

MT. ZION
BAPTIST CHURCH

LENT

DEVOTIONAL

40 DAYS OF BREAKTHROUGH

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What is Lent?

The Lenten season is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, sacrifice, devotion, and discovery beginning Ash Wednesday (March 5, 2025) and ends on Easter Sunday (April 20, 2025). It is a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's resurrection; the most climatic moment in history. During this time, we seek to know the Lord more intimately by devoting time to prayer, reading scripture, fasting to demonstrate self-control. All of this is done to reflect the example of Jesus as he prepared to die for our sins and expecting to encounter God. Jesus prayed, so we will pray. Jesus engaged scripture, so we will engage scripture. Jesus sacrificed, so we will sacrifice. And when this period is over, we will celebrate our Risen Savior.

What To Do During Lent?

During Lent, we Read, Fast, and Pray. This devotional was designed to aid you in directed reading and prayer for this season. Every day you will have daily verses to read to yourself, with a spouse, a friend, or family. I encourage you to partner with someone and walk the next 40 days together. This devotional will share our church's theme, "The Year of Breakthrough." We'll survey moments where God facilitates a breakthrough for the benefit of His children. From this study, we'll be encouraged with how God will do the same for us. I pray these 40 days will be inspiring, invigorating, and illuminating to your faith. Let's journey these next 40 days together.

How to Fast During Lent?

How you fast is completely up to you. You are challenged to give up something of significance, so make it personal. Consider what's commonly done: fasting for certain hours of the day, giving up fried foods, giving up sweets, fasting from social media, fasting from certain behaviors or habits, negative thinking...etc. The purpose is to remove something from your routine that you regularly need or do and replace it with God. For instance, if you give up sweets and feel a craving...PRAY! Ask God for strength in that moment and force yourself to lean on God in your sacrifice. This is a process. If this is your first Lent season, ease into it, but take it seriously. The objective is to experience God in your sacrifice.

Wednesday March 5, 2025

Day

1

"Nowhere to go but THROUGH!"

READ - Exodus 14: 26 – 31

Our faith journey will inevitably lead us to moments where we feel stuck. Stuck between not knowing how to go forward and having no desire to go backward. However, the lack of forward direction may illuminate the pseudo-desire to return to where you just came from. Listen, God's desire for your life is not to return to where you came from, what you survived, and what you overcame. You will never hear the Lord have you abandon that path you've traveled. So, where do you go from here? The answer is THROUGH!

When you find yourself stuck with no plan to backtrack and no path forward because of roadblock, step aside and let God be God. When you don't have the power to create a path forward, rest assured that God does! When the Lord divinely leads you to a blocked road anchor yourself in in these assurances. 1) This block in the path is part of the plan. 2) Your destination is on the other side of the block. 3) If God leads you to it, God will lead you through it. It's up to God to take care of what's in the way. It's up to you to go through when that way is made!

Prayer Focus: Give me the confidence to know that God will open doors, make ways, and move waters when I feel stuck with nowhere to go.

Thursday March 6, 2025

Day

2

“Standing in Uncertainty”

READ – Matthew 14: 22 – 33

When we keep our focus on the Lord in the midst of uncertainty, a breakthrough is bound to happen. Our focus scripture shows Peter walking on water towards Jesus at His command. Peter was successful until he took his eyes off his Savior and “noticed the wind.” Immediately he began to sink. Eventually Jesus saved him, but if we read straight to the salvific moment of the story we overlook the first miracle...Peter actually *was* walking on water.

The miracle here is how Peter was momentarily able to stand in the middle of an unstable, uncertain environment. Water was never created to be stood upon. The moment you step on its surface you surrender to its embrace. But when your attention remains arrested by the Lord, you’ll see how God will have you participate in the unimaginable. No matter what you find yourself up against, you’ll stay on top of it when your focus remains on the Lord. Divine focus will facilitate the breakthrough in your situation where you will be able to stand in circumstances that were designed to take you under. You will stand successfully in situations that were designed to make you drown. Where you look in times of trouble will determine whether or not you succumb to the unknown or stand in the uncertain.

Prayer Focus: I pray for the power to focus on Jesus no matter what circumstance I’m faced with.

Friday March 7, 2025

Day

3

“Don’t Forget to Look Up”

READ – Genesis 22: 1 – 14

Most believers claim they will do anything for the Lord but pray that God won’t dare test them on their word. This is because they know the test will likely come at the expense of something desired. It’s difficult serving the Lord when you have the feeling that you’ll be giving up something you really want. When obedience feels like a burden, it’ll cause you to look down in your serving. If you feel burdened as you service to the Lord, a breakthrough is needed and it can be found when you look up.

