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**Day 1: March 11**

**Pastor Dave Simiele**

**Verses:**

Matthew 6:16

Luke 4:1-13

**Jesus' Invitation Requires a Response**

Invitations come in all different shapes and sizes. Some of them are formal, like a wedding or a graduation invitation, and some invitations might be more casual, like a text or an email. But regardless of the form the invitation takes, they all have one thing in common: they require a response.

Over the next 21 days, as we prepare our hearts for Easter, we are going to examine the invitations Jesus has given us in Scripture. In many Bibles, the words of Jesus are printed in red. So, we are taking a closer look at these Red Letter Invitations given to us by Jesus that require a response.

One invitation Jesus gives us in His Word is to fast and pray. When Jesus spoke about fasting in Matthew 6:16, He didn't say *if* you fast, He said *when* you fast. Jesus assumed His followers would be fasting.

When Jesus began His ministry, He began it with a time of prayer and fasting. As He was stepping into His destiny, He fasted. Why would Jesus, the Son of God—who is fully God Himself—need to fast and pray? Because Jesus knew that if He was going to fulfill His assignment, He could not do it in His own strength. While on earth, He was clothed in humanity. Fully God, but fully man. So Jesus fasted because He knew the flesh is weak, and He wanted to walk in the strength of the Spirit.

Fasting and prayer is a spiritual practice that connects you with God. It reminds you that you are, first and foremost, a spiritual being made in the image of God. And just like your physical body needs food to sustain and thrive, your body needs spiritual food to thrive. So, if Jesus needed to fast to fulfill His purpose, how much more so do we need to fast to fulfill ours?

As you fast and pray over the next 21 days, you are going to hear God more clearly and be filled with God's power to fulfill the divine assignment on your life. And as you dive deeper into the Word of God, you are going to have a new spiritual strength so you can respond "yes" to every one of Jesus' invitations in Scripture.

So, [make a plan](#) to draw away from the noise, find a quiet place to pray—and if you haven't already, decide what you'll give up in order to draw closer to God in prayer. Whether it's food, a partial fast, or a fast from TV or social media, remember it's not about what you're giving up; it's about what you'll gain. And there's a lot to gain when we respond to Jesus' invitation to fast and pray.

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. What's your plan for the 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting?
2. What are you fasting *from*? This could be from food, social media, TV, or something else.
3. What are you praying and fasting *for*? What are you asking God for during this 21-day fast?

#### **Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

*In Matthew 6:16-18, Jesus said, "And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you."*

Pick a place somewhere quiet where you will pray during the 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting. Spend some time writing down a plan of how you will set yourself up for success.

#### **Today's Prayer Focus: Faith**

*God, as our church joins together to pray and fast, I ask for your power, provision, and voice to come through strong. Help us to remember that it's not about saying no to the physical body—it's about saying yes to your Spirit. Let us encounter you in this season. In Jesus' name, amen.*

## **Pastor Daniel Roach**

### **Verses:**

James 1:5

Matthew 17:20-22

### **The ABCs of Fasting**

Do you ever wonder why God doesn't just snap His fingers and solve all our problems? He obviously could, but He usually doesn't. Could it be that the work God wants to do in you is sometimes more important than the work He could do around you? Sometimes, we learn more through endurance than we do from deliverance.

Whatever you are facing today, God wants to open your eyes, give you His perspective, and take you from natural living to supernatural living. This is what fasting is all about—letting go of the natural (such as food) to take hold of the supernatural.

We fast primarily for three reasons. It is as simple as ABC: Alignment, Breakthrough, and Clarity.

#### **A - ALIGNMENT**

Fasting aligns us with the heart of God. Now, more than ever, we need alignment with the heart of God. Fasting is a way to make sure your heart is aligned with the will of God. Do your desires line up with God's desires? Does your will line up with God's will? When we don't know God's will, we can always turn to God's Word.

#### **B - BREAKTHROUGH**

In Matthew 17, Jesus miraculously heals a young boy possessed by a demon. After the crowds leave, the disciples ask Jesus why they didn't have the power to cast out the demon. He replied, *"This kind can come out only by prayer and fasting."*

What if the breakthrough you so desperately need can only come through prayer and fasting?

#### **C - CLARITY**

James 1:5 reminds us to ask God for wisdom, and He will give it. God will pour out supernatural wisdom. He will give us the thoughts, ideas, direction, and perspectives that we need. Where there is confusion, we can trust God to bring clarity and reveal His will.

What alignment, breakthrough, and clarity do you need through this time of prayer and fasting? Press into God through prayer today and watch as He takes you from natural living to supernatural living.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. How does God's Word help you stay in alignment with Him?
2. What breakthrough do you desperately need from God?
3. What clarity do you need from God?

### **Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

In Matthew 17:20-21, Jesus said, *"I tell you the truth, if your faith is as big as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. All things will be possible for you. [That kind of spirit comes out only if you use prayer and fasting.]"*

Write down the areas where you need alignment, breakthrough, and clarity. Write down anything that might be hindering you in your relationship with God. Use this list to refer back to in prayer over the course of your time of fasting.

### **Today's Prayer Focus: Freedom**

*Lord, thank you for the power of fasting. I pray for full freedom from anything that is holding me back from experience alignment, breakthrough, and clarity during this fast. I pray for those in my life who are bound in sin, God set them free and help them walk in victory. Amen.*

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### **Day 3: March 13** **Pastor Ian Achong**

#### **Verses:**

Mark 1:35

Mark 10:45

Matthew 6:6

#### **Remember to P.R.A.Y.**

Have you ever sat down to pray and thought, what do I even pray about? If we aren't careful, we can overcomplicate prayer and get stuck in our heads.

Here's the good news: Prayer doesn't have to be complicated. Prayer, in its most simple definition, is talking with God. In Mark 1:35, we read, *"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed."* If Jesus made a habit of prayer, we also need to make prayer a regular part of our lives.

Here's Pete Greig's simple P.R.A.Y. formula:

## **P = Pause**

Pausing means giving yourself space to slow your mind down and reflect on God's goodness. Take a moment to shift your posture from the busyness of life to stillness in His presence.

## **R = Rejoice**

Rejoicing means taking time to thank God for who He is and all He has done. Express to God what you are grateful for, such as your friends, family, church, health, and salvation.

