 2:12).

Lent is that annual season when the people of God and the body of Christ are called to search and examine ourselves, to see if we really belong to the faith. It is a call to test and reclaim our personal call to discipleship. It is a call for serious introspection. During Lent, we are challenged to go deeper in our relationship with Christ, and be drawn into a closer daily walk with God, resulting in a greater commitment to the kingdom building enterprise.

Alongside the call to personal introspection and examination (which is interior), there is the challenge to exterior work and activity. The primary Gospel passage often read at Ash Wednesday services is Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 where our Lord Jesus calls and challenges His disciples to engage in certain exterior acts of charity, which includes the spiritual disciplines of alms giving (sacrificial giving), fasting, and praying. In the passage, Jesus is not only suggesting the practice of



We respond to food shortage in Bangalore, India



these disciplines, but He is carefully teaching His followers on how the disciplines of giving, fasting, and praying are to be put to use. “So, whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you... but when you give alms... And whenever you pray, do not look like the hypocrites... but whenever you pray... And whenever you fast, do not look dismal... But when you fast...” For Jesus, it was not a matter of *if* His disciples would give, fast, and pray; but, it was a matter of *when* they would practice these spiritual disciplines.

During the season of Lent, we are challenged to take self-inventory as we look at the humanity of Jesus alongside our own. We are called to self-examination of ourselves and our commitment to Christ and His kingdom agenda. It is a time when we stop to ask ourselves a few serious questions: “Am I really a disciple of Christ?” “Am I following Christ as closely as I can?” “Is God satisfied with me?” “Am I as committed to the cause Christ as I profess to be?” “Is God calling me to a deeper level of involvement and participation in the kingdom building enterprise?”

Let’s face it, just as Jesus was tempted to abandon the path which the Father had planned for Him, we, too, face temptation to ignore or completely abandon the calling of God on our lives. Whereas Jesus triumphed over the devil in His temptation, too often we fall victim to the temptation, leaving us spiritually defeated and even more vulnerable. During the forty-days of Lent, God often lovingly shows us our personal weakness and vulnerabilities, and then tenderly and graciously invites us to experience the spiritual renewal which He so readily provides through the disciplines of fasting, praying and alms giving.



## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE LENTEN FAST

*Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare holy a fast... Joel 2:15*

*“Whenever you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” Matthew 6:16-18*

### What is a Fast?

The Hebrew word for “fasting” means “to cover the mouth.” The Greek word for “fasting” means “not to eat.” Fasting means to abstain from or go without food. When one does a fast, he/she turns away from “things the body craves” so that the inner spirit may better focus on the things of God. Fasting is an often neglected spiritual discipline. Fasting does not change God’s will, nor does it impress God in any way. But true fasting can indeed change the individual, as it allows us to focus more on our spiritual needs rather than the physical. Fasting, when done correctly, helps align our heart, mind and will with the heart, mind and will of God.

### The Spiritual Benefits of Fasting

- It strengthens our prayer life.
- Provides opportunity to spend more time in the presence of the Lord.
- Helps us become more sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
- Enhances our ability to discern and understand spiritual matters.
- Helps us focus more on God as the source, supplier and sustainer of our lives.
- Fasting cleanses and detoxes the body.

### The Techniques of Fasting

There are different ways in which observers of Lent fast. Some fast, in some way, each day of the Lenten season, while others fast just one day of the week during the season. Some will eliminate one meal a day, while others will eliminate two meals a day, and still others will give up all three meals for one day a week. Some will give up all meats during the season, while others will give up all meats 3 or 4 days a week. Whatever fast regimen you choose, it should be based on your physical health, your physician’s permission if you have serious health issues, and your personal covenant with God.

## Preparations for Fasting

- Seek God's will for you regarding the fasting regimen you should choose.
- The week prior the beginning of your fast, begin eliminating snacks and eating after 7:00 PM.
- Increase your intake of fruits, vegetable, fish and water.
- Cut back on or eliminate sweets, breads, meats, sugary drinks and other "pleasurable" food and drinks.
- Begin to pray for daily strength, discipline to be focused and faithful adherence to your Lenten fast.
- If you are pregnant, diabetic, taking prescribed medications, under a doctor's care, or have experienced illness on a previous fast, be careful to consult your physician before starting the fast.

## Additional Fasting Hints

- Avoid starches, such as bread, white rice, potatoes; sweets, red meats, and caffeine.
- Drink plenty of water, herbal teas, or seltzer. If you feel light headed, drink a glass of unsweetened apple or grape juice (be sure it has no added sugar) or tea with honey.
- If you only eat one meal for the day, you should be sure that it includes fresh fruits, steam vegetables, salad and steamed or broiled fish. One of the benefits of fasting is cleansing or detoxing the body, resulting in a healthier body.
- If you are eating only one meal a day, it is highly recommended that you do not exercise during your fast.
- Avoid nibbling, drink water.
- Remember to be in prayer daily during your fast. Start each day of your fast with prayer, asking God to give you the strength to keep your fast for that day. When you feel hungry, or when you are tempted to give up remember, in your weakness you can tap into His strength. Remember, *...be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.* (Ephesians 6:10)
- If you should "fall out" of the fast, do not condemn yourself, but get back on it right away. Be thankful that in Christ there is always forgiveness and restoration.
- When the 40 day fast is complete, it is best to break the fast by eating fruit, drinking broth, eating steamed vegetables, or a light salad.



## Lenten Easter's Prayer:

*“Jehovah, by the power of Your Spirit, make me ready for the coming time of fasting, prayer and sacrificial giving. I know that with you I can do all things. My desire is to be drawn closer to you during this season of Lent. Thank you in advance for the strength and power you provide for me during this fast. Be glorified by my fasting, praying, and sacrificial giving.” In Jesus’ name, Amen.*



SO SEND I YOU, INC, provides transportation for the mission work in Malawi

## SIX-WEEK PRAYER GUIDE

During the six weeks of the Lenten Season, we challenge our fellow pilgrims on the journey to join us in praying specifically for missionaries, missionary projects and concerns around the world. In Particular, we pray for a greater awareness and a more enthusiastic involvement in Christian missional activity on the part of African-American and Latino-American Congregations.

Each Thursday evening during Lent, we invite you to join us in prayer for the work on six of the seven continents of the world where there is current missionary activity. The Call is at 8:PM each Thursday evening beginning on Thursday, March 3, 2021. The prayer dial-in number is: 267-807-9605, with the access code of: 512125. Please do not announce yourself, but just wait a few minutes to allow others to join the call, and the prayer leader will give the call to prayer. The Six-Week Prayer Call will be as follows:

### **First Week: Thursday Evening, March 10, 2022, North America Prayer Concerns**

Missionary and missional projects and opportunities in North America, the fastest growing mission field in the world is the focus of our prayer concerns this week. This includes the US, Canada, Mexico, Jamaica, Haiti, US Virgin Islands, and all of Central America.

- For Missionaries who currently serve in Native American and Latin American communities and the unique challenges they face in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- For an increase in the number of fulltime African and Latin American missionaries to serve in the above communities.

### **Second Week: Thursday Evening, March 17, 2022, South America**

We pray for missionaries and missional projects and opportunities in South America, including Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Columbia, Venezuela, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Guyana, and Uruguay.

### **Third Week: Thursday Evening, March 24, 2022, Europe**

We pray for missionaries, missional projects and opportunities in Europe, especially for those who work with refugees fleeing violence and bloodshed in Syria and the horn of Africa; and for working among the poor and marginalized in Eastern European countries, like Belarus, Hungary, Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland and Ukraine.

#### **Fourth Week: Thursday Evening March 31, 2022, Australia**

We pray for missionaries and missional projects and opportunities in Australia, but specifically for those who work with and among the Aboriginal Indians, whose plight is identical to that of Native Americans in the US.

#### **Fifth Week: Thursday Evening, April 7, 2022, Asia**

We pray for missionaries, missional projects and opportunities in Asia, especially in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Palestine, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

#### **Sixth Week: Thursday Evening April 14, 2021, Africa**

We pray for missionaries and missional projects and opportunities in Africa, especially for those who work and minister in Muslim communities. Pray for these concerns:

- Lott Carey work in Liberia and Ghana
- The Providence Industrial Mission (PIM) in Malawi and the churches and pastors in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- The W.W. Brown Mission in SOWETO, the National Baptist Day Care Center, and for the churches in South Africa struggling to witness in the post-Apartheid era.
- The Food Kitchen in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) and for the children for whom we provide a daily hot meal. In addition, please pray for the current SO SEND I YOU, Inc. projects:
- The Michael Lee Graves Memorial Library to be built in Durban, South Africa (hopefully we can hold a ground-breaking in June or July of 2022).
- The 2022 completion and dedication of the United Missionary Baptist Church being built in Lesotho, in the southern region of African
- 2022 ground-breaking for the rebuilding of the National Baptist Day Care Center in SOWETO, Johannesburg, South Africa
- The Pastor's Training Project for pastors who serve in Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania.

# Day 1

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

## CALL TO PERSONAL EXAMINATION AND TESTING

Rev. Dr. J. Albert Bush, Sr.  
2 Corinthians 13:5

*5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?*

When Socrates, the father of ancient Greek philosophy was put on trial and subsequently sentenced to death for corrupting the youth, he is reported to have said, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” The Apostle Paul might very well have agreed with Socrates, as is indicated in Paul’s final words to his Corinthian followers: “Examine yourselves..., test yourselves.” The life we are called to live in Jesus Christ is not a simple statement of “I believe”; it is rather a life of constant self-examination and personal testing.

These forty days of Lent provides us with the opportunity to do so alongside other believers who are examining and testing their faith at the same time as we are, for the very same reasons, “to see whether you are in the faith.” “Do you really belong to the faith?” “Is the faith really in you; and are you really in the faith?”

When we welcome the challenge to examine our lives based on the truth of God’s Word, we are reminded from Scripture that God has a dynamic plan and purpose for our lives. If we fail to test and examine ourselves, we’ll never really know how strong we are; or where our vulnerabilities lie; or what steps we should take to enhance or walk with Christ.

The challenge to “examine” and “test” ourselves is an invitation to take an honest look at ourselves to see if our faith in Jesus Christ is such that it is reflected in our daily walk and talk. But be warned, self-examination is certain to reveal sin here and there in our lives. When that happens, it does not mean that we are not followers of Christ. All followers of Christ experience setbacks with sin, but as disciples of Christ, our lifestyles should never be one of willful, habitual sin.

During these forty days of Lent, it would be helpful if we all ask a few questions about ourselves: “Have I truly repented of my sins? Have I anchored my hope for eternal life firmly in Jesus Christ and him alone? Does my public life reflect my relationship with Christ? Is there anything that hinders my walk with Christ and my personal witness?” Seek the help of the Holy Spirit, and you will not be disappointed.