There’s no denying Abraham’s disappointed feelings of sacrificing his son to display his obedience to God. Abraham and his wife prayed fervently for this blessing and had no intentions of giving him up. He was obedient, but burdened. As we serve the Lord, we are sometimes called to give up what we want or desire. These habits, people, and wants leave us feeling burdened as we are obedient to the Lord’s direction. Sometimes we want to give up serving altogether because we’re tired of the constant work and limited reward. But as Galatians 6 records, “Let us not become weary in well-doing, at the proper time we will reap a harvest.” The reward is found when we look up in our work. In verse 13 of this story, Abraham “looked up” and found the source of solace. He found pause for peace. He looked up and spotted the “ram in the bush.” If you are tired from your continued labor in the Lord, look for your breakthrough as you serve. Serve faithfully, fervently, and fully...but don’t forget to look up! Your blessing is right above you!

Prayer Focus: Give me the confidence to know that God will open doors, make ways, and move waters when I feel stuck with nowhere to go.

Saturday, March 8, 2025

Day

4

“One More Step”

READ – Joshua 6: 15 – 20

Have you ever been given a promise by God, only to see that promise in someone else’s possession? Perhaps God promised you a position, a health status, a financial opportunity, but at the time of the promise it did not belong to you. Such is the position of Joshua and the Children of Israel as they looked upon Jericho; a city that was “delivered to them.” God instructed Joshua to take this city, however, the task proved difficult because of Jericho’s high, fortified walls. We encounter walls and barriers when we approach goals and promises given to us by God. Sometimes the barriers are so big that we give up on our pursuit of the promise altogether. Here’s a recommendation when you’re ready to give up on your God-ordained promise...don’t! Your breakthrough is literally a few steps away.

Joshua and the army of Israel were instructed to march around the city for several days and on the last day, shout and sound the trumpets. When they did as instructed, the walls collapsed and the Israelite army took control. We learn from this story that God’s promises for our lives come with an appointed time and instructions. Don’t get discouraged if our promise is not in our immediate possession. Don’t forget, every day that passes means you’re a day closer to what’s promised to you. In the meantime, stay within close proximity of the goal. Take the steps needed to occupy that promised position. As long as you stay close to the goal, you’ll have a front row seat to the breakthrough leading you to that promised position.

Prayer Focus: I pray for the power to focus on Jesus no matter what circumstance I’m faced with.

Monday, March 10, 2025

Day

5

“Closed Mouths Don’t Get Fed”

READ – Daniel 6: 16 – 23

There are times when we find ourselves in situations that don’t mean us well. To make matters worse, sometimes we end up in these situations against our own will and best intentions. So, what do we do in situations like this? The short answer is...nothing.

Daniel is the poster child for someone being thrown into a bad situation. The people that conspired to have Daniel thrown in the den had every intention of him not making it out of the den. That is the case for us. We’re thrown in something we’re not supposed to come out of; leaving us in desperate need for a breakthrough. But when you know you’re innocent and have preserved your integrity, trust that God will see it and honor it. Your integrity has prepared you for the den. And a breakthrough has been prepared for you when you get there.

In all seasons, operate with integrity. Live, act, and speak with virtue in both public and private spaces. So, when you’re thrown into a space of adversity your critics will have to keep their mouths shut. They will have nothing of substance to say...and can’t open their mouths. The breakthrough that we witness is God will handle your adversity divinely because of how you handled yourself privately. We’ve heard the adage, “closed mouths don’t get fed.” In our case, “closed mouths won’t get fed.” God has made it where our opposition has no appetite for integrity.

Prayer Focus: I pray for the confidence to trust God in challenging situations and act with integrity in every season.

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Day

6

“Which WAY Will You Go”

READ – Acts 9: 1 – 20

The story of Saul’s conversion includes a breakthrough that doesn’t originate with the Lord, but within the heart of Saul. As you’ve read, Saul was once a professional at persecuting people who belonged to the Way (believers of Christ, verse 1). Long story short, after his brief blind experience he decides to follow Christ and transitions from persecuting to preaching. The breakthrough of interest here is how he decides to follow the Way and not continue his own way. His heart transformed for the greater good.