## **A = Ask**

Take time to present your requests to God in faith. God cares about your needs and desires. God might not always answer your prayers the way you want or on your timetable, but He wants you to continue to come to Him in faith.

## **Y = Yield**

God wants us to trust Him and His way. Take time to surrender to Him. Follow God's lead in prayer and listen for His direction and clarity. Remove distractions and write down any thoughts or verses that come to mind during this time.

Remember the simple P.R.A.Y. model as you enter your prayer time: pause, rejoice, ask, and yield. Prayer doesn't have to be complicated. God wants a relationship with you, and that's what it's all about!

### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. Which part of the P.R.A.Y. model is the most difficult for you?
2. What can you do to eliminate distractions and set yourself up for a focused prayer time?
3. Who in your life has a prayer life that you admire and why?

### **Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

Jesus said in Mark 10:45, *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Find someone to serve this week. Whether it's [delivering a meal](#) to someone in need, supporting [a foster family](#), or serving the [next generation](#), every act of sacrifice can make a difference.

### **Today's Prayer Focus: Our Community**

*God, I lift up my community to you and pray that you would use me to shine a light in the darkness. I pray for my neighbors to come to know you. Lord, let revival happen in South Florida. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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**Day 4: March 14**  
**Pastor Dave Simiele**

**Verses:**

Psalm 46:10

Matthew 25:40

Exodus 14:14

**Pause**

We push the pause button on the remote control regularly, but how often are we pushing pause in real life?

P.R.A.Y. stands for pause, rejoice, ask, and yield. As we aim to deepen our prayer life over the 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting, we need to remember that it all starts with pausing. We live in a world constantly fighting for our attention—distractions are everywhere. It can be hard to focus on God through all the noise. Perhaps the biggest distraction is the one we carry in our pocket every day. (The average person spends over three hours a day on their smartphone!)

Maybe your phone isn't the biggest distraction to you, but we all have something that monopolizes our time and attention. If we become too focused on the temporal, we forget that God desires to be with us. Jesus didn't live in the digital age, yet He still often withdrew to the wilderness to pray. He deliberately pulled away from the crowds to spend time with God. Jesus' example of retreating from the noise to pause and commune with God serves as a reminder that God is still speaking—the question is, are we listening? Are we pausing long enough to hear His whispers, feel His presence, or experience His peace?

In Psalm 46:10, God says, *“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”*

Stillness isn't common in our culture. And if we aren't careful, we can carry all the noise and hurry of the world into our prayer time and approach God with a rushed and distracted heart. But God wants something different for His people. He asks us to be still and know that He is God. He wants us to pause.

When we pause long enough, our hearts begin to align with God's heart—He shows us what's truly important. In light of eternity, the notifications on our phones or the day's distractions are put into their proper place, and we can allow God's agenda to take priority.

Like Jesus, we need to take time to pause in our day and have a moment free from rushing and agendas, free from distractions and demands. The goal isn't to check prayer and fasting off your list but to create a habit of pausing and praying that lasts well beyond these 21 days.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. Do you have a hard time pausing when you enter your prayer time? What could you do to eliminate distractions and turn down the noise?
2. What consumes your thoughts when you try to pause? Confess those distractions to God and ask Him to help you be still and know He is God.
3. What can you do to make more space to pause during your time of prayer and fasting?

### **Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

Jesus compared our serving others to serving Him in Matthew 25:40 by saying, *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*

Think of someone in your life who seems overwhelmed. Find a way to lighten their load and ask if you can pray for them. Show them what it looks like to pause and invite God's presence into their day.

### **Today's Prayer Focus: Peace**

*Jesus, help me to pause, minimize distractions, and hear your voice. During this time of prayer and fasting, fill me with your peace and help me to bring your peace to everyone around me who needs it. Amen.*

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### **Day 5: March 15**

**Pastor Karissa Robinson**

#### **Verses:**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Philippians 4:4

Psalm 22:3

Matthew 20:26-27

#### **Rejoice**

Everybody worships something. We're all wired to worship, whether that takes the form of our career, spouse, money, or celebrities. Just go to a concert, and you'll see people swooning over their favorite singer. Or turn on the sports channel, and you'll see crowds filling stadiums, wearing team jerseys, painting their bodies, and shouting. Here's the truth—celebrities or sports teams won't help you in times of trouble. But there is One who knows your name, hears every prayer, and is with you no matter what you go through. His name is Jesus, and there's power when we worship Him.

To P.R.A.Y. means to pause, rejoice, ask, and yield. After we pause, it positions us to rejoice. We enter into a place of thanking God for who He is and all He has done. It builds our faith and reminds us how big God is.

1 Thessalonians tells us to rejoice *always* and pray *continually*. Rejoicing can be ongoing and active—it's something we can do whether we're in the shower, in our car, or on our way to a meeting. Once you make a habit of thanking God, you find even more reasons to thank Him throughout your day.

When you worship and rejoice, you're declaring God's Word over your life and your situation. Rejoicing reminds us of who Jesus is—He's the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. His name is greater and more powerful than any problem we are facing. We find hope, strength, joy, and peace in Jesus because He's our provider and source. Everything that we could possibly need is found in Him. Rejoicing reminds us of who He is and what He can do! Rejoicing forces your eyes off your situation and onto your Savior because you can't worship and worry at the same time.

Everybody worships something—how will you make sure Jesus is at the center of your worship this week?

### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. What are three things you are grateful for? Take a minute to thank God for all three.
2. How do you think rejoicing and thankfulness might help your attitude throughout your day?
3. What blessings have you overlooked or taken for granted this week?

### **Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

In Matthew 20:26-27, Jesus said, *"But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave."*

Take notice of any needs around you today and how you might fill that need through serving someone—or sign up to [serve your community](#).



## Today's Prayer Focus: Salvation

*God, I pray for the people and community in my life who don't know you. Help them to come to know you. Reveal yourself to them and help me to share my faith whenever you prompt me to. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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### Day 6: March 16

Pastor Amanda Gonzalez

#### Verses:

Exodus 16:4

Matthew 6:11

Matthew 7:7-11

Matthew 4:4

#### Ask

Do you have a hard time asking for help? Do you approach life with a DIY (Do It Yourself) mentality? The third part of our P.R.A.Y. model is “ask,” which can often be the hardest part.