*Prayer: O God, show me how to use Your Word to examine and test myself so that I may know if You are really in me and I am in You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

## Day 2

Thursday, March 3, 2022

### GOD'S SECRET SERVICE AGENTS

Rev. Dr. Donna Childs

Exodus 23:20

20 “See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place which I have prepared.”

In the United States Secret Service, each agents' mission is to stand in between the threat and the President. In order to provide this outstanding protection, the agents go ahead of the President to survey the environment, fortify the perimeters, conduct an aerial surveillance and inspect the designated locations and spaces. As a result of these advanced proactive measures, the President perpetually keeps a concentric ring of protection around him/her and there is always 360 degrees of coverage because the agents have gone before the President.

In the text, the Lord informed Moses that he was sending an angel before him and the children of Israel to keep them, guard and protect them. Our Heavenly Father provides a supreme protection for his children as he sends his angels ahead of us. The Lord unconditionally loves his children and will provide incessant safety for them.

The Lord simply asked Moses to obey him and the angel of the Lord. In their obedience, the Lord promised that he would oppose, destroy, drive out their enemies, and give victory. Furthermore, the Lord expressed that if the Israelites served him and only him, he would bless them, remove sickness, fulfill their days, and they would inherit the land. But they had to obey and serve the true God.

His promises still stand. God is yet sending angels before us, providing for our protection, standing in between us and the enemy. He is fortifying our perimeter, fighting for us, opposing the enemy unbeknownst to us. The Lord, in his faithfulness, sent his Son before us to prepare the way for our salvation.

As we obey and serve the Lord, we can know with assurance that God is our refuge and fortress. God's Secret Service Angels are encamped around us. Thus, we rejoice because God has promised that he will guide and keep us through our wilderness until we reach the blessed place that he has prepared for us.

*Prayer: Father, we thank you for sending your angels of protection before us, give us the grace to rest in your promise of protection. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# Day 3

Friday, March 4, 2022

## GIVING WITH A WILLING HEART

Rev. Dr. John H. Grant

Exodus 25:1-2

*1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 2 “Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering.”*

God gives Moses instruction for construction of the tabernacle while among other things showing the people what is acceptable worship in the area of giving: “Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the LORD” (Ex. 35:5) and “as many as had a willing heart” (Ex. 35:22) and “your heart should not be grieved when you give . . .” (Deut. 15:10).

The concept of giving with a willing heart to support God’s work is a foundational Biblical principle found throughout Scripture. Why a willing heart rather than a willing head? Perhaps because one may give volitionally with the head while devotionally the heart is not in it. (Mt. 15:8)

God does not instruct Moses to dictate a specific amount the people were to give. Obviously as 2 Corinthians 9:7 puts it, all were to give as determined in their hearts, not grudgingly (resentfully, reluctantly) or of necessity (compulsion or requirement); for God loves a cheerful giver. A cheerful giver gives with a willing heart.

For a willing heart, giving is a joy not a job; a pleasure not pain; a blessing not a burden; a cheer not a chore; a privilege not a pressure. A willing heart gives with gladness not with sadness, with gratitude not with an attitude. A willing heart gives not out of obligation, but out of appreciation; not with misery, but with merriment; not half-heartedly, but wholeheartedly. A willing heart is the heart of a person who finds joy in giving; who gives out of desire, delight and devotion, not out of duty.

Giving is not ultimately about the gift, but about the heart’s devotion from which the gift emanates. Giving with a willing heart is to give like Jesus, who willingly gave Himself for the sins of the world.

*Prayer: Heavenly Father, we look to Jesus “the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross” (Heb. 12:2). Grant that we may have a willing heart like His to give and to live in a manner acceptable in Your sight. In His name, Amen.*



# Day 4

Saturday, March 5, 2022

## YOU AND THE STRANGER

Rev. Dwight Benoit

Leviticus 19:34

34 “*The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I AM The LORD your GOD.*”

Just the thought of GOD waking me up this morning, clothing me in my right mind, giving me the mobility of my limbs and starting me on HIS *Way*, another day... How can I forget to thank HIM for HIS *Kindness*?

Leviticus, chapters 18:1-21, 24 outlines our *duties* because of GOD calling us out of Egypt (sin) unto a higher standard of living, than that of unbelievers around us. That is, in CHRISTianity, *relationships, rights* and *responsibilities*, as HIS children, and especially as HIS Leaders. These chapters reflect GOD, our FATHER’S Words/Laws to obey, serving as a “tutor to bring us and others to CHRIST,” that we might be justified by faith in HIM (Gal. 3: 24). These are summed in one word: *Kindness*.

*Kindness* is...

“an inward grace that the HOLY SPIRIT produces. HE includes, love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and spirit-control.”

“as the Sun, that makes ice melt and causes misunderstandings, mistrust and hostility to evaporate.”

“the language which the *deaf* hear and the *blind* can see.”  
(Mark Twain)

*Kindness* is not instinctive. *Kindness* must be developed and cultivated. During this Lenten season, dress every day, with *kindness*. “Put on therefore, as the elect of GOD, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, *kindness*, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering...” (Colossians 3: 12).

Today be *kind* to yourself by putting your faith and trust in JESUS CHRIST as LORD and SAVIOR. Today be *kind* to yourself by responding to The HOLY SPIRIT’S work within you. Be *kind* to *others* as the SPIRIT leads, and you will find life today and every day, more beautiful, satisfying and pleasing to GOD. “Today be *kind*, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.”

*Prayer: Dear heavenly FATHER, thank you for your kindness that has brought us the gift of salvation through JESUS CHRIST. Forgive me (us) for our acts of unkindness, which is uncharacteristic of you in our lives. Help us be and do an act of kindness today! In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

# Day 5

Monday, March 7, 2022

## JUSTICE DEFICITS

Rev. Alvin Bernstine

Daniel 5:27

*27 Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.*

My immediate pastoral predecessor, Reverend Dr. Abraham Henry Newman, often stated, “God takes a risk when he blesses us.” Success, and the benefits thereof, potentially creates blind spots. It exponentially magnifies the risks, and the blind spots, when placed within the context of governmental leadership. The greater the responsibilities, the greater the risk and blind spots.

Such was the case with Belshezzar, the last king of Babylon. The opulent success of the Babylonian Empire intoxicated him and his cabinet. They were numb to the glaring deficits of justice. They were clueless to the painful injustices inflicted upon its colonized populace by Babylonian systems and policies. God’s people suffered cruelties, exploitation, and obvious expressions of oppression, while the Babylonian elites partied in privilege. Yet, God interrupted the party of the privileged with incriminating writings on the wall.

While Belshezzaar clearly understood what the words said, he struggled with their meaning and application. He sought Daniel, who gave meaning to the writing. The meaning of the writing convicted Belshezzar, and the Babylonian Empire, as being deficient in matters of justice. Belshezzar’s policies suffered from a justice deficit. The entire kingdom’s scales of justice revealed it to be a justice lightweight. There was nothing about its social practices and policies that weighed favorably in the sight of God.

We believe that after years of protest, marching, sitting, and defiantly resisting; America would know that it suffers from justice deficits. The handwriting of racial injustice has been on the wall. We know what it says, and we know what it means. The question is: when will America acknowledge and take responsibility for being a justice lightweight? Or, are we living out the last days of a nation suffering from justice deficits?

*Prayer: O God, You who historically take the side of justice. Have mercy upon our country as it suffers from the denial of glaring justice deficits. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

# Day 6

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

## COMMUNAL HOSPITALITY

Rev. Mcford B. K. Chipuliko

1 Peter 4: 9-10

*9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

This attitude helps every believer to Communal (Community) hospitality. This is a Spirit of being generous, receptive and caring; it is basically down to earth involvement with people in need; it is standing with people where they are hurt. Caring is an ongoing process that requires an investment of time and patience.

Availability is an essential ingredient of authentic love that unveils the Spirit of genuine hospitality in the community. This comes out from Christ like character because character stems from what is in our hearts, our motives, our attitudes and our desires, revealed through our words, actions, reactions and our relationships. One of the qualifications of disciples of Christ is to be hospitable and courteous with everyone. This attitude helps every believer to serve God with diligence.

We must join hands with others to promote the goal of community on a variety of levels, by fostering fellowships in our families or all human societies. We must promote wholesome relationships regardless our conditions in life. The purpose of the gospel of Jesus Christ is not simply that we should believe in the love of God, but also we should love people in our communities. Through Jesus Christ we receive enough faith to extend our love to others wherever we live. This requires drawing a larger circle of reaching people in order to include everyone. We are made for fellowships. No one is ever born a hermit; we are created for a community.

God's love for us is not conditional but it is open hearted, generous and self-giving so that we may serve Him with diligence in our communities. 'Offering hospitality without grumbling...' means helping others without complaining, murmuring or bitterness. Jesus' earthly life was characterized by selfless service. He reached out in compassion to the lost multitudes. This passage is exhorting disciples of Christ to open their hearts as well as their homes in their communities. Christian hospitality is a much needed blessing in our time.

*Prayer: Lord Jesus help us to open our hearts in order to reach others with your love that produces a Spirit of Hospitality. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# Day 7

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

## TAKE YOUR STAND

Dr. Schmitt Moore

Daniel 3:17-18

*17 “If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”*

It was very ironic that this assignment was given to me the next day after I received a disturbing medical report from my urologist/oncologist. I was diagnosed with that dreadful “C word disease.” That day, the doctor, my wife and I discussed a treatment plan for bladder cancer. He stated that he thought that he had removed all of the cancer, but there needed to be an extensive follow-up plan to make sure all the cancer was gone.

The very next day after that news, I received this assignment. Personal encouragement was found in the bold and courageous stand taken by these three young men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. I saw a clear message in their lives. They did three amazing things that evidently pleased God.

1. They defined their faith in its clearest terms.
2. They declared their faith in its firmest expression.
3. They demonstrated their faith in its finest exhibition.

With tears in my eyes, heaviness in my heart, but encouragement in my spirit, I said to the Lord, “If these young men who at the time didn’t walk with You my God as long as I have in my life, and did not have Jesus as the supreme example for taking a firm stand in the face of death as I have had; yet, they took their stand and said to the King, ‘Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us. And He will deliver us. But if not, let it be known to you O King, we will not serve your gods, neither will we worship the golden image,’ surely I too can take a stand.

Now, if these boys can take their stand for God in the midst of all the danger they faced, we too can take a stand in faith. For the same God is our Almighty, Omnipresent, Omnipotent, Immutable God also. Therefore, I encourage each of us who embrace the Name of Christ as our Savior, to take our “stand in the faith” for God even in the midst of threatening dangers. Therefore, my brothers and sisters take your stand and be steadfast and unmovable in the Lord knowing that your stand in the Lord is not in vain.