Keep in mind, Paul’s condition was blindness which is a condition that people can live productive lives with. He didn’t have to change despite the condition Jesus placed him in. He chose to change. In the wake of a transformative moment in his life, he chose to turn away from the hardened persecutor to the compassionate preacher. Consider how God permits transformative events to happen in our lives such as a loss of a loved one, sudden change in employment, unexpected health challenge, or something else catastrophic. Sudden life changes have the capacity to harden people’s hearts. You can likely think of someone who left church after a loss or changed how they interact with family. You can choose to go your own way after difficult life events. This is what it looks like when your heart gets hardened. Whenever life deals a blow, you can choose the toughened response or experience the breakthrough by submitting to God’s will through it. Your heart will dictate which way you go.

Prayer Focus: I pray for the heart to follow Christ through the situations that are hurtful and painful.

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Day

7

“You’re Still In Earshot”

READ – Jonah 2: 1 – 10

Have you ever experienced the frustration of trying to speak to someone on the phone and they couldn’t hear what you were saying? With all the advancements found in modern day telecommunications we are still subject to dead zones where communication can’t be made. Depending on the proximity to a cell tower or signal-blocking obstructions, sometimes connections aren’t made. However, there is no obstructions that are too great where God cannot breakthrough the barrier. Our calls to Him will always connect.

Understand the breakthrough that Jonah’s story shows us. Jonah found himself inside the belly of a great fish. From this precarious, problematic position he prayed that God would deliver Him. His prayer began with him acknowledging that the Lord heard his cry from the belly. This single prayer informs us that God’s power withstands the breakdowns that we encounter; His reach will always breakthrough. Whenever you find yourself where you feel pressed from every side and feel as though your prayers go unheard, rest assured you’re still in earshot of God’s hearing. There is no concern that goes unnoticed. There is no prayer that goes unheard. God’s power will always clear the channels for your petitions to reach his attention. You can pray with confidence, because His power permits our prayers to always breakthrough.

Prayer Focus: I pray for the continued confidence to pray through challenging moments and know that God hears my prayers.

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Day

8

"A Break From the Old"

READ – Isaiah 43: 14 – 21

Sometimes we find ourselves gripped with long-term suffering to the point where it affects our long-term outlook. For example, you may deal with a problem for so long that you believe the problem will never go away. Or you may be stuck in a condition so long you feel as though your situation will never change. When you begin to feel long-term situations having a long-term effect on your spirit, remind yourself of what the Lord has shown us. A break from the long-term situation is on the way.

None of us are immune from challenging circumstances in life. However, God will provide a break from the long-term issues that try to suffocate our spirits over time. As he shared with the children of Israel as they transitioned out of exile. After extended suffering at the hands of Babylon, God sent word that a "new thing" is on the agenda. This new thing was a break from the old conditions that caused the unsettled spirits. Likewise, God is challenging us to be of good cheer during our challenges. Every situation is merely a pit stop. Tough days are only temporary stays. God will breakthrough the hardships with a break from the old. Be Encouraged!

Prayer Focus: Lord, grow in me the spirit of long-suffering and hold onto my faith until I see the break from the thing has tried to break me.

Friday, March 14, 2025

Day

9

"A Blessed Connection"

READ – Matthew 8: 14 – 15

Sometimes Jesus will bless your life with a breakthrough and other times Jesus will allow you to witness a breakthrough because of you. In these two passages we see how someone is blessed with a much-needed breakthrough due to a divine connection. Peter's mother-in-law is found at the opening of this passage immovable because of a fever. Prior to this moment, we don't see a connection between Jesus and this mother, but we do see one between Jesus and Peter. As soon as he steps into Peter's house Jesus heals the bedridden mother-in-law with a divine touch. This divine healing was facilitated because of the divine connection.

You should be encouraged to know that you could be the key component for someone else's breakthrough. A family member, close friend, or special someone will feel the divine touch of God due to your faithful service and connection to the Lord. Continue to make yourself available to the Lord as He calls you to serve him. Continue to intercede for those that desperately need to see the Lord's hand in their life. One day, you will open the door and the Lord will be there to answer prayers for the people you are connected to. Your blessed connection to God will facilitate a breakthrough for your brother or sister.

Prayer Focus: I pray to be spirit for that God uses to spread His love and facilitate a breakthrough for my loved one.