When Jesus teaches His disciples to pray, He teaches them to say, “*Give us today our daily bread.*” The idea of “daily bread” ties back to the Old Testament when God fed His people in the wilderness with manna that only remained fresh for a day. In prayer, God invites us to bring Him today's needs and requests. Why doesn't God just meet our needs—why the need to ask? Because when we ask God for what we need, it's an opportunity to build a relationship with Him.

Most of us have a hard time asking for help because there's a vulnerability when we express a need. But that's exactly the kind of relationship God wants with us. Asking is also an act of faith—we get the privilege of depending on God, watching Him lovingly act on our behalf, and giving Him glory when He answers prayers that are beyond our capabilities.

Another form of asking is through intercessory prayer—when we shift from praying for our own personal needs toward those of others. Oswald Chambers says, “*The real business of your life as a saved soul is intercessory prayer...prayer does not fit us for the greater works; prayer is the greater work.*” There are many needs in the lives of those around us and in our world, needs far beyond our limited ability to meet. There are people in need of salvation, healing, restoration, and provision—simply put—people who need a miracle. We might not have every answer, but we know the One who does.

Today, ask God for your daily needs and desires, but don't forget to shift your focus to the needs of others. We can ask, seek, and knock in prayer on our behalf, but the beauty of prayer is that

we can ask, seek, and knock on someone else's behalf too. We can ask for our daily bread and for someone else's.

**Questions for Reflection:**

1. What is your "daily bread" that you need to ask God for today?
2. What "daily bread" do those around you need?
3. Jesus also refers to our daily bread as a need for His Word, the Bible. How can you create a habit of reading and going deeper into God's Word daily?

**Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

Right after Jesus talks about prayer in Matthew 7:7-11, He says (in verse 12), "*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*"

Pray for someone else today the way you would want someone to pray for you. Pray specifically, pray intentionally, pray with faith, and pray with compassion.

**Today's Prayer Focus: Healing**

*God, I thank you that you are still a healer today. I pray for my friends and family struggling with sickness or pain. God, supernaturally heal them today. Heal them in a way that would glorify you and lead them closer to you. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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**Day 7: March 17**

**Pastor Kate Czechowicz**

**Verses:**

Matthew 6:10

Isaiah 55:8-9

John 10:27

1 Kings 19:11-13

Luke 22:42

**Yield**

Today is day seven of Prayer & Fasting, which means you've made it through your first week! By now, you've had a chance to practice pausing, rejoicing, and asking. The final step in our P.R.A.Y. process is "yield"—otherwise known as surrender.

We yield to God's presence "on earth as it is in Heaven" by laying down all our wants and desires to recognize that the miracle we pray for might not be the one we receive. We acknowledge that His thoughts are not our thoughts and His ways are not our ways. He is God and we are not, and even though we feel like we know the best way to solve a problem, God could have a completely different way we haven't considered.

We also yield through listening. We spend a lot of time in prayer asking God for things, but we often fail to tune in to His voice. The greatest way He speaks is through His Word—but He also wants to speak to us directly.

In 1 Kings 19, the Lord speaks to Elijah, but He doesn't speak in an ear-splitting way. He is not in the wind, earthquake, or fire. When God speaks, it is a gentle whisper. In a world that often feels like that noisy room, we find God communicating differently. He doesn't want His voice to blend in with all the other voices. We have to step away from the noise and lean in if we want to hear God because a gentle whisper can only be heard in close proximity.

Take time today in silence to listen to God and yield to His plans. If you don't hear anything, meditate on today's Scriptures and pray that God will help you understand them fully and to live them out. As Pastor Mark Batterson says, "*Scripture is God's way of initiating a conversation, prayer is our response.*" Make a note in your journal of any thoughts or verses that stand out to you.

Yielding is also an opportunity to recognize when something might be out of alignment in our lives. As we take time to listen to the Holy Spirit, He may reveal something we need to repent of. Take time to think about any hurts, habits, or hang-ups that might be hindering your relationship with God. Confess those to God and ask for His strength to walk in freedom.

Yielding and surrendering aren't very popular ideas in our culture—but Jesus always shows us that the upside-down way of His Kingdom is the path to freedom and to life.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. What verses stood out to you today?
2. What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you today?
3. Is there anything in your life you need to repent of?

### **Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

In Luke 22:42, Jesus prayed before He went to the cross, "*Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.*"

Jesus chose His Father's will over His own comfort and desires. Whatever you surrender to God today, find a safe person to tell so they can hold you accountable for walking in obedience as Jesus did.

### **Today's Prayer Focus: Our Government**

*God, I pray for everyone in authority in our government and all those who will be elected. I recognize you as the one with ultimate authority, but I pray you will lead and guide those who are granted authority in our nation. Amen.*

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**Day 8: March 18**

**Pastor Ryan McDermott**

#### **Verses:**

Psalm 80:18

Deuteronomy 4:29

James 2:14-26

Psalm 85:4-7

### **Prayer is the Key to Revival**

Did you know there are prayers God can't say no to? If you ask, "*God in Heaven, help me to know you more!*" or "*God, give me a deeper hunger for your Word!*" Why would He say no?

Many of us want and are praying for revival, but we also need to put in the work. The Spirit of God blows where He wants to move, but we also need to do our part to experience an outpouring of the Lord. We need to begin to pray some prayers that align with God's heart.

In the words of the evangelist preacher, G. Campbell Morgan, "*We cannot organize revival, but we can set our sails to catch the wind from Heaven when God chooses to blow upon His people once again.*"

While it would be arrogant to expect God to do what we tell Him, we can set our sails, lift our voices in prayer, come to the altar, and ask God to do what only God can do. But if we want revival, it's going to require something of us.

#### **1. Revival requires a fresh revelation of God in Christ.**

No matter how many times you've encountered God in the past, He wants to reveal Himself to you, afresh and anew.

#### **2. Revival requires true repentance**

To encounter God, you need to repent of your sins.

### 3. **Revival requires an eager response to God's call**

Ask God to sign you up to be His revival carrier.

We have what many people in Bible times didn't—the full picture of God in the person and work of Jesus. And, we have the complete written, infallible Word of God—where God speaks to us, describes Himself, and details His history. We see God because Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God.

He's not hiding from you—He wants to show Himself to you.

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. When was the last time you had a fresh revelation of God in Christ?
2. Have you repented of your sins?
3. Have you asked God to sign you up to be His revival carrier?