Thanks be unto our God Jehovah for allowing His Spirit to lead Dr. Joe Albert Bush, Sr. to assign this particular Scripture and title to me. It came at a time when I really needed to be ministered to. I hope this divinely assigned message ministers to you also, as it has ministered to me.

*Prayer: Lord, I pray that we as disciples will all be strong in the Lord and in the power of Your might. Help us to stand for Your glory and for the spread of the fame of Your Holy Name. In Jesus' name, Amen!*



SO SEND I YOU, Inc. Funds to roofing of National Baptist Churches in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania.

# Day 8

Thursday, March 10, 2022

## THE BLESSING OF GOD'S ABIDING PRESENCE

Dr. Charles Brown

Haggai 1:13b

*13b "I am with you," declares the Lord.*

How often have the demands of everyday life crowded out our awareness and investment in the value of God's presence in our lives. "Business as usual" becomes a continuous cycle of preoccupation with ourselves and our needs, such that God is included only as a source for helping to meet our needs. But as Haggai's first word (Hag. 1:2-11) to the remnant of Judah informs us that excessive concern with our own well-being, to the neglect of cultivating a deeper and more faithful relationship to God, produces the opposite of what we are seeking.

This is what had happened to the returnees from exile in Babylon. They had invested so much in what they felt they lacked, that they neglected to put a priority on serving the God who had given them everything they had or could ever hope to have. Rebuilding the temple was not just necessary for them to recover an institution they had lost in their humiliating defeat and exile. It was necessary for them to come alive to the sustaining and empowering presence of God in their midst.

Upon hearing Haggai's first message, the returnees realized the magnitude and wrongfulness of their neglect. They also realized the enormity of the task that was before them. They were both motivated to work and fearful regarding their chances for success. Then Haggai returned with God's second message: "I am with you." Regardless of the failures of the past and the obstacles and challenges you are facing now, or expect to face in the future: "I am with you."

That is God's message to you now if, and only if, you are willing to come alive to God's presence in your daily living. No matter how and under what circumstances you have come to this moment: "***I am with you.***"

In the words of a great hymn:

*Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed.*

*For I am thy God and will still give thee aid.*

*I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand*

*Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*Prayer: Humble me, O God, that I may hear Your Word and come alive to Your Presence with me today. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



## Day 9

Friday, March 11, 2022

### A PROMISSORY NOTE:

#### "THE CROOKED SHALL BE MADE STRAIGHT"

Riggins R. Earl, Jr. Ph.D.

Isaiah 40:1-4

*1 "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain."*

God's exhortatory command here is necessary for both himself and the prophet in

Isaiah 40: 1-4 for several reasons: a) It declares Israel's time is up for suffering for her sins. God says "enough is enough!" Consoling for God's hurt people! God is satisfied with the price that Israel has paid for her sins. Her punishment at the hands of the Babylonians marks a new chapter in Israel's journey. For four generations God had heard and watched Israel cry and suffer at the hands of a foreign land. The great reversal is that God takes the role of the crier, begging the prophet to cry Israel: "And cry out to her that her time of punishment is over." It is the cry here of Israel's God, who is both the record keeper of her sins and soother of her hurts.

The more powerful insight here is that "God has forgiven Israel of her sins." God has kept Israel's God's promissory note made to Israel through the ancestor Abraham (Genesis- Chapter 15). Nothing can be more healing to hurt people than to hear that they have been forgiven by God for their disobedience. Hear the verse that says: "That her wickedness has been taken away [since her punishment is sufficient]." This is God preparing Israel for making "the crooked way straight." Obedience consists of Israel doing the following for God and themselves. She must "clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness"/ "Make straight and smooth in the desert" – "a highway for our God."

In the face of this, God promises to build a sacred highway in the wilderness from Babylon to Jerusalem. Verse 4 describes how it will be done by God's word: "Every valley shall be raised"/ "And every mountain shall be made low"/ "And let the rough ground become a plain,"/ "And the rugged places"/ "a broad valley" ( Isa., 40:4). It will happen because God has spoken it.

*Prayer: Lord thank you for comforting us with your forgiveness and giving us Jesus who has made the crooked way straight for us. In Jesus name, Amen.*

# Day 10

*Saturday, March 12, 2022*

## BACK TO THE BOOK

Rev. Jesse Bottoms  
Nehemiah 8:18

*18 Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God...*

There is a term in the business world called “Mission Drift.” It simply means a moving or drifting away from the founding mission. Slowly and silently, there is the routine drifting from the original purpose.

A well-known University had a mission statement “To be plainly instructed and consider well that the main end of your life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ.” Founded in 1636, this university employed Christian professors, emphasized character formation in its students above all else, and rooted all its policies and procedures in a Christian worldview. It served as a bastion of academic excellence and Christian distinction. The mission statement is not from Dallas Theological Seminary. It’s from Harvard University. This statement describes its founding mission. Harvard began as a school to equip ministers to share the Good News.

Today, Harvard is an incredible institution with an unmatched reputation, but it no longer resembles its founding. Only 80 years after its founding Harvard’s identity was shifting and drifting. So much so that a group of New England pastors sensed that Harvard had drifted too far and had become too secular, they founded a new stronghold of Christian Higher Education. A preacher named Cotton Mather went to a wealthy philanthropist who shared their concerns. The man’s name was Elihu Yale who financed the effort in 1701 and they named this new school after him. Today it’s known as Yale University.

Harvard’s motto is “Truth.” Yale’s is “Truth and Light.” These are both great academic institutions, but they in no way reassemble their original intent and purpose. That’s Mission Drift. Neither Harvard or Yale resemble their original mission intent. Does the church resemble its original intent?

The purpose of the church is to worship God, study His Word, pray, love one another, help each other, partake of baptism and the Lord’s supper, to learn how to live as godly people, and to be equipped to evangelize the world.

Our Mission Statement is in the Book. To reclaim our calling, commission and challenge, we must go “Back to the Book!”

*Prayer: Lord, please correct us and redirect us Back to the Book. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

# Day 11

*Monday, March 14, 2022*

## WHEN GOD IS PRESENT UNAWARES

Rev. Elmer Porter Hardy, Jr. Genesis 28:16

*16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the LORD is in this place and I was not aware of it.”*

As I ponder the pertinence of this prophetic passage, I am reminded of one of the quintessential lessons which has solidified the trajectory of my destiny: **“Sometimes God has to put you to sleep in order to wake you up!”**

And if we as Kingdom citizens are to “stay woke” as millennials are poetically and prophetically propelling us to do, in order to face the herculean social, political, environmental, and economic challenges of our lifetime, then we must maintain a vigilant level of consciousness at a radical rate of intentionality. To paraphrase the ancient Navajo proverb: “The hardest man to wake up is the man pretending to be asleep.” And, ‘Fake sleep is never a substantial substitute for divine dreams – like the lucid ones during which we are completely conscious of our ability to control the outcome of our z-land experience.

I vividly remember having such a dream after I finished my two-year pastorate at First Baptist Church in Costa Rica (“Pura Vida”) in 2003 and before I started my 4-year pastorate at First Baptist Church of Port Jefferson, NY in 2006. It was during that 3-year custom-tailored ‘job season’ when I was unemployed, in debt, broke, medicated and living back at Mama’s house, as a 34-year-old grown behind man—that I had a dream in my little bedroom, where I slept as a teenager in the South Bronx. God opened heaven and poured out warm rain on my face as I started praising God so hard, I literally woke up in worship.

Tears of victory bathed my eyes as I saw God clearly during this time of major transition. Like Jacob in today’s text, I marked my “Bethel spot,” where I experienced one of my greatest encounters with God in a dream and woke up to his presence.

The first book of the Bible, Genesis (‘Bereshith’ in Hebrew), compiled by Moses during the nation of Israel’s wilderness wandering (1440-1400 B.C.) to prepare their promised land mentality. Genesis is supernaturally suggestive for this ‘beginning’ of Jacob’s new life, ending his run from his older brother Esau and his stigmatization as the supplanter who grabbed Esau by the heel at birth and later stole his birthright and blessing – and starting his reign as the father of a nation.

During this Lenten Season of sacrificial living, may we experience God’s perpetual presence, especially during times of transformative transition.

*Prayer: Yahweh, Keep us aware of your perpetual presence. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

# Day 12

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

## THE AUTUMN AND SPRING RAINS

Rev. Darrell A. Drumwright

Joel 2:23 -24

*23 Be glad, O people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. 24 The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.*

We cannot approach these verses without looking at the total context of what is occurring. There were years of long locust plagues. As a result, food and livestock are in short supply. Devastation and destruction are imminent and the challenge to the people is to return to God. They are encouraged to fast, repent, and pray that God would spare their lives.

The promise of Joel is that God would not leave the people in that position of despair. Joel tells the people of God to “rejoice because God is faithful.” The faithful God of the autumn rain is also a God of the spring rain who continuously and consistently provides with abundant, overflowing provisions and sustenance. Yes, locusts may eat up and destroy. However, the God who is creator of all things and omnipotent will rain. This “rain of God” provides a new and refreshing season of restoration.

Moreover, as we consider this “rainy” language, water is extremely significant in our understanding and connection with God through Jesus Christ. In the Bible, we experience the power of water to cleanse, save, destroy, spare, refresh, grow and even initiate. In these present times, God’s rain is necessary and required in equipping us to address issues of race, poverty, mass incarceration, access to healthcare and educational inequities. May the God of the autumn and spring rain who came to us in Jesus Christ as the “water of life” continually flow in and through us and in the details that inform and impact our daily living.

*Prayer: God of the autumn and spring rains, we stand ready and open to receive your rain in our lives. Revive us, refresh us and restore us. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.*

# Day 13

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

## MINISTRY TO YOUR ENEMIES

Rev. Phillip McDowell

Proverbs 25:21

*21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.*

The book of Proverbs, like Job and Ecclesiastes, belongs to the category of biblical writing known as Wisdom Literature. The purpose of Wisdom Literature is to teach God's people how to live a good life according to God's standards. Often His standards are different from ours. Neither His thoughts nor His ways are like ours (Isa. 55:8–9). And yet, if we expect to do His will, we are often challenged by His word. Such is the case with our devotional message today. We are informed that we must be willing to provide ministry to our enemies.

“Enemy” in this context refers to anyone who hates you, for whatever reason. While helping your enemy may not be an automatic reaction, please note, this is not a suggestion, but, rather a command. God expects us to be kind to one another, even to our enemies. Maybe it's because we are all made in the image of God and in His likeness (Gen. 1:26-27). Or maybe it's because from one blood God has made all people of the earth (Acts 17:26). One thing is certain, this proverb challenges us to re-evaluate our relationship with those who do not mean us well.