Saturday, March 15, 2025

Day

10

“A Clean Start”

READ – John 13: 1 – 17

This text begins with a dirty situation but ends with a divine session. Jesus prepares for the evening meal with his disciples and realizes that everyone at the table is dirty. When they all arrived at the house to eat there was no door servant to wash the feet, so everyone sat at the table with all the filth they picked up from their journey. In an act of servanthood by example, Jesus gets up to clean the feet of his followers. Peter protests Jesus cleaning their feet, but Jesus pushes back because he knows what’s at stake. 1) Jesus knows that this moment will demonstrate what Jesus is truly capable of, and 2) Jesus wants to show them that a clean start is at stake. While they may not be deserving of it (none of us are), they are worthy of it.

All of us journey through life and we tend to collect dirt along the way. This dirt is found in our habits, actions, words, and thoughts. And if we can be honest with ourselves, some of our dirt is hard to shake off. We’ve been traveling with it for so long, we feel comfortable bringing it to places it doesn’t belong. Our dirt doesn’t belong near the dinner table. This is dysfunctional. But we serve a Lord who loves us so much that he’ll work through the dirt we bring to Him. He’ll breakthrough our hang ups so that we can hang closer to him. Don’t ever allow your issues to convince you that you can’t bring Him your cares and concerns. Don’t be discouraged by the fact that life has brought you dirty moments but be encouraged because dirt comes off at his hands. Jesus will give you a clean start.

Prayer Focus: God give me a sense of value despite the experiences I’ve endured. Give me the chance to start all over.

Monday, March 17, 2025

Day

11

“He’s In Complete Control”

READ – Matthew 8: 23 – 27

The miracle of Jesus calming the storm is a rare moment in scripture where He asserts His power in a moment of pure chaos and shows us what a breakthrough looks like before it was given. Jesus is the only character at peace in the text while the disciples, the winds, and the waves were acting erratic. Whenever life shows us crazy, out-of-control moments, peace is the only breakthrough that makes sense. Jesus is sleeping peacefully while everyone and everything else acts in the complete opposite manner. Here, Jesus shows us what breakthrough to expect and the source of our breakthrough.

As we live our lives we should certainly expect moments that appear out-of-control. Sometimes we reciprocate our environment and act out-of-control ourselves. During these moments I encourage you to pause long enough to remember that the only appropriate response to external chaos is peace. And that peace doesn’t come from us, it comes from Jesus. Allow the Lord to speak peace to your situation. Don’t let your spirit respond to the presence of your circumstance. Instead let your spirit respond to the presence of you omnipresent Savior. Peace will show up as your breakthrough. Jesus shows us what it looks like and then he gives it to us and our circumstance. Don’t ever forget, Jesus is in complete control.

Prayer Focus: God give me the constant reminder that you are sovereign and always in control, especially in the moments when I’m out of control.

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Day

12

“Binding What’s Broken”

READ – Luke 7: 11 – 17

Have you ever dealt with relationship issues? The woman of today’s devotional dealt with several. Within two verses we learn that this nameless woman lost a son and lost a husband. Yes, they are literally dead, but they also represent dead relationships in her life that she can do nothing about. Death is a part of life that applies to every area of life...including relationships. Sometimes relationships die. However, where we see death, God sees an opportunity to breakthrough with resurrecting power according to his will.

As Jesus revives the young boy back to life, He also restores a connection that once was dead. His power informs us that Jesus can speak life back into the broken relationships that we mourn over. We are also informed that every relationship isn’t meant to be revived. Keep in mind that the woman was a widow – meaning her husband was dead also. Jesus did not revive him. What God resurrects is subject to His will and every breakthrough has purpose.

Managing relationships is complicated work and they need God’s direction. In the event that they die, don’t forget that Jesus has the power to bind together that brokenness between people...according to his will. There is no death in Christ. The death we witness is simply an opportunity for a breakthrough.

Prayer Focus: Allow me to trust your will in all my relationships. Take control in which relationships are restored and which remain dead.

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Day

13

“Cut Complaining from your Diet”

READ – Exodus 16: 2 – 9

When things don’t go your way, it is natural for you to complain to someone who can change what you dislike. For instance, if you are unhappy with food that you ordered from a restaurant, you’d complain to the person who served the meal or the manager. With this considered, it makes perfect sense to complain to God whenever situations aren’t ideal in life. However, complaining to God requires no faith on your part. The Lord is constantly aware of what you need and committed to providing your needs...even when you complain.

Complaining rarely makes anything better; it’s more likely to make situations worse. They originate from a place of frustration and loss of hope in a moment. While complaining has the capacity to make a bad situation worse, we should be grateful to serve a God who doesn’t hold our grumblings against us. From the text, God heard the grumblings, but listened through the filter of grace. The breakthrough in this moment is how God can pinpoint our specific need even when we poorly articulate what we need. It serves no purpose in our communication with God. Before we can ever complain about food, He’s already prepared manna for our diet. Complaining is not good nutrition for the spirit; it should be cut from our spiritual diets altogether.