#### **Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

In John 15:5, Jesus said it this way, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

Today, spend intentional time with God and ask Him to reveal Himself to you, repent of your sins, and ask God to send you to do His will.

#### **Today's Prayer Focus: Revival**

*Jesus, I pray for revival in myself, my church, and my community. Please show me a fresh revelation of you, to truly repent, and to eagerly respond to your call! Help me to honor you and to obey your call in my life. Amen.*

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**Day 9: March 19**

**Pastor Cole Robinson**

#### **Verses:**

Matthew 28:18–20

1 Peter 3:15

Romans 10:14–15

## **Continue the Movement Jesus Started**

About 2,000 years ago, after the resurrection, Jesus stood on top of a mountain in Galilee and prepared to return to His Father. Around Him were the disciples, those He chose to be with Him during His short time of ministry on Earth. For three years, they followed Jesus, absorbing the truth and beauty of His words and witnessing His miracles. In Matthew 28, before Jesus' ascension back to Heaven, He said to them:

*"I have been given all authority in Heaven and on Earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Embedded in Jesus' final words is a command known simply as "The Great Commission," which has challenged and inspired the followers of Jesus for generations. These disciples dared to obey the command of Jesus, The Great Commission. They were willing to be persecuted, imprisoned, exiled, and even put to death.

Since then, people throughout all of history have stood for the cause of Christ. They've been willing to share the truth and their faith in Jesus and take the love and message of Jesus to the ends of the earth—and all the power of hell itself has not been able to stop the movement Jesus started on that day.

Now that movement has come to us, and we are called to be a part of it. We, too, have been called to go and tell others about Jesus.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. What hinders you from sharing your faith?
2. What inspires you about the disciple's commitment to live out The Great Commission?
3. How would the world look different if every believer actively shared their faith?

### **Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

In Mark 16:20, Jesus said it this way, *"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation."*

Think of someone who needs Jesus that you can pray for by name during your time of prayer and fasting. Pray for the opportunity for you to share your faith with them or invite them to an [Easter service](#).

### **Today's Prayer Focus: Your Neighbors**

*Jesus, I pray for my neighbors who don't know you. Draw them near to you and reveal yourself to them. Help me to always be ready to share my faith when the opportunity arises. Amen.*

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## **Day 10: March 20**

**Pastor Tyler Gay**

### **Verses:**

John 8:36

Galatians 5:1

2 Chronicles 7:14

Romans 6:6-7

### **Walking in Freedom**

For more than two years, the artist Michelangelo didn't let a 6-ton slab of marble leave his side. He chiseled away at it by day and slept beside it at night. When the infamous 17-foot statue David finally emerged, Michelangelo said, *"I saw the angel in the marble and carved it until I set him free."* When asked how he made his statue, Michelangelo answered, *"It is easy. You just chip away the stone that doesn't look like David."*

When we enter into a relationship with Jesus, it doesn't always mean we are set free from all our hang-ups or sins immediately. Sanctification—the act of being purified and set free—can be a process. Just like Michelangelo faithfully worked on his statue, God faithfully carves away the hardness of sin in our lives and hearts to reveal our true identity. He works to set us free from anything that holds us captive or hinders us from living a full life in Him.

One of the best parts is that when we walk in freedom and victory, we can invite others to walk in freedom and victory with us. We are set free so that we can help others be set free too. Freedom becomes contagious because for those who are still bound in sin, your life becomes a living testimony of God's power.

In every great revival, there was a call to repentance. Repentance is more than just a recognition of sin, it is a deep remorse and resolve to turn away from it. If we expect to see God bring revival to our city, nation, and beyond, then we, as the people of God, need to repent of sin in our lives and walk in the freedom Jesus died to bring.

Allow God to continue to chip away at the things in your life that don't look like Him—and watch as your truest self begins to radiate a freedom that others can't resist.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. What does Jesus need to carve away from your life so you can be free?
2. When it comes to repentance, do you have both remorse and a resolve to turn away from sin?
3. Who in your life does your journey to freedom impact?

**Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

*Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32*

Knowing God's truth holds power over sin in your life. Make an effort to memorize one of today's Bible verses about freedom and recite it anytime you are tempted.

**Today's Prayer Focus: Forgiveness**

*God, I repent today for any unforgiveness or bitterness that I've held in my heart. Give me the power and the strength to let any offense go. Fill me with your supernatural love, mercy, and grace. Help me to walk in freedom so I can help others be set free too. Amen.*

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**Day 11: March 21**

**Pastor Amanda Gonzalez**

**Verses:**

Matthew 21:22

Matthew 17:20

Romans 12:12

James 2:17

Matthew 28:20

**Practice the Presence of God**

You're halfway through 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting—keep it up! You may have already seen God answer some prayers, but here's a question for you—what if God's answering our prayers, but we're too busy to notice?

In the 17th century, there was a man named Brother Lawrence who was a poor dishwasher and cook in a French monastery for 40 years. He originally joined the monastery to have more time to pray, but soon found himself too exhausted to pray after a long day of chores. One day, everything changed for Brother Lawrence when he was reading his Bible and read what Jesus said to His friends:



*“I am with you always.”*

If Jesus was with him always, Brother Lawrence thought, that meant he didn't need to wait until the end of the day when he was tired and exhausted to pray. Brother Lawrence came to an understanding of what it meant to practice the presence of God. The key truth that Brother Lawrence uncovered is that all of life is lived in the presence of God; there's no part of it, nothing too mundane or ordinary that isn't permeated by Him.

Brother Lawrence didn't compartmentalize prayer, he carried it with Him all throughout his day. This enabled him to recognize when God was moving and when he could respond to God's Spirit and leading.

It's one thing to pray and carry on with our day, but it's another thing to pray and look for God's presence and answers everywhere we go. Often, we pray for the lost but seldom recognize when God puts a lost person right in front of us that He wants us to minister to. Or, we pray for provision and grace, but don't accept our friend's offer to help lighten our load. We pray for God to use us, but decline the invitation to serve our community or church.

Today, pray for eyes to see the answers God puts along your path and ears to hear His whispers throughout your day.

**Questions for Reflection:**

1. Do you pray all throughout your day or only at a certain time? What could you do to stretch yourself?
2. In what ways have you been guilty of overlooking God's answers to your prayers?
3. How would the world look different today if God answered the prayers you prayed yesterday?

**Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

In Matthew 28:20, Jesus said, *“I am with you always.”*

Today, pray for an opportunity to [share your story](#) with someone. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you who that person is when you encounter them. Trust that God is with you always and will lead you.

**Today's Prayer Focus: The Global Church**

*God, thank you that I am a part of your Church—the Body of Christ. I pray we will stand in unity amid our differences and continue to advance the Gospel. Help me to play my part and only speak life over other churches. Amen.*

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**Day 12: March 22**  
**Pastor Ian Achong**

**Verses:**

Mark 2:1-12

1 Thessalonians 5:14

**Make Way For A Miracle**

Where are you carrying the people who are counting on you?

In Mark chapter 2, four friends carried a paralyzed man on a mat to bring him to Jesus. They lowered him through the roof to get him to his miraculous encounter. But it wasn't because of the man's faith that he was healed—it was actually because of the four friend's faith that the man was healed.

There is a direct correlation between your community and your encounters with God. There are benefits to being a part of a spiritual family: You can borrow faith when you don't have it. But there is also a responsibility in community—we have a responsibility to carry people into the presence of God to make way for *their* miracle.

Most miracles in Scripture come with a supporting cast. If you look at the miracle at Cana when Jesus showed up at a wedding, there were servants who filled huge jugs of water so that Jesus could turn water into wine. It was a little boy who brought Jesus the fish and the loaves so He could feed 5,000 people. And in this case, it was four friends who carried the paralyzed man up to the roof on a mat so Jesus could heal him.

There's always a partnership between the natural and the supernatural. Someone is always making a way for a miracle. When you make a way for a miracle, you get a front-row seat to see the supernatural. It's not always easy, but when someone needs to be carried to Jesus, will you stand in their corner?

**Questions for Reflection:**

1. Who has carried you to Jesus over the course of your faith journey?
2. Who needs to be carried to Jesus and how can you help?
3. Who is at the top of your prayer list today and how can you serve them?

**Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

In Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus said to His disciples, *“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”*

Easter is one of the biggest opportunities for people who don't normally come to church to hear the Gospel and experience the love of Jesus. You can be a part of reaching the harvest this Easter by [signing up to serve](#) during one of our services.

### **Today's Prayer Focus: Restored Relationships**

*God, I pray for you to bring unity in my relationships and the Body of Christ this season. As tensions can be high during an election year, I pray that we as believers would shine your light and carry people to Jesus—instead of prioritizing our opinions on political debates. Restore broken relationships and bring peace, unity, and reconciliation. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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**Day 13: March 23**

**Pastor Karissa Robinson**

#### **Verses:**

Romans 10:14-17

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Matthew 18:12-14

### **The Message Needs a Messenger**

Everyone has a story. And if your story were written into the pages of a book, it would be called a biography. But when God intersects our story and we put the pen in His hand, it becomes what Pastor Julie likes to call a “theography”—a God story.

Your theography begins the day you start to follow Jesus. He rewrites your story and invites you to be a part of somebody else's story, and that's when the adventure begins. There are people who will step from death into life and from darkness to light because they heard your God story. Sharing our faith is something that each and every one of us is called to do when we become a Christ follower, because Jesus is all about reaching people. And sharing your theography is a simple way to share what Jesus has done in your life that no one can argue with.

The apostle Paul says it this way, *“How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”*

There are more than 1.5 million people in our South Florida region who don't know Jesus. That's 1.5 million people who are waiting on us to hear the Good News. God desires that every person

would come to faith in Jesus. His heart moves toward the lost, the broken, and the people who are far from Him. But how can they believe in a God that they've never even heard about? Someone has to tell them. Someone has to show them the way back home to God.

The message of salvation, of God's grace towards humanity is the greatest message that anyone could ever hear! But the message needs a messenger. And here's the good news—the greatest message doesn't need a perfect messenger, it just needs a willing one.

God invites you to partner with Him to help rewrite people's stories so they can have their own theography. Are you willing to be an imperfect messenger for God's perfect message?

### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. What is your theography?
2. Who have you shared your theography with and who else needs to hear it?
3. What lies do you believe about sharing your faith—and what's the truth?

### **Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

*In Matthew 18:12-14, Jesus said, "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way, your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish."*

Set a goal of how many people you want to share your faith with before the 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting ends. Pray for lost people by name and ask Jesus to open up conversations that lead to Him. Want more confidence sharing your faith? Use the [Go & Tell](#) evangelism training resource on your own or with your group.

### **Today's Prayer Focus: Identity**

*God, I pray that as believers, we would remember our identity as ambassadors for you. Help us remember that we are called to help people understand their true identity in Christ. Help us to rise up as sons and daughters of the King to declare your truth. Amen.*

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**Day 14: March 24**

**Pastor Kate Czechowicz**

### **Verses:**

John 12:12-19

Zechariah 9:9

John 3:16

## **Palm Sunday**

Today marks the beginning of Holy Week—the week when God demonstrated His love for us by giving His only Son, Jesus, as a sacrifice. It's a week that leads up to the cross, when people stop and reflect on the grace and mercy of God. In truth, every week should be Holy Week because when we are mindful of His death, it changes the way we live our lives.

Holy Week started with the Triumphal Entry, when Jesus rode on a donkey to Jerusalem, and crowds of people began to wave palm branches (which is why it's called Palm Sunday). It was a symbol of a conqueror who had returned from a great victory. In Zechariah, we see the Messianic prophecy being fulfilled of a Messiah coming to set His people free. When the people shouted "Hosannah," they were shouting a word made up of two Hebrew words meaning "saved" and "now." They were essentially saying, "Save us now!" They thought the Messiah would save the nation politically. But Jesus wanted to do more than save them politically, He wanted to deliver them from an eternal problem they were facing—sin.

Jesus came riding in on a lowly, borrowed donkey to deliver the message of salvation. In a world where everyone competes for status, riches, and power, Jesus came to model the way of humility, gentleness, and peace. It seems more timely than ever during this election year to remember the ultimate rule and reign of our King, Jesus. As we see division and political candidates trying to put their opponents down—we see Jesus laying His life down as a suffering servant. As we see the world putting their hope in politics, we see Jesus inviting us to put our hope in Him.