Interestingly, this Old Testament principle is found several places in the Bible. It is found in one of the historical books. When the Syrians were about to attack the children of Israel, Elisha, the prophet, prayed that God would strike them with blindness. Upon capturing the Syrians, Elisha, ordered that they be given food and water and sent back to their master (2 Kings 6:22-23). The principle is also found in one of the Gospels. Jesus, our Lord and Savior, taught that we must love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matt 5:44). Finally, Proverb 25:21 is also quoted in one of Paul's letters to the early church (Rom 12:20). It is apparent that God wants us to live according to this challenging divine principle.

*Prayer: Lord, make me willing to provide ministry to my enemies; when they are hungry, let me feed them and when they are thirsty, let me give them water. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.*

# Day 14

Thursday, March 17, 2022

## A VISION THAT IS VITAL

Dr. Amos Jones

Habakkuk 2:1-4

*1 I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. 2 Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. 3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. 4 See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright- but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness -"*

In his poetic eloquence, Langston Hughes opined "What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a reason in the sun, or fester like a sore and then run; does it sag like a heavy load, or does it simply explode?" The dread of the Hebrews simply exploded. Scoring their rich history and their God-led success, there were Hebrews who, slackened the law and judgement, never went forth (Hab. 1:4). Thus, God commissioned the vicious Chaldeans to attack Judah, and the Holy City, Jerusalem. The prophet paints a gruesome picture, an awful sight. What must the righteous do?

Habakkuk wonders aloud whether God, while allowing such punishment to come upon the people, will permit the unrighteous to mercilessly prevail against "the man that is more righteous than he?" (Hab. 1:13). Habakkuk has a dilemma. Can he contend for the righteous? Is there a vision that is vital for the survival of those who fear God? The verses of our text provide the answer to the prophet's inquiry of God.

The prophet positions himself on the watchman's perch; he will wait and watch for God's response to his query. The prophet is to stand on his watch tower, write the vision, making it plain so the one who runs can read it. Though delayed, the message will come that "the just (righteous) shall live by his faith."

Some in America have caused the law to fail. Some, thinking they are right, have not caused judgment to go forth. Because they have sold the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of shoes, God may hand over the nation to peril at the hands of others. What must the righteous do? God's message to the ancient prophet is cogent now, "The Just shall live by his faith."

*Prayer: Dear God, give us tenacious faith to hold on to Thee in spite of the conditions that we face. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen!*



# Day 15

Friday, March 18, 2022

## THE SQUARE ROOT OF BITTERNESS

Rev. Dr. Allen Paul Weaver, Jr.

Hebrews 12:14-15

*14 “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness, no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.”*

It is all a matter of perspective! The writer to the Hebrews looks at you and me as we are nearing the finish line. He knows we are tired and weary from running this race. However, he reminds us that we are sons and daughters of God and should not mind God disciplining us as we run this race. He wants us to understand that God’s love for us is shown in His discipline because He wants us to spend eternity with Him and know Him as Father. The author of Hebrews encourages us to endure hardship that comes in our lives as God disciplines us for it is to our benefit so that we can share in His holiness.

Once we understand how the discipline of God works, the writer to the Hebrews outlines for us how we should embrace God’s purpose for our lives. First, we are encouraged to pursue peace and holiness. Because the enemy is cunning, he knows how to make us ineffective in this world. He creates an atmosphere of conflict and dissent within the church, bringing glory, not to God, but himself. And so, the writer to the Hebrews commands us to live in peace with each other and be holy. Holiness is the path to God, and without it, no one will see God.

Second, God does not want us to fall short of His grace! To fall short is to become bitter, angry, disillusioned, and unfriendly to others within the household of faith. Sort out your feelings; make sure bitterness is not rooted deep in your heart, which will someday grow up to cause trouble and offend your brothers and sisters.

Peace and Holiness wrapped up in the bosom of every disciple, confound the wiles of the devil! Nothing else is effective with the square root of bitterness. Remember, “without holiness, no one will see the Lord.” What is the square root of bitterness that should be banned from every faithful congregation? It is apostasy or idolatry! Every church has a few “bitter roots.” There are those within our fellowship who worship other gods and seek to lead us astray also. Know who these people are in your congregation; steer clear away from them so that their poison does not seep into your spirit, causing you to fall short of God’s grace.

*Prayer: Lord, do not let me sow divisiveness within the fellowship of believers. Let me pursue peace and holiness, because I want to see your face at the end of this journey. In Christ’s Name. Amen.*

# Day 16

*Saturday, March 19, 2022*

## A LOYAL HEART AND A WILLING MIND

Rev. Dr. Byron L. Benton

1 Chronicles 28:9

*9 “And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.*

The season of the COVID-19 pandemic has been arduous and taxing for everyone.

Churches survived by quickly adjusting to a new world of virtual worship and non-traditional liturgy. As social distancing and empty pews became the norm, I began to evaluate the condition of my heart and mind. Do you preach just as hard to a vacant sanctuary, and do the singers sing just as strong? Do you still dress in your Sunday best to sit in your living room and give undivided attention to the worship moment? Do you still faithfully and cheerfully contribute financially, through tithes and offerings, though no one can see you place an envelope in the basket as it passes by your sanctuary seat?

The answers to these questions reveal the conditions of our hearts and the motives behind our behaviors. If the music ministry is performing for an audience of one – God – then their melodies and voices will not diminish because of empty pews. If the preacher proclaims the Gospel with pure intentions, then one repentant soul watching worship on YouTube is worth more than 1000 seasoned saints shouting AMEN! from cushioned seats.

King David was a deeply flawed father, husband, and king, but his motives made him a man after God’s own heart. He keenly understood that his success was not performance-based but was rooted in his loyal heart and willing mind. He truly wanted to please the Lord and knew that his son, Solomon, would also need to acquire this attribute to succeed as king and build God’s temple.

Friends, you can have the right plan, but, possess the wrong motives. It is better to have a bad plan with the right motives than a good plan with the wrong motives. God can easily convict, correct, and redirect a misguided person with a loyal heart and determined mind. Yet, a person with great talent and magnificent credentials, may find worldly success without eternal reward or spiritual fulfillment, if his/her passion and thoughts are not pleasing to God. As disciples, our desires and focus must center on pleasing God.

*Prayer: God, search my heart and purify my motives; help my thoughts to remain focused on Your will and Your plan for my life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

# Day 17

Monday, March 21, 2022

## WHAT THE LORD REQUIRES

Rev. Dr. Clarke L. McGriff

Micah 6:8

*8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

As a Christian, what ought I to do, and how ought I to do it? Is there a job description for those who so often declare, “*Giving honor to God, who is the head of my life...*?” The Apostle Paul told the believers at Colossae, “*whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, (3:17).*”

It is biblically clear that Christians are to be more than hearers of God’s Word, but most importantly, doers. But is there any place in the Bible that pulls the many requirements of God’s people together in a neat succinct package? Meet the prophet Micah, a contemporary of Isaiah and Hosea. Listed among the so-called 12 Minor Prophets of the Old Testament, Micah’s prophetic contribution is anything but minor. Micah is the prophet who foretold that the coming Messiah would be born in the tiny, seemingly insignificant village of Bethlehem (*Micah 5:2*).

Micah is better known for the practical teaching in Chapter 6, where the lesson comes in a combination question/answer verse: the answer is implanted in the question it asks, “*What does the Lord require of you...*” The three-part answer instantly follows: *Do justly... love mercy... and walk humbly with your God.*

Dr. O.S. Hawkins notes that these three are not suggestions or mere options. These behaviors focus on our *actions, affections, and attitudes*. They are “required” of each of us. This is in fact, the *Christian Job Description*.

In our *actions*, we do not simply admire and seek justice, but we must *do justly*. At the Green Hill Church, our mantra is: *If you do it right, God will bless it right!*

Our *affections* display what we are passionate about and what we love. Micah’s message from God is, we must not just speak of mercy, but we must *love mercy* so much that we *do mercy*!

In our *attitude*, we must keep at bay what has been called, the perpendicular pronoun, the “Big I.” We must instead, *walk humbly with God*.

Micah 6:8 is not the formula for eternal life! We are not saved by obeying these words, but we cannot obey them unless we are saved!

*Prayer: Lord, please help us daily to fulfill your Job Description. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

# Day 18

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

## NO ILL COMES WITH HIS GUIDANCE

Dr. Derrick L. Miles

Deuteronomy 32:10

*10 In the desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye,*

One of the old songs of our tradition says, “Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I will not stray. Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, Oh Lord, Lead Me.”

Moses, in this song of remembrance, is speaking to the children of Israel about the continual guidance of the Lord. He, in a poetic way, talks about the pain and pressure of Egypt and how God had delivered them. Moses has completed the Ten Commandments given from the mouth of God and now Israel has what God expects from them. They have left the gods of Egypt in Egypt and it is time for them to focus on the God who brought them out.

Moses says that God kept them as the apple of His eye. This terminology is symbolic of the tender loving care for a precious object in need of protection.

When we think of the love that God has for us, it is mind blowing. It blows our mind because He cares and He will always do what is right for us. When God guides us, it may not be the road less traveled, but you are guaranteed to be under His protective custody.

Mostly everyone has some kind of Global Positioning System (GPS)—Google maps, vehicles, telephones or some other apparatus. We type in an address and listen for a voice to instruct us. Because of our trust in GPS, we do exactly what it tells us. However, there are times when maps and construction areas have not been updated and we end up at wrong places. The crazy thing is, we will try to get the GPS to reroute us again even though it deceived us.

Before Global Positioning System, I was using GPS! The GPS that I was and am using is God’s Positioning System. It has been working. There have been times in life when we feel as if we are in the wilderness, but our GPS voice comes to assure us that He will never leave us or forsake us.

*Prayer: God we pray to you that you will keep our GPS in-tuned with you! In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

# Day 19

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

## THE THINGS THAT MAKE FOR PEACE

Rev. Dr. Demetrius K. Williams

Isaiah 11:6

*6 The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.*

This poetic prophecy of earthly peace was composed by the primary prophet of messianic expectations, Isaiah. Some have given him the epitaph “the Gospel Preacher of the Old Testament” because he used a word in his writings that seems prescient of the Gospel of Jesus Christ— “glad tidings,” which is translated in Greek as “good news” (Isaiah 40:9; 52:7; 61:1). Isaiah was gifted with insight into the life and ministry of the Messiah (Isaiah 7:14). Isaiah 9:6-7 reads, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Notable here is that the Messiah will be called the “Prince of Peace.”

