Resurrection Week Devotional

The message of Resurrection Sunday and the “Holy Week” that leads up to it is quite straightforward. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, no form of death has **ultimate hold** on us anymore. We are in union with Christ (Rom. 6:3-5), we are incorporated into His Body, the Church (1 Cor. 12:12-14), we receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38) and cleansing from our sins (Heb. 10:19-22). We are each, quite literally, a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17), born again by the grace and love of our Lord. When we acknowledge the risen Jesus as our Lord and King, we are raised with Christ (Col. 3:1) to a new living hope and we are set on a course of inner and outer transformation. We have risen with Him.

At the original Resurrection Day, Jesus did not rise to make bad people good. He rose to *make dead people live*.

**PALM SUNDAY – April March 24, 2019- See the Triumphal Entry **

**Read**: John 12:13

**Meditate**: Is there a gate, a doorway to your heart, through which Jesus is about to enter?

**Prayer**: Lord, I open the gate of my life for you to enter this Resurrection Day and I open my heart to your transforming presence at the same time. Help me to yield to your will, to allow the mess, and to say, “Yes.”

**Reflect**: In what areas of your life do you find it the hardest to let Jesus take control? Is there a door that has been continually shut, that it’s time to open?

**Monday – April 15, 2019 – Turn the Table on Idolatry**

**Read**: Matthew 21:12-13

**Meditate**: Is Jesus inviting you to partner with Him in challenging injustice?

**Prayer**: Lord, give me eyes to see what you see when you look at the world around me. I want to participate in acts of love and justice, carrying your love to the world.

**Reflect**: Is there an opportunity to weave more care for the poor and the socially vulnerable into your life? If you got involved, what kind of effect do you think it would have on both your public and private life of worship?

**Tuesday – April 16, 2019 – Wait in the Right Way**

**Read**: Matthew 23-26

**Meditate:** Have you ever run ahead of God or lagged behind, because of the wait?

**Prayer**: Lord, I believe that waiting and waiting well, is the way to my heart becoming completely Yours. When I have been impatient or lazy and have missed You, or run ahead of You, I ask forgiveness. Teach me to wait in the right way.

**Reflect**: Is there an area of your life where you believe you may be jumping ahead of God? If not, is there an area in which you might be spiritually lazy, not ready to perceive God’s next move?

**Wednesday – April 17, 2019 – Make Worship Lavish**

**Read**: John 12

**Meditate**: Are you going “over the top” with your worship, or are you withholding?

**Prayer**: Lord, I want to be known by You, not as one who withholds worship, but rather as one who freely gives you my very best response of thanks. Take me to that place of intimacy with you.

**Reflect**: Is there a moment of worship in your past where you can honestly say that you gave God everything you had to offer without holding anything back?

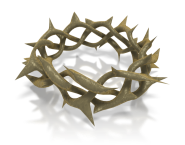
**Thursday – April 18, 2019 – Feast on the Last Supper **

**Read**: Luke 22:1-38

**Meditate**: Can you see through communion to the future feast to come?

**Prayer**: My Lord, to think that you would enter darkness in order to fil it with light gives me hope. In my own darkness I choose to find Your light shining- and to carry it where you want me to.

**Reflect:** Are you living with a clear view of where God’s future is leading us? Are you getting beyond what you see, to what you know to be true?

**Friday, April 19, 2019 – Good Friday **

**Read**: Mark 15:25-26 / Isaiah 52- 53

**Meditate**: Are you walking by sight or walking by faith in Christ Jesus?

**Prayer**: My Lord, to think that you would enter darkness in order to fill it with light gives me hope. In my own darkness, I choose to find your light shining –and to carry It where you want me to.

**Reflect**: Is there a world of darkness that Jesus is inviting you to shine His light within?

**Remember**: Good Friday service at noon

**Saturday, April 20, 2019 – Live Between the Times**

**Read**: John 16:22

**Meditate**: Is there a gift that can only be found when our hope and reality are different?

**Prayer**: Lord, the tensions of this life can disillusion and paralyze me. Take the reins, and teach me to embrace your Kingdom life each day.

**Reflect**: What future does God have for us?

**Remember**: Prayer at 2pm for Ministers, Deacons, Faith Family and Friends

***Sunday, April 21, 2019 – Resurrection Day ***

**Read:** John 11:25-26; Luke 24:1-6; Revelation 1:18, 21:5

**Meditate**: Is there a stone in front of your grave that it’s time for Jesus to roll away?

**Prayer**: Lord, I choose to rise with you. Lead me; guide me.

**Reflect**: How will I now live as an heir of Christ’s resurrection life?