Palm Sunday is an invitation for all of us to reflect on where we put our hope. Are we like the crowd of people, putting their hope in a political victory? Or do we put our hope in our humble King Jesus, who died on the cross to give us eternal life? Again, when we are mindful of His death, it changes the way we live our lives.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. As you are mindful of Jesus' death, how does it make you want to change the way you live your life?
2. While the world puts their hope in politics during this season, what are some ways you can point them to the true King and ruler of all?
3. How does Jesus' humble entrance inspire you to live a life of humility?

### **Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

In Matthew 23:12, Jesus says, *“For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”*

Find a way to serve someone today, such as letting the person behind you go ahead of you at the grocery store or paying for someone’s meal or cup of coffee.

### **Today’s Prayer Focus: Families**

*God, I pray for protection over the family unit. I pray you would help bring unity where there is division, and truth where there are lies. I pray for the restoration of marriages and for prodigal sons and daughters to come home to you. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

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### **Day 15: March 25**

**Pastor Tyler Gay**

#### **Verses:**

Matthew 18:12-14

1 Corinthians 6:19

### **Holy Monday**

What we get angry about often reveals what we’re most passionate about—and it’s no different for Jesus. On the Monday of Holy Week, we see Jesus cleansing the temple. Why would Jesus display such intense emotion toward the money changers?

During Passover, all the Jews were expected to come to Jerusalem and offer sacrifices at the temple (now we have Jesus as the final sacrifice). Over time, people decided to make it convenient for worshippers to offer sacrifices and decided to sell animals. And while they were at it, pay their temple tax—which you couldn’t use Roman currency for. So you had to have money changers, who made a profit off of the people who were trying to simply come to worship God and make sacrifices.

Jesus noticed the corruption and became angry because He wants all people to be able to freely worship and pray without hindrance—but the money changers were turning God’s House of prayer into a “den of robbers.”

In 1 Corinthians 6:19, it tells us that we are now the temple of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is passionate about keeping your heart free from anything that would hinder your relationship with Him. Jesus isn’t mad at you, He’s mad about you. He wants to remove any barriers between you and Him. He wants His Church to be a House of Prayer and for you to be able to freely worship Him without hindrance. He’s fiercely committed to having a relationship with you—and Holy Week is proof of that. When He died on the cross, the veil of separation was torn. We no longer need to present

sacrifices because Jesus became the final sacrifice. We have direct access to our Creator who is passionate about removing every obstacle (such as sin) that stands in the way of our connection to Him.

As you pray today, consider the passion Christ had for you to be able to freely pray to Him. There's a reason some people call Holy Week, "Passion Week," because Jesus' passion for people and for prayer is clearly evident.

**Questions for Reflection:**

1. How does it change your perspective of prayer, seeing how passionate Jesus was for it?
2. Knowing that you are a temple for God's Spirit, is there anything cluttering God's temple in you?
3. What makes you angry and breaks your heart? Are those things in line with what makes God angry and breaks God's heart?

**Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

In Matthew 6:1, Jesus taught, *"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven."*

Jesus went on in Matthew 6 to talk about praying, giving, and fasting in secret. He said, *"Your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."*

Live for an audience of One today. Think of one way you could give, serve, pray for, or bless someone anonymously.

**Today's Prayer Focus: [Easter Services](#)**

*God, thank you for all the people who will come to church on Easter who don't know you. Reveal yourself to them and help them surrender to you and encounter your presence. I pray for protection and blessings over all of our teams who are serving. Amen.*

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**Day 16: March 26**

**Pastor Ryan McDermott**

**Verses:**

John 12:44-47

Matthew 26:14-16

Matthew 21:14-15

Matthew 21:23-27

## Holy Tuesday

For most of us, Tuesdays feel ordinary. Tuesdays don't have the excitement of a weekend or the momentum of a new week. Tuesdays are often seen as just another day of work or another few episodes on Netflix. But Jesus didn't treat the Tuesday leading up to the cross as ordinary.

On Tuesday morning, Jesus and His disciples returned to Jerusalem. Jesus taught at the temple, and the religious leaders (the Sanhedrin) criticized Jesus for establishing Himself as a spiritual authority, and they attempted to ambush Him and get Him arrested. They tried to discredit His ministry, but no one could ignore the people walking around in the temple who, only days earlier, were blind and lame (Matthew 21:14).

Later that day, Jesus left Jerusalem and went with His disciples to the Mount of Olives. There, Jesus delivered a teaching about the end of the age and the reason why He came, declaring, *"I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world."*

Sandwiched between doubtful critics and His painful death on the cross—what was Jesus doing on this Tuesday? He was continuing to teach and stay on mission. Doubt didn't derail His mission, discomfort didn't derail His mission, and even death couldn't derail His mission.

Jesus lived with a divine purpose, and we have a divine purpose too. We've been given a mission to continue the movement Jesus started to declare that God didn't come to judge the world but to save it. But the problem is, too many Christians would rather make a point than live on purpose. Pastor Jimmy Rollins says it this way: *"If our goal is to win, it is probably robbing our ability to witness."* If we were to face the same criticism Jesus faced on Holy Tuesday, would we carry on with our divine purpose or spend the rest of the day arguing?

Or maybe we wouldn't have gone to the temple to begin with because, well, Tuesday is our ordinary Netflix day.

Instead, let's be a Church on mission. Let's step up and fulfill our role as ambassadors, chosen by God to carry His message of reconciliation into the world. Let's rise above criticism and complacency and continue to be who we're called to be—a Church on mission.

### Questions for Reflection:

1. Does criticism or complacency (or something else) derail you from living your divine purpose?
2. How can you avoid treating this Tuesday as ordinary and live with purpose today?
3. It's an election year—when politics come up, are you committed to making a point or living on purpose?



## **Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

In Jesus' Tuesday speech, He said, *"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."*

Think about someone you know living in darkness right now. Take time to pray for them and [text them an invite to Easter](#).

## **Today's Prayer Focus: Our World**

*Jesus, thank you that you didn't come to judge the world but to save it. I pray, as we lead up to Easter this year, that the people who don't know you will have the opportunity to reflect on the cross and what you did to save us. Let believers rise up to share their faith with boldness and compassion. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## **Day 17: March 27**

**Pastor Karissa Robinson**

### **Verses:**

Matthew 26:14-16

Luke 22:1-6

Mark 14:10-12

John 12:1-8

Matthew 6:24

## **Holy Wednesday**

Do you have a God-first mindset or a me-first mindset?