In the prophetic meditation on the future peace of the messianic reign (11:1-9), Isaiah reflects upon the dissolution of divisions, aggression and violence between natural zoological foes; that is, between predator and prey—the wolf and the lamb, the leopard and the kid, the calf and the lion. Most remarkable is a child shall lead them! The peace of the animal kingdom is reflective of the desired end to the aggression, division, and violence in the human realm.

Our world is rife with division, and hostile aggression between the powerful and the powerless. There are hostilities, including violence, in the political, social, religious realms. Many are frustrated with all that is going wrong in the world and wonder, “Is there an end in sight?!” Isaiah would answer, “Yes!” But not yet. The Messiah is still to come (again), and He alone can bring about the peace that humanity so desires.”

As Christians we believe that when our Messiah, Jesus Christ returns, He will inaugurate an epoch of eternal peace, a time of “no more” – no more sin, violence, sickness, pain, heartache, death, and division. However, while we wait for that time to come, we must continue to live in an age and reality of “some more.” It is incumbent upon us in the meanwhile to trust God and remain hopeful allowing the promise of eschatological peace to inspire us to contend for and engage in those “things that make for peace” (Luke 19:44) and justice until the sun of “no more” never sets.

*Prayer: “Blessed God of peace and promise, help us to remember during this time of Lent the words of Jesus who said to his disciples, “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.” In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

# Day 20

Thursday, March 24, 2022

## JEHOVAH, OUR GREAT HUSBAND

Dr. Jason L. Turner

Isaiah 54:5

5 *“For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.”*

After the preceding chapter magnifies the redemptive work of the Suffering Servant, Chapter 54 swells into a hymn of praise. This hymn exclaims the coming of a new age for God’s people after years of affliction and suffering. Ultimately, these verses sing the unconditional love of a covenant keeping God. A God whose love is beyond comprehension, yet the prophet reminds God’s people that God, “your Maker is your husband.”

This may be a problematic image for a wife who has lived through a tumultuous marriage with an abusive or unfaithful husband. However, God is able to refresh and recast for us what it truly means to be a husband and to help us to celebrate the renewed relationship with God. When we see God as husband, it is to understand the relentless love of God, whom from Creation determines to be in relationship with His people—despite our own unfaithfulness. God has remained committed to keeping His covenant with us, even when we are “prone to wander.” He never gives up on us. In fact, the God of all the earth, is our redeemer. He is always waiting for us to return to Him.

God, our husband is not only faithful to us, but also gives us the assurance of protection, for He is the Lord of host. In a close Hebrew reading of this expression it reads, “the Lord of armies.” This means God is more than able to protect and defend us against all dangers, seen and unseen. God does not allow harm to come to us so much so that, He will not allow us to face any battle without taking it on as His own.

To the present day, even until the culmination of all things, God continues to be husband to His people, who make-up the Church, who are His bride. Ultimately, we look forward to singing a new hymn commissioned to be sung at the wedding of salvation’s history in Revelation 19:7-8 which exclaims: “Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.”

*Prayer: God, may we be faithful to you, in good times and in bad, better and for worse, sickness and in health, in plenty and in lack; as we look forward to spending eternity in Your Presence. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.*



# Day 21

Friday, March 25, 2022

## PRISONERS OF HOPE

Dr. Amos Jones  
Zechariah 9:12

*12 Return to your fortress, O prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.*

In 1948 or 1949, there fell from the pen of Samuel Beckett a two act play he named *Waiting for Godot*. Beckett, born in Dublin, Ireland and relocating to Paris, envisioned man in a state of despair and waited for whatever he thought he needed to solve life's problems. Thus, Beckett developed a character he named *Godot* for whom two characters waited. *Godot* would solve all of these two men's problems, ease their burdens, dispose of their afflictions, and answer all their questions. The problem was *Godot* never came. They waited one day – he did not come. Though waiting endless hours that painfully grew into days, the ONE for whom Beckett's two characters waited never came. The report is that the audiences before whom *Waiting for Godot* was performed went into delirium. The angst of anxiety and the dread of loneliness and fear seized the crowded room. Some even cried out in despair. Regardless of the audience's behavior, *Godot* never came. The ONE on whom all the hopes of man had been placed, never appeared.

In this life, there are those who place all their hopes and desires for life in an elusive and ephemeral character named *Godot*. They spend precious time in life waiting for this elusive character – who never comes. Samuel Beckett captured a very important characteristic about man. Man places his hopes and desires in that which never appears.

But this opens for the Christian, the opportunity to witness about the Christ we serve. In the writings of the prophet, Zechariah, the reference is to “prisoners of hope.” These are those who wait for the coming King of Zechariah 9:9. Instead of waiting in despair and disillusionment, the prophet encourages them to “rejoice greatly.” The daughter of Zion, the daughter of Jerusalem is exhorted to “rejoice” for their king comes to bring salvation.

Sure enough, when men thought not, unexpected and unprepared, Jesus the Son of God showed up as a babe born in Bethlehem of Judah.

*Prayer: Father, Thou hast fulfilled our hopes and desires in the birth of Jesus Christ, Thy Son. We believe with all our heart that Thou didst come into the world to redeem us of our sins. Thank You Father that Thou didst not allow us to remain prisoners of hope. In Jesus' name we pray with thanksgiving, Amen!*

# Day 22

*Saturday, March 26, 2022*

## THE ANSWER IS IN THE WIND

Rev. Dr. Jonathan R. Staples John 3:8

*8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.*

The Bible uses a lot of phrases to describe salvation.

- First Peter 1 calls it being “redeemed.”
- Ephesians 2 calls it getting “saved.”
- Mark 10 calls it being “ransomed.”
- Galatians 5 calls it being “set free.”
- 1 John 1 calls it being “cleansed.”
- Ephesians 1 calls it being “forgiven.”
- Isaiah 1 calls it being “washed.”
- John 3 calls it being “born again.”

We didn’t have anything to do with your being born. Somebody else was involved in that process. It’s as much a mystery as watching the wind blow. You won’t fully understand it, but you can know this much: the stuff blowing in the wind is being acted upon by a greater power. So, it is with salvation. Salvation originates with God. We are the recipients of salvation and not the causes of it.

Jesus asks Nicodemus, “Can you feel that wind on your face, it blows where it will.” Nicodemus must have been thinking, “What does wind have to do with being born again?” The wind served as a great illustration.

Wind is impressive. We can feel it, hear it, and even see the effects of it, but we have no idea where it starts; where it ends; or little idea how it happens. We know that we cannot control the wind. Wind can have a positive effect or a negative one.

Nicodemus knew about the wind and its impact. In the desert and on the sea, this was something they knew and understood. Jesus drew Nicodemus’ attention to the wind to say, “The answer to the question of eternal life is blowing like the wind.”

The word Spirit is capitalized because it speaks of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God that came to take residence in the lives of those who trust and follow Jesus. The Spirit (Holy Wind) comes to the repentant one to give life. It is the promise of Jesus that the “wind” came with a mighty sound at Pentecost. In Jesus, the answer to Nicodemus and to us is blowing like the wind. Will you catch the wind?

*Prayer: Holy One, when we have questions and cannot understand, help us to catch the wind. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

# Day 23

Monday, March 28, 2022

## TAKING THE WORRY OUT OF YOUR LIFE

Rev. Edwin Holmes

Matthew 6:25

25 *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?”*

Have you ever worried about anything in your lifetime? Has anything ever consumed your mind that you actually thought you were going to lose your mind? Worry is whatever torments to the point that it disturbs one’s thoughts. While it appears that we are post-pandemic, many are still in a season of worry. We are worried about the increase in random acts of violence, the continued education of our children, the future of our voting rights, the brutality of police officers, the lack of resources in our communities, the legitimacy of the vaccine, the stabilization of the family and the challenges of day-to-day living. How can we cease from worry when all hell is breaking out in every aspect of our lives?

The text teaches us that God has us!

You don’t have to worry about your life. If you die, think like Paul who said, “...for me to live is Christ and to die is gain.” If you are still here, whatever you are going through is not **fatal**; it is not **final**; and it still has a possibility of being **fruitful**. God still has purpose for your life. Do not put a period at the end of your life in this season because God is about to write a new chapter. If God provides for the birds of the air, how much more will God provide for you?

Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. God has placed the kaleidoscopic colors of the rainbow in every lily. If God provides for birds and lilies, don’t you know He will do that much more for a creature He created in His image and likeness?

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these other things will be added to you. Don’t worry! Trust in the Lord.

*Prayer: Our Lord, who is the great Provider of this universe, give us the wisdom to turn to you when we feel anxious about the cares of this world. In thee, Oh Lord, we put our trust! In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

## Day 24

*Tuesday, March 29, 2022*

### THE VISINE THAT GETS THE RUDENESS OUT

Rev. Dr. Donaldson Jones Matthew 7:5

*5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

The Visine commercial declares “Visine gets the red out.” It promises to soothe the eye allergies and other irritants foreign to the eye. In the Matthew 7:1-5 periscope, Jesus Christ is the omniscient ophthalmologist, possessing the spiritual Visine that addresses the ultimate visual impediment of the human race; the rudeness of sin.

This moral malady is the utter ugliness of disrespecting the Holiness of Divinity which distorts our image and likeness of God, thus diminishing our sensitivity to human dignity and decency. A pronounced symptom of this affliction is the self-adulating hypercritical hypocrite.

The eyes examined in the text are emblematic of the soul and spirit of our selfhood. The omniscient ophthalmologist observes two categories of eye patients. You have persons who have slightly impaired vision caused by some small speck or splinter sin. In the second category the persons represented have a plank of perversity, a luciferin log lodged in the vitreous cavity.

Most of us tend to fluctuate between these two categories. Therefore, we must submit to the therapeutic treatment of the study of the scriptures, fasting, prayer, corporate worship and working selflessly to advance His kingdom.

Solomon said, “where there is no vision the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18). Whatever the source of the visual impairment, physiological or spiritual; these persons can make wrong moves that can wreck the lives of themselves and others.

How do we help with vision problems? We must inspect and correct ourselves before we seek to correct others. The Apostle Paul writes: “Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or ye also may be tempted” (Gal. 6:1).

The cross where the blood of Christ is allocated is the Visine that gets the sin specks and splinters as well as the luciferin log and planks of perversity, the rudeness out! When the road of life is foggy and the vision of what's ahead is draped in darkness; if our eyes are clear enough to see Jesus; He will be our light and lead us home.