Wednesday of Holy Week, (also known as "Spy Wednesday" in some traditions) refers to the day Judas agreed to betray Jesus by handing Him over to the religious leaders in exchange for 30 silver coins.

Right before the betrayal, a woman anointed Jesus' feet with expensive perfume and her tears. The perfume was so costly, it is said to have been worth a year's wages. Judas (and others) rebuked her, arguing that the perfume could have been sold to provide money for the poor. The Gospel of John says: *"He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it."*

There are two contrasting mindsets seen on Holy Wednesday. The woman with the perfume had a God-first mindset. She generously poured out an offering at Jesus' feet even when others

thought it was a waste of money. Judas, on the other hand, had a me-first mindset. He looked out for himself first, and was willing to betray Jesus and compromise his character in order to get ahead.

A me-first mindset only sees with natural eyes, but a God-first mindset causes us to see the spiritual significance behind every sacrifice. Jesus knew she was preparing His body for burial. Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection marked the most significant event in history, and this woman came ready to take part. Jesus called the woman's actions beautiful, and said that whenever the Gospel is preached, this woman's sacrifice would be remembered. Her moment of sacrifice is still remembered and talked about today. Because whenever we make a sacrifice for Jesus, for the Gospel, or for the Kingdom, it will far outlast us.

Maybe fasting feels costly to you. Maybe God has nudged you to give up something that feels like a big sacrifice. Or, maybe He's asking you to change your mindset around money and begin to trust Him with your finances. Whatever your sacrifice is, know that your sacrifice is not a waste, it has spiritual significance, and it will outlast you.

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. Do you have a me-first mindset or a God-first mindset?
2. What is God calling you to sacrifice?
3. How might your sacrifice outlast you when God uses it for His Kingdom?

#### **Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

In Matthew 6:24 Jesus said, *"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."*

Try practicing a God-first mindset in your finances this week. If you've never tithed, try jumping into the [Malachi 3:10 challenge](#). If you are already tithing, ask the Holy Spirit if there is an amount He wants you to give as an Easter offering.

#### **Today's Prayer Focus: Our Church**

*Jesus, I thank you for what you are doing in Christ Fellowship. Thank you for revival. I pray that you would continue to bless every sacrifice given to you so we can reach more people for your Kingdom. Help me to know what part you want me to play. Amen.*

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**Day 18: March 28**

**Pastor Carmen Achong**

**Verses:**

John 13:3-14

John 13:34

John 17:20-23

**Holy Thursday**

Good Friday, we know, and Easter we most certainly know. But what was Jesus doing the day before the cross—and why do some traditions refer to it as “Maundy Thursday”?

The Thursday of Holy Week is believed to be the day when Jesus celebrated the final Passover with His disciples. It was the Passover meal when Jesus washed His disciple’s feet, giving us an example of humility and servanthood.

The word “maundy” is a shortened form of *mandatum* in Latin, which means “command.” It is Christ’s “mandate” that is commemorated on Maundy Thursday because at the Last Supper after Jesus washed the disciple’s feet, He gave this command:

*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”*

Jesus then goes on to pray in the garden of Gethsemane where He shared His final words with the disciples. Final words are important. People who are on their deathbed share their final words with great intention and thought. They don’t waste time talking about trivial things like the weather or politics; what they say is important, and people lean in to listen. Jesus’ final words included a prayer for His people to be in complete unity—to be one just as He and the Father are one. According to Jesus, our unity will impact eternity.

In His final hours on Earth, Jesus gave us an example of humility and servanthood by washing the disciple’s feet. He gave us a commandment to love one another and offered a prayer for unity. The final message Jesus preached with both His life and His words was clear—we are called to love one another and remain in unity. We are called to be an answer to Jesus’ prayer because now more than ever, a divided world needs a united Church.

**Questions for Reflection:**

1. How will you follow the example of Jesus and walk in humility, love, and unity this week?
2. Is there anyone you need to forgive or reconcile with?
3. What stands out to you about how Jesus spent His time leading up to the cross?

**Today’s Red Letter Invitation:**

Jesus' command on Holy Thursday was clear: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."

With Easter right around the corner, find a way to intentionally and selflessly extend love to your friends, co-workers, family, and neighbors. Don't forget to invite them to join you for [Easter at CF](#).

### **Today's Prayer Focus: Unity**

*Father, help us be an answer to Jesus' prayer. I pray your Church would walk in complete unity so we can fulfill the mission you've called us to fulfill. I pray this Easter that our love for one another will point people to your love. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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### **Day 19: March 29**

**Pastor Amanda Gonzalez**

#### **Verses:**

Mark 15:25-32

Mark 15:37-39

Luke 23:33-34

2 Corinthians 5:21

Romans 5:8

Hebrews 12:2

Philippians 2:5-11

### **Good Friday**

What's so "good" about Good Friday? What could be good about death and crucifixion, and why do we pause to remember it?

In the final hours of Jesus' life, He was beaten, mocked, and spit on. Jesus, the suffering servant, was silent in those moments. After His body was beaten, He was asked to carry His cross, but He was so weary that He couldn't carry it alone. Jesus' hands and feet were nailed to the cross, and He died as a final sacrifice for the sins of all mankind.

Some people say that it's our sin that held Jesus to the cross. Although the forgiveness of sin is one of God's greatest gifts from the cross, it's not our sin that held Jesus to the cross that day. Scripture tells us that it was the joy set before Him, His love for you, and His love for His Father.

The cross isn't a sign that Jesus is mad *at* you, it's a sign that He's mad *about* you. He didn't want anything standing in the way of a relationship with you.

Upon Jesus' death, the curtain in the temple was torn from top to bottom. The curtain separated the Holy of Holies (the place of God's presence) from the rest of the temple where the people were. Early Jewish tradition says that the veil was about four inches thick and most likely 60 feet high—it was truly an act from God for it to tear instantly from top to bottom. That detail of our Savior's death is important because it demonstrates God's passion for us to be in His presence and full of His presence.