*Prayer: Gracious God give us the virtue and vision to see you, ourselves and others more clearly, and please Sir, see us from where we are to where you want us to be. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

## Day 25

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

## THE QUEST FOR REST

Rev. Dr. Julius Scruggs

Matthew 11:28-28

*28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

Are you stressed, weary, anxious, frustrated, uptight and carrying these and other heavy burdens? If you are, I recommend that you seriously hear Jesus’ words in today’s scriptural text: “Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

Rest is a part of the rhythm of life. Without rest, one can become disoriented, discombobulated and sick even to the point of death. Consequently, social scientists have recommended that we get eight hours of sleep each night. Rest is so important that in the Old Testament, God commanded His covenant people to rest every seventh day (Deut. 5:12-15). Christians, likewise, are commanded to rest and worship God on the Lord’s Day (Rev. 1:10-11).

In the scriptural passage for today’s meditation, Jesus is the answer for our lack of rest. He invites us to come to Him and find rest for our weary minds, souls and bodies. He bids us come and rest from the daily, social, political, economic, ecological, and sinful burdens that we carry. Often today when we concentrate on the systemic and structural aspects of racism, bigotry and hatred in God’s world, it can stress us out. But, Jesus says, “Come to me” and find rest.

How does Jesus give us rest? First, He allows us to rest in His presence. Come to me, abide in me, and allow me to abide in you and you will find peaceful rest in our relationship. Next, He says that we need to wear the right yoke: “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me: for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Mt 11:29).

Someone may want to ask, “How can you rest with a yoke on?” You can rest with Jesus’ yoke because His yoke is a perfect fit. In Jesus’ day oxen wore yokes to facilitate their pulling heavy loads. The oxen’s yoke was a heavy wooden harness that fit over the shoulders of the animal. If the yoke was too tight, it would choke the oxen. If the yoke was too large, it would move up or down and irritate the oxen’s flesh. Therefore, it was necessary for the yoke to fit properly. Again, Jesus’ yoke is easy and fits us perfectly. Satan’s yoke does not fit us. It was not made for us. It irritates, bruises and wounds our souls. We grow weary, frustrated, and life is burdensome. But Jesus’ yoke lightens our burdens and turns them into blessings! So, I plead with us to take off Satan’s yoke and put on Jesus’ yoke so he can carry us into His blessed rest

*Prayer: God, please grant that we may walk with you in quietness, love and service and that we may indeed find rest in thee. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

# Day 26

Thursday, March 31, 2022

## WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?

Min. James Gregory Graves  
2 Corinthians 13:5

*5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you unless, of course, you fail the test?*

This scripture is a message the apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, prior to his third visit. It was in response to false apostles and some church members at Corinth who challenged Paul's personal integrity and his authority as an apostle (Cor. 11:4-12:11). Paul in turn asked them to apply the same standard to themselves that they were applying to him. In short, Paul wanted them to examine themselves spiritually. His question, do they believe what they believed when Paul first introduced them to Jesus? Or will they find that their trust has been in someone or something else? Paul's exhortation was to stand fast in the faith, especially in view of the susceptibility of the Corinthians to false teachings.

Americans are people of convenience, who delight in earthly pleasures. Do we really want to take the time to conduct an "archeological dig" of our spiritual status? Perhaps it reminds us of going to a physician who will examine us and maybe find something troublesome. In response, some Millennials can be heard saying, "can I do Lent through an app? Isn't self-introspection what monks do?"

Questions still remain. Are you willing to set aside the time to reflect on Jesus, His life, teachings, death, and His resurrection? Can you open the doors of your heart wider and understand our Lord a little deeper? Just as we carefully prepare for events in our personal lives, are you willing to examine your sinful nature? Are you willing to contemplate what the Lord did for us on the cross? Lent is a serious undertaking. Lent is an opportunity to commune with God, purge and refine areas you have not submitted to the Lord.

*Prayer: "Search me O' God and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked ways in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalms 139:23-24). In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## Day 27

Friday, April 1, 2022

### THE “IF” OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Dr. Derick Brennan

1 John 1:9

*9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

A chief element of ensuring that Christians have an ongoing healthy relationship with God is our consistently seeking and receiving His forgiveness. Just as there is an “if” in God’s salvation of humanity (Romans 10:9), John is teaching us that the conjunction “if” also applies to a disciple’s role in accessing God’s forgiveness.

“If we confess our sins” is the first step in a threefold process of forgiveness. God encourages confessing our sins not because He is unaware of our missing the mark, but our Father knows that we His children are liberated when we process and admit our transgressions. Though the Bible encourages confessing sins to others in the faith (James 5:16), children of God must be conscious that all sin is primarily an offense against God and a secondary violation of self and others. Therefore, we the redeemed must go to God directly and accept responsibility for our fallen thoughts, emotions, and behaviors.

Additionally, if we confess, our admission prompts God’s forgiveness, which should never be taken for granted. Heinrich Heine, a German poet, and journalist was asked whether God would forgive him? Heine replied, “Of course God will forgive me; that’s His job.” Forgiveness is not God’s job, but God’s gift! By God’s grace, we are pardoned from the judgment that our iniquities warrant and the penalty that His holiness demands. The assurance of God’s forgiveness should humble and strengthen believers to forgive ourselves, forgive others, and to seek the forgiveness of those whom we have offended.

Finally, if we confess, not only does God forgive, but He also purifies. In the Greek, purifying is the word “*katharizo*” which is translated into English as “*catharsis*” meaning cleansing and release. Being cleansed and released from unrighteousness allows believers to be in right standing with God. Purifying should also enable believers to overcome feelings of guilt and shame, frequent tools of the accuser.

*Prayer: Lord, in this season of Lent, I thank you that if I confess my sins, I will receive your forgiveness and be cleansed. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*



# Day 28

*Saturday, April 2, 2022*

## THE “AS” FACTOR

Dr. Asriel G. McLain

Matthew 6:12

*12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

This sentence, first spoken by Jesus Christ in Matthew’s gospel in the Sermon on the Mount, comes from the Lord’s Prayer. As the model prayer, it gives the principles of prayer, summed up in this acronym, A.C.T.S.: A-Adoration; C-Confession of Sin; T-Thanksgiving; S- Submission. William Barclay, says that each person of the Trinity is alluded to in this prayer: the Father in verses 9-11, the Son in verse 6:12 and the Holy Spirit, in verse 6:13. We want to look at the verse that pictures the work of God’s Son, through whose death and resurrection, the forgiveness of sin is available to all.

A conjunction is a word used to connect clauses, sentences or to coordinate words in the same clause. Here “as” links God’s forgiveness of us and our forgiveness of others, but “as” could speak of the action of two or more events occurring at the same point in time or space. The forgiveness of God should move in sync with our forgiveness of each other; like a machine whose cogs are interconnected turns each other at the same time.

As an adverb “as” suggests the forgiveness of God relates to our receiving forgiveness, which some theologians define as “judicial” forgiveness. This is given at the cross when we become His children. Unforgiveness hurts the unforgiver more than the unforgiven—physically, in terms of tension; mentally in terms of stress; and spiritually, in terms of our salvation having no joy. We note the verse that describes our sins as debts, as we are not submitted fully to His sovereignty and women and men fail to treat each other as humans.

Preposition is a word governing, and usually preceding a noun or pronoun and expressing a relation to another word or element in a clause. It is also used to indicate a time or date at which something begins or ends. The word “as” here suggests the nearness of forgiveness being granted to others as it is given to us; moving just like the blood in our veins and like our kidneys constantly functioning to cleanse our bodies.

The “As” factor reminds us that the currency of forgiveness, backed by the gold standard of love, is constantly in circulation as money is in a bank. It is drawn out by faith in Jesus Christ, as we share that wealth with all, even to those who treat us badly. It is all because of the One who died on Friday, but early Sunday, He got up with all power in His hands.

*Prayer: Father empower us to continually forgive our debtors as you have eternally forgiven us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

## Day 29

Monday, April 4, 2022

### SIR, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE JESUS

Rev. Eldridge R. Sims

John 12:21-22

*21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.*

There was a great crowd that came to Jerusalem for the festival and heard that Jesus was on His way. They took palm branches and went to meet Him shouting, "Hosanna!" They were aware of His capabilities, because He had raised Lazarus from the dead and performed other miracles.

His popularity drew attention from those who liked and disliked Him. How many times have you been in the same situation? A situation where people like you because of what you do for them and others who are haters of you because of the recognition you receive.

At this particular time in history, the national leaders desired to kill Jesus. He had become too popular amongst the Jews, the Greeks and the Gentiles. You can identify with their love for Him, because they were the ones who He healed from their sickness. He gave sight to their blindness. And He told the lame to get up and walk. He is the same Healer today, who continues to heal us and makes a way out of no way. Just as the Greeks did, we need to seek His face.

There were some Greeks who approached Philip with a sincere request, having a craving in their souls, to see Jesus. They didn't ask to hear Him, or request to witness one of His mighty works. They just wanted to see Him.

These Greeks were strangers, but their passionate petition must have delighted Philip's heart. I say this because the request was relayed to Andrew. It is important to understand in life, that what you say, how you say it, and who you say it to, makes a difference in what will be received. Your personal presentation is everything, in all situations.

Philip and Andrew went before the Lord on their behalf and told Him of their request.

*Prayer: Father, may we do things decent and in order, so that you will receive the glory. Hallelujah! In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# Day 30

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

## JESUS MEETS US WHERE WE ARE

Rev. Dr. James McCarroll, Jr.

John 11:35

*35 Jesus wept.*

It had been over four days. What began as a severe sickness had now culminated into a graveside visitation. Jesus walked into a scene of wailing and disappointment. Met by the two sisters of the deceased—Martha and Mary—Jesus now is being escorted to the gravesite. Then the writer pens two of the most famous words ever written in the Bible, “Jesus wept.”

There are many different views concerning why Jesus wept. Some considered that it was the result of unbelief. However, this would be more fitting for His groaning when viewing the cave with the stone rolled over it. Others suggest that it is because He was hurting at the loss of His friend. This couldn’t be the case because He had already forecasted Lazarus’ resurrection. The real reason Jesus cried was to join Mary and those weeping in their space of sorrow. He refused to allow them to cry alone. He did it to meet them where they were.

This is a glimpse into the heart of God. He refuses to leave us abandoned and forsaken in our moments of heartache, grief and disappointment. Instead, He finds a way to be a present Help in times of trouble. This is the reason that prior to His departure Jesus uttered the phrase, “I will be with you ALWAYS...” It is the eternal reminder that there is no place this journey of life can take us where Jesus can’t meet us.

The even greater news is that Jesus didn’t just weep. He wept while He walked to the place of resurrection. Jesus meets us *while also leading us*. He doesn’t just meet us to park in our “pity party.” He meets us in the dark to escort us to the dawn. This is the beauty of the Lenten Season. It is a reminder that the cross is where Jesus meets us in sin, suffering and death. It is also the holy reminder that at the empty grave, He leads us to new life, hope, and victory.

I encourage you today to know that wherever life may take you, Jesus can meet you there and escort you into the greater hope that lies beyond it.

*Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for being a loving God who orders each of our steps. We are grateful that you choose to place your feet alongside ours in every season and stage of life. We pray that you will allow us to discover and rest in the peace of Christ that comes from knowing that we are accompanied by a loving God who guides us into the paths of hope, righteousness and divine purpose. In Jesus’ name we ask this, Amen.*

# Day 31

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

## GANGSTA GRACE

Rev. Dr. Angelita Clifton

John 12:13-15

*13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the King of Israel!” 14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, 15 “Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”*

I believe everybody loves a parade. However, when Jesus entered Jerusalem, I am convinced there were people in the crowd who had no idea what was going on. There were people who knew salvation had come, and there were a select few who knew Jesus came to challenge the status quo. You see, there was another parade happening on the Westside of town. Pontius Pilate was on the Westside protecting the status quo, while Jesus was on the Eastside protesting the status quo. I heard someone say, if you find yourself standing on the same side of an oppressive system, you need to reconsider where you stand.

During Passover, Pilate marched into Jerusalem complete with legions of troops, banners, and bells blaring. His intent? To show the people of Jerusalem that Rome was their master. Just think about the act of defiance Jesus’s Palm Sunday protest was considering Pilate’s procession. With this in mind, I imagine Jesus’s protest, disguised as a parade, becomes a political parody of Pilate’s position. A deliberate act of defiance!

Jesus embodies God’s grace and the fullness of God’s love. Jesus rode into Jerusalem with GANGSTA GRACE, standing against power and privilege. GANGSTA GRACE, fighting domination and discrimination. GANGSTA GRACE, loving the hell out of those in power while liberating those languishing in a man-made Lo-debar. A place where the masses are forsaken and forgotten until Jesus, Mary’s baby boy, makes His presence known.

In less than a week, Jesus would be crucified by the crowd, emptying Himself on the cross so we might have eternal life. Jesus could have chosen to take it easy. But no, He decided to make the most of every moment on earth witnessing to the world. *BOOM!!!* Here’s one of the lessons of Palm Sunday, especially for seasoned saints. Time is fleeting, but there is always time for another act of defiance. God continually invites us all to discover what GANGSTA GRACE looks like, touching lives in powerful, personal, and practical ways.

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us to follow your example whenever we can, wherever we can, as long as we can and challenge the status quo every chance we get, touching lives with your transforming love. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

# Day 32

Thursday, April 7, 2022

## GIVING HIM YOUR VERY BEST

Dr. Melvin Davis John 12:13

13 *“They took palm branches and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”*

The phrase “give your best” is the instructions that my parents, teachers, and coaches gave to me during my childhood. Giving your best is unique for each individual. To give your best is to put forth maximum effort. John 12 demonstrates the importance of giving Jesus your best.

In most passages of scripture Jesus was giving to others. He gave to others by healing, teaching and protecting. However, the distinction of John 12 is that the previous recipients of the blessings of Jesus were giving something back to Him.

John 12 provides points of practicality to help individuals give Jesus their best. We must recognize the importance of maximizing the moment. The clause of John 12:1 says it was *“Six days before the Passover.”* Therefore, it was only six days left before Jesus would be crucified. Giving our best involves a daily responsibility of maximizing every moment of the time we have each day. It is dangerous to put off current obligations for tomorrow when tomorrow is not guaranteed.

Giving our best requires being mindful of what has been given to us by the Lord. In this passage of scripture, a great crowd of people met Jesus with branches of palm trees and shouted *“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the King of Israel!”* They expressed gratitude to Jesus perhaps because they were recipients of the saving power of Jesus the Christ. In fact, in John 12:2-3, Mary poured expensive oil on Jesus’ feet and washed his feet with her hair as an act of worship and gratitude for what Jesus meant to her family. When we are mindful of what has been given to us, it should motivate the believer to give Jesus their best.

Also, giving our best is a wonderful opportunity to minister to the Savior and others. The term *minister* is referring to service. Throughout the scripture Jesus was serving others but in John 12 it was one of the few times that people actually served Him. It is essential that believers serve Jesus by local and global missions and helping those who are in need.

Give your best because the Best has already been given to you.

*Prayer: Our Father, thank You for giving the world Your best by giving Your Son, Jesus the Christ. Heaven and earth adore Him, and angels bow before Him. Lord help us recognize the importance of giving our best daily. Thank You for the virtue of a healthy relationship with humanity. Lord, may we be strengthened through our service and worship to You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

## Day 33

Friday, April 8, 2022

### THE RIGHT SIDE TO BE ON

Dr. Charles E. Goodman, Jr.

Mark 14:1-2

*1 Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill him.*

*2 But not during the Feast,” they said, “or the people may riot.”*

A recent podcast was highlighting a reflection by a priest, and it was stated that as one enters the liturgical seasons in the church, it is not enough to go through our collective spiritual practices, but one must be deeply engaged in the deeper political and theological implications. The season of Lent is a time to reflect both on our deep problems and deep contradictions. And that reflection brings the reader into the text today: a story of contradiction.

There stands Jesus and the religious authorities. The Passover and Festival is about to begin. It is a time to pause and reflect on, as theologian M. Shawn Copeland writes, the “dangerous memory” of God’s liberation. This meeting is tense, but not unfamiliar. They have met before. They have often been in the same place, but with different plans and purposes. There is one side who schemes and then one who saves. There is a side whose ways are about power and control. The other, whose ways are about love and liberation.

So they scheme. They plot. They want to arrest him. “But not during the festival,” one says, “or the people may riot.” They must have known. They must have known that their plot wasn’t about peace but about power. They must have known that the one who was arrested was a man of the people, a prophet who will change their condition, and who cared about their circumstances. They must have known that riots are nothing but uprising of the unheard, the unseen, and the unloved. They knew. They knew fear is a powerful weapon.

This interaction is instructive for us. The theological and practical theme forces those of us who live in a time where those with religious and political authority abuse their power to ask: whose side are we on? Do we scheme or do we save?

“The passion with which we loved the Lord,” James Baldwin writes, “was a measure of how deeply we feared and distrusted.” That is not the way. We must stand on the right side of love.

*Prayer: Lord, help us to daily walk on the right side where we step in your footsteps of life, love and liberation. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

# Day 34

Saturday, April 9, 2022

## THE DANGER OF BEING OVERCONFIDENT

Rev. Jan D. Webster

Matthew 26:33-35

*33 Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." 34 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." 35 But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.*

As Jesus once again predicts His death and the disciples' desertion, Jesus also promises to meet them in Galilee. Peter overlooks the promise and protests the dreadful prediction, declaring: "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." Jesus' response is to predict Peter's personal denial, which will occur before the night is over. Yet again, Peter challenges prophecy from the Son of God and asserts: "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you."

One can imagine how Jesus' predictions troubled Peter. These disciples have walked with Jesus for three years, with Peter being one of three in the inner circle. His fidelity to Jesus is fervent; he cannot conceive of the circumstances which would cause him to deny Jesus. However, Peter has let his emotions get in the way of his devotion. One adage which comes to mind when we think of Peter's admirable, yet doomed, protestation is: "Talk is cheap." Another adage (paraphrased) is from the wisdom of the elders: "Don't let your mouth write a check that another part of your body can't cash."

The word "confidence" derives from the Latin word "fidere," which means "to trust." To be overconfident is to place more trust in self than one could ever realistically live up to. Peter placed trust in his genuine desire to remain loyal to the end because he loved Jesus, but he didn't consider the possibility of failure, nor did he ask Jesus for help. Peter's trust in self was misplaced and miscalculated. Peter was overconfident.

Overconfidence can be contagious and lead to group-think, as evidenced by the disciples parroting Peter, preferring to participate in an ideal of unanimity rather than open reflection. But, the ultimate danger of unrealistic and elevated self-estimation is that it hinders authentic engagement of God. This is the very thing that honors God while blessing and transforming us. The word instructs us to flee from idolatry, but being overconfident will impede our progress every step of the way.

*Prayer: O God, regardless of what I face or how I feel, help me to rely on you, first and only, for you alone are deserving of all my confidence. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



# Day 35

*Monday, April 11, 2022*

## I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU AS ORPHANS

Rev. Ernest King

John 14:18

*18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*

An orphan is **someone whose parents have died, are unknown, or have permanently abandoned them.** In common usage, only a child who has lost both parents due to death is called an orphan.

Jesus, spoke these words to His disciples in the Upper Room prior to going to the cross, prior to Calvary. Jesus knew He was going to be crucified and return to His Father in heaven. He knew that fear and helplessness would temporarily overtake the emotions of His closest followers, His inner circle.

Translated: I will not leave you helpless, deprived of support!  
I will not leave you miserable!  
I will not leave you vulnerable!  
I will comfort you!  
I will empower you!

Jesus, the helper of the helpless, the fatherless. Jesus has been and will continue to be our helper throughout eternity. Jesus has always been with us, the Alpha and Omega. The one through whom all things were created. Jesus came to us in human flesh through the birth canal of Mary. Jesus is a Promise Keeper! Our Resurrected Savior, our Pathway to Salvation, and Eternal Life, in whom name we pray.

Jesus appeared to: Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary the mother of James at the tomb; His disciples; eleven in the Upper Room; seven at the Sea of Galilee; on the mountain in Galilee; in Jerusalem before His ascension; John on the Island of Patmos; two men on the Emmaus Road; over 500 followers; His brother, James; Saul on the Road to Damascus.

Jesus came to over 3000 at Pentecost; Stephen while being stoned; to every believer that confesses with his mouth “Jesus is Lord”; you and me; His Temple. He lives within our souls.

Jesus is coming to take us home to our Father in Heaven. He is the Alpha and Omega, the Word, the Pathway to Salvation.

In this spirit, we cry out, “Abba Father, our Father which are in Heaven!”

*Prayer: God thank you, for being our comforter, saving our souls, suppling our needs and coming to take us home. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

# Day 36

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

## THE LORD'S LEGACY: PERFECT PEACE

Rev. Dr. Donaldson Jones

John 14:27

27 *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

The final act in the Divine drama of man's redemption; conceived in the early morning of eternity is about to be enacted on the skull shaped slopes of Calvary.

In the solemn chamber of the upper room, Jesus and His disciples are observing the last supper under the encroaching shadow of His impending execution. There at Calvary He would liquidate the mortgage of human depravity with the liberating currency of His lifegiving blood.

His John 14 discourse reads like a last will and testament. But it is actually the legacy of His living will for us. Jesus has bequeathed unto us through the executorship of the Holy Spirit great gifts and precious promises.