Pastor Julie says, *"Because of the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus, our sins have been forgiven—not only to live a guilt-free life but to live a life full of God's presence."*

On that Friday of Holy Week, the worst thing that could happen to the best man who ever lived was the best thing that could ever happen for humanity. Our sins were forgiven, Jesus demonstrated His great love for us, He gave us direct access to a relationship with Him, and we now have eternal life in His presence. That's what makes this Friday good!

And here's the best news: the cross—as powerful as it was—doesn't get the final say. Even though Jesus was dead, and though it looked like hope was lost, we know that Sunday is coming and that death isn't the end of this story.

As you prepare your heart for Easter, take some time to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice for you on the cross. Pause and thank Him on this Good Friday for His passion for a relationship with you.

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. How does remembering Jesus' death on the cross make you appreciate what God has done for you?
2. Why is the curtain being torn a significant part of Jesus' death?
3. What would it look like for you to live everyday in God's presence and full of God's presence?

#### **Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

While Jesus was being crucified, in an act of compassion, He prayed to the Father, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* (Luke 23:34)

As you consider the people who have hurt you, ask God to help you extend compassion and Christ-like forgiveness. Easter is a chance for new life, especially in our relationship with God and others. Ask Jesus today to give you the strength to extend mercy and forgiveness and to walk in victory and a new life.

#### **Today's Prayer Focus: Surrender**

*God, I pray that you would help me fully surrender to you. I thank you for what you did for me on the cross and I pray that I would live a life of selflessness, humility, and sacrifice like you. I pray that I would lay down my life for others like you did. Fill me with the strength to forgive and the grace to walk in your presence daily. Amen.*

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## **Day 20: March 30**

**Pastor Cole Robinson**

### **Verses:**

Matthew 27:62-66

John 2:19-21

John 20:19

### **Holy Saturday**

We know Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday, and we know He rose again on Easter Sunday—but what happened the day in between? Holy Saturday is not a day we typically celebrate or consider. The truth is, it was a pretty quiet and dark day. It's the only day in over 2,000 years of history when no one believed Jesus was alive.

Saturday was the day between pain and victory. Between despair and joy. Between the bad news of Jesus' death and the Good News that was yet to come. Saturday is that in-between day—the day between the biggest letdown and the biggest comeback.

The only Scripture that mentions what happened on Holy Saturday is found in Matthew 27, where the chief priests and Pharisees asked Pilate for a guard for Jesus' tomb because they remembered Jesus saying that He would rise again in three days and they wanted to block any attempts of Jesus coming back again.

Saturday was the Sabbath, but it probably didn't feel very restful for the disciples because on Sunday, we see the disciples hiding out and afraid. They saw their leader, Jesus, be crucified and put to death by the Romans—and they figured that by association, they would be next. The one they thought was the Messiah had died, and with Him, all their hopes and dreams died too. On Saturday, they were probably talking about what went wrong. Disappointment must have filled the air. *Was Jesus really who He said He was?*

You might feel like the disciples—discouraged, disappointed, or even hopeless because something in your life feels like an ending. The healing never came, you lost a loved one, or the relationship you were praying for is still broken. When your breakthrough doesn't come, you might wonder if God hears your prayers. Here's the good news: The place of your greatest disappointment can become the setting for the greatest miracle.

Everybody goes through a Saturday in their life. Everyone has to live through the in-between days. What we do in those times of waiting matters. We can trust God or give in to our discouragement and fear. If today feels like an in-between kind of Saturday for you, know that God is always working behind the scenes. Without death, there can be no resurrection and without Saturday, there can be no Sunday—and Sunday is coming!

**Questions for Reflection:**

1. What do you need Jesus to turn around for you?
2. What are some miracles that happened on the cross that you often take for granted?
3. How has God turned things around for you in the past?

**Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

In Mark 9:23 Jesus said, *"Everything is possible for one who believes."*

Spend extra time in prayer today asking God to renew your hope and faith. Consider things or people you've stopped praying and believing for and write them down. Ask God to help you finish your time of fasting with a new faith in the God of miracles.

**Today's Prayer Focus: Hope**

*Jesus, thank you that you are a God who works miracles. Renew hope and faith in me, in our church, and in the Body of Christ. I give to you every seemingly hopeless situation and I ask for you to work miracles on my behalf and on behalf of your people. Amen.*

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**Day 21: March 31**

**Pastor Daniel Roach**

**Verses:**

Mark 16:2-6

Luke 24:1-8

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

John 11:25-26

**Easter Sunday**

That first Easter was nothing like today. When the two women came to Jesus' tomb, it wasn't just dark on the outside, it was dark on the inside too. They thought their hopes and dreams were lost with the death of Jesus, who they thought was the Messiah. So, as they came to prepare for

Jesus' burial, God was already prepared with His resurrection. The women came to perform a ritual, but God wanted to perform a miracle.

Often, we can approach Easter this same way. We show up to Easter service as a tradition—or ritual—wearing our Sunday best and making sure we get a good photo. But God doesn't want us to settle for a ritual when we can believe for a miracle.

Life might feel dark for you like it did for the women at the tomb. We all have to deal with times of discouragement or uncertainty. But Easter tells us that God knows how to take what looks like the ending and make it the beginning. He specializes in taking things that feel like a conclusion and turning them into an introduction to a new chapter in our lives.

Even though the 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting is coming to an end, certain prayers, rhythms, and habits that you've gained are worth continuing. What if you decided this "ending" was just the beginning? What if you took your darkness, disappointment, and your unanswered prayers, and continued to pray without ceasing? What if you trusted God daily for the new story you're believing for?

On this Easter weekend, God wants you to know that Jesus is the resurrection and life and He has new resurrection and new life for you too. His resurrection power is available for each one of us. He may not come through exactly like we thought He would, but He will always come through. This Easter, don't settle for a ritual when God wants to reveal a miracle.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. What do you need God to resurrect in your life?
2. What habits will you continue after the fast is over?
3. What prayers did you see God answer over these 21 days?

### **Today's Red Letter Invitation:**

In John 11:25-26, Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."*

Take some time today to thank God for your salvation and pray for the salvation of all those who don't yet know Jesus this Easter.

### **Today's Prayer Focus: New Believers**

*Jesus, I pray that you would reveal yourself to those who don't know you today. I pray their hearts would be receptive to the true meaning of Easter. Help each new believer grow in their knowledge, understanding, and intimacy with you so they can produce lasting fruit. Amen.*