Peace is such a precious gift for it is the Holy Spirit infilled calmness of body, soul and the human spirit that supersedes circumstances. This tranquility transcends time and tribulations; it is Perfect Peace. It is the **Creator's Peace**. Jesus, the creative word of God said, “My peace I give you.”

Secondly, it is **Conciliatory Peace**. Because of our Adamic DNA we are born to become at odds with God. Nevertheless, God through Christ came to reconcile us to Himself. Paul consequently states in Romans 5:1, “Therefore since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Thirdly, it is a **Contrasting Peace**. It is not the peace derived on the psychiatrist couch or from the consumption of some substance, which soon in effect fades away. Jesus said, “I do not give to you as the world gives.” When life is inundated with incoherence, His peace surpasses the intellect; guarding the heart and protecting the mind.

Our peace is not contained in a book or bottle; a ritual, recitation, riches or renown; but in our relationship with Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace. “For He Himself is our peace” (Eph. 2:14). Therefore, let us subscribe to our Savior's counsel; “Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid.”

*Prayer: “Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you” (2 Thess. 3:16). In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# Day 37

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

## THE ELOQUENCE OF SILENCE

Rev. Dr. George T. Brooks, Jr.

Mark 15:5

*5 But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us many lessons during His earthly ministry. He taught us lessons on forgiveness, judging others and loving enemies, just to name a few. In this passage Jesus teaches us another life lesson. This time it was a lesson on the eloquence of silence.

The leaders of the Jewish religious hierarchy, the Sanhedrin, conspired among themselves and brought Jesus to Pilate. As it is with most enemies, they brought unfounded and felonious charges against Him. They had already declared Him to be guilty among themselves. However, the Jews needed Pilate to approve and exact his power of capital punishment.

As these Jewish leaders began to spread their untruths as to the teachings of Jesus, Jesus did an unusual thing. He never tried to respond to what was said about him. Despite all they said, He refused to open His mouth.

His silence amazed Pilate. The word “*amazed*” here means to wonder, to marvel, to be struck with admiration or astonishment. Pilate was filled with amazement because he had seen the Jews vigorously and relentlessly seek to destroy the character of Jesus, an innocent man. Yet Jesus never spoke a word in His own defense.

We would do well to emulate the actions of Jesus in this passage. There will be people in life who will tell untruths about us as well as seek to destroy our character. But we should be like Jesus who was aware of the falsehood of the charges and chose not to dignify their slurs and insults with words. The eloquence of His silence spoke volumes about His character and conduct.

*Prayer: Dear Lord give us the strength to remain silent against Satan’s attack. Help us to lean on you. You are our sword and shield; you will redeem our character and conduct in the face of our enemies, if we just hold our peace. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

# Day 38

Thursday, April 14, 2022

## WHAT KIND OF FRIEND ARE YOU?

Rev. Samuel Lewis

Luke 23:12

*12 That day Herod and Pilate became friends - before this they had been enemies.*

It's amazing the things that can bring people together. Both Herod and Pilate found themselves caught in a crisis that neither wanted. The accusers hauled Jesus before them. They complained to them that Jesus was a trouble-maker and an insurrectionist. They essentially say, "He is telling people not to pay taxes to Rome and proclaiming that he is a king. He's going to tear our country apart." Both find themselves in a quandary and wished that Jesus was someone else's problem. So, they collaborated how they could best rid themselves of the mess. They formed this unlikely friendship in hopes of saving both of their political positions. Crisis can bring individuals (even sworn enemies) together under a common banner of a friendship of convenience. "But on that day Herod and Pilate became (friends) thick as thieves" (v.12 MSG). Why friends now? They both felt that they could be of assistance to one another in handling this crisis situation before them.

Both Pilate and Herod concluded that they found nothing worthy of judicial punishment against Jesus. Notice in the text that Pilate is adamant that he finds nothing to these charges brought against Jesus and Herod also declares the same. The Bible says, that the mad crowd shouted Pilate down and Pilate caved-in and gave them what they wanted. Releasing Barabbas, a known murderer and insurrectionist, he turned Jesus over to the shouting mob to do with Him whatever they pleased.

What a sad, sad, sad commentary! Too bad they did not collaborate their new found friendship to help each other stand strong and do the right thing. Here, they are the most powerful men in this territory, but they sabotaged their own authority and power in fear of the crowd rather than the fear of God. Thus, they choose to form a friendship that did not profit their souls. Real friendship encourages one another, and I would dare say, supports one another in the right. They should have been strong, God-fearing leaders, but instead became cowardly followers. Instead of rendering a verdict, they allowed a verdict to render them.

What kind of friend are you? Are you a strong God-fearing friend who tells your friends when they are right and when they are wrong? Or, are you a cowardly friend who follows the mob? The choice is yours.

*Prayer: Dear God, help me to always stand strong in my relationships with my friends. Help me to praise them when they are right, and offer gentle correction when they are wrong. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# Day 39

Friday, April 15, 2022

## THE PRESSURE OF MAKING CHOICES

Dr. Johnny Turner  
Matthew 27: 20 -22

*20 Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to put Jesus to death. 21 The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to set free for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." 22 Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!"*

There are many times when choices are difficult to make because, many times, thoughts are not prayerfully thought out. We live in a bursting and deluded world with attractions and distractions. During COVID-19, we live on the periphery of the crossroads of decision and compromise, vaccination, or no vaccination. Our decision can be deliverance or destruction. Therefore, the right choice is essential. In this passage, the chief priests and the elders exercised the pressure of dramatic persuasion to advocate that the crowd make a quick decision to ask for Jesus or Barabbas. The group succumbed to their wishes and chose Barabbas over Jesus. A biblical and theological note is that Barabbas was a notorious sinner, and Jesus was the innocent Savior. The crowd chose sin over salvation, misery over mercy, crudeness over compassion, and gruesomeness over grace.

The chief priests and elders were persistent in persuading the crowd to decide. They were pressured because of time and the rush to choose between Barabbas or Jesus. When decisions affect others, in many situations, the onus is on someone else to decide. In this situation, the crowds chose to accept Barabbas, and they selected to crucify Jesus.

What decisions have you made that you felt the pressure choose? It is not healthy to be pressured into making decisions for the crowd, but think wisely and prayerfully and make the right decisions for Christ. Their choice was to satisfy the leaders in charge, and they may have decided to appease the chief priest and elders. Many of us have had to make hasty decisions, and those decisions were not favorable for the most part. They had their plan but God had the eternal agenda because Jesus was able to face the antagonizing cross for our redemption. God's plan was favorable regardless of their action and attitude. Joshua said, "...choose for yourselves this day...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Josh 24:15).

*Prayer: Dear Father God, help us to always choose to serve You. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# Day 40

Saturday, April 16, 2022

## DISCIPLESHIP IN SECRET

Rev. Dr. Reginald D. Jones

John 19:39

*39 He [Joseph of Arimathea] was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.*

Many tasks are completed at night versus during the day. In fact, there are some benefits to night activities. For example, some people prefer to travel at night because the roads are freer. Others enjoy working at night because it gives them greater flexibility by diminishing daily distractions. The truth is, many people enjoy the night time because there is low visibility and those things done in the dark can be held in confidence. Unfortunately, secretiveness is a reality people face in connection to their relationship with God. We learn this from Nicodemus who raises for us this whole notion of discipleship in secret.

Nicodemus' first encounter with Jesus was by night (John 3:2). While Nicodemus came to Jesus by night, it should be noted that he did come and this was a start. It is worthwhile that he came even at night because some people have not come to Jesus Christ at all. As a matter of fact, even in a day when we have faced insurmountable challenges, still many have not come to Jesus Christ. By observing the behavior of Nicodemus, we can celebrate the fact that at least he did seek the Lord.

Nicodemus also demonstrates for us that there is a point in our lives wherein real discipleship evolves or emerges from secrecy. This same Nicodemus who came initially to Jesus by night, secretly also was present with Joseph openly to bury Christ after His crucifixion. Obviously, Nicodemus had evolved. Without question, he had grown in relationship with Christ. This is indicative of the fact that when individuals sincerely spend time with Jesus, their lives are never the same.

Nicodemus defines what it means to be discipled, and his growth should not be diminished because of the way he came to Christ initially. Those who are often reserved in their relationship with Christ, like Nicodemus from the start, sometimes do far more than those who boldly show up and show out. Over time, Jesus impacted him and he stood publicly, not in secrecy, for the cause of Jesus Christ. Therefore, wherever we are with respect to our relationship with Jesus, we can grow courageously in Him both day and night.

*Prayer: Father, thank You for the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to recognize the times when we limited our identification with You. Grant that we commit to an ongoing, vibrant relationship with You. We ask all these things in Your Son, Jesus Christ's name, Amen.*





# RESURRECTION SUNDAY

*Sunday, April 17, 2022*

## WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH JESUS?

Rev. Chad Foster

Matthew 23:22

22 *“What then shall I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify him!”*

Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson is considered one of the most influential Jewish leaders of the twentieth century. As leader of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, he took an insular Hasidic group that almost came to an end with the Holocaust, and transformed it into one of the most influential movements in religious world Jewry. He established schools, drug-rehabilitation centers, care-homes for the disabled, and synagogues.

Schneerson's published teachings fill more than 300 volumes, and he is noted for his contributions to Jewish continuity and religious thought, as well as his wide-ranging contributions to traditional Torah scholarship. He is recognized as the pioneer of Jewish outreach. During his lifetime, many of his adherents believed that he was the Messiah. Since his death, Chabad has had internal friction between “Messianics” who openly declare he is alive.

Rabbi Schneerson is buried at the Montefiore Cemetery in Queens, New York. Schneerson's gravesite is viewed by many as a holy site and has been described as “the American Western Wall,” where thousands of people, Jews and non-Jews, go to pray each week and many of them go there anticipating his return. Well, the message of Resurrection Sunday that Rabbi Menachem Schneerson teaches is, if he hasn't risen in three days then he's not the Messiah! It's been nearly 30 years now, that's a long way from 3 days and Schneerson hasn't come back yet!

The Good News of Resurrection Sunday is **“Christ is risen as He said!”** Easter Sunday answers Pilate's question, **“What shall I Do with Jesus?”** Since Christ is risen, we shall crown Him. **“What shall we do with Jesus?”**, since Christ is risen, death is now a “toothless tiger”, therefore let's celebrate Him! **“What shall I do with Jesus?”** Since Christ is risen, we rejoice because the tomb is empty. Unlike Rabbi Schneerson's grave that's still occupied! “We serve a risen Savior and He's in the world TODAY!”

*Prayer: Father God, thank you for this gloriously wonderful day of rejoicing in the God of our salvation who is risen from the dead. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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