Prayer Focus: God give me a sense of contentment in all situations. Help me to keep the faith that you will take care of my needs before I ever realize I need them.

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Day

14

“He Hears Your Wildest Thoughts”

READ – Joshua 10: 12 – 14

Imagine having the creator of the known universe having the ability to hear your wildest thoughts. Further, imagine that same creator delivering on those dreams as soon as they are articulated. Now, consider how this thought is not limited to your imagination...it's your reality!

During a time where Joshua and the Israelites were in the midst of battle, Joshua communicated a request like never before to the Lord. He spoke that the sun remain still...and the Lord listened! The bible shares that this had never happened before. Joshua spoke and God accommodated his request. This story informs us to consider why God will honor our incredible requests. Joshua's request aligned with God's vision for Israel. God listened because His display of power showed everyone that the Lord fights for Israel. God fought for those who fought for Him.

Our obedience to the Lord will facilitate a breakthrough that has never been seen before. God will hear our wildest dreams and accommodate according to His will. In both wartime and peacetime, Joshua obeyed the Lord. And when the time mattered, the Lord heard Joshua. Be encouraged to walk the will of the Lord in times of peace and problems, and the Lord will hear your wildest thoughts...and honor them.

Prayer Focus: God help my thoughts stay focused on you and in alignment with you. Allow me to desire the things for my life that you desire for me to have.

Friday, March 21, 2025

Day

15

“Another Letdown”

READ – Luke 5: 1 – 11

Feeling letdown is among the most sobering and painful feelings of the human experience. Letdown can come at the hands of our mistakes or when others fail to meet our expectations. No matter the source, feeling letdown is not a welcome experience. However, a letdown can be changed through the power of our Lord.

The fisherman felt the weight of letdown and disappointment after many failed attempts of trying to catch fish to make a living. Jesus arrives to encourage them let down their nets once more and experience another result. The bible declares that the catch was so mighty that their nets almost broke from the weight. Jesus worked through one more “let down” to facilitate a breakthrough for those who believed.

Jesus has the power to literally use the letdowns that we experience in our lives as a platform for His power, grace, mercy, love, and favor. While letdowns come from our hands and the hands of others, the uplift comes only at the hands of the Lord. Please don't take live in the letdown. It is a temporary residence and could be the setup for God's turnaround in your life. Trust and believe that a breakthrough is on the upside of life's letdowns.

Prayer Focus: Lord, I pray to feel your presence in challenges and not the weight of disappointment in the middle of it all.

Saturday, March 22, 2025

Day

16

"You're In The Number"

READ – Matthew 14: 14 – 21

Have you ever felt as though you were overlooked, ignored, or passed over? The feeling of being excluded is not something anyone looks forward to. While it may happen in a number of settings in life including family, professional spaces, in the community, or even at church, it will never happen with God. You are always seen, heard, and valued. Your voice always matters and your presence is appreciated. And the breakthrough that we experience is knowing that God will include us whenever we were meant to be excluded.

Consider the "Miracle of the Magnitude." The bible had a subheading over this text that reads, "Jesus feeds the Five Thousand." Given the context of the culture during this time, it is important to note that only the men were counted in that five thousand mentioned. However, both women and children were present during this feeding...and they ate too. When the women and children were intentionally overlooked in the count, Jesus made sure they had a plate. Be encouraged to know that even when you feel among the ostracized, outcasts, and overlooked, you serve a God who is looking right at you. Your needs will never go unnoticed.

Prayer Focus: God allow me to remain confident that my presence is always recognized by you. You see all things and you see me in all things.

Monday, March 24, 2025

Day

17

"Where Do Broken Hearts Go?"

READ – Matthew 5: 4

In 1987, the late vocal phenomenon, Whitney Houston, posed the question, "Where do broken hearts go?" The question was lyrically articulated as she described the hurt experienced from a romantic breakup. Throughout the song the audience is left to wonder if there is a place or a plan for hurting hearts. The sad reality is that hearts break for more than simply romantic reasons. People mourn different types of tough moments in life. But the good news is that there is an answer for Whitney's question; they go to the Lord for repair. God has a plan for the brokenness that we experience in life. For those that mourn any form of brokenness, the plan is for you to be blessed.

Matthew 5 introduces us to The Beatitudes – a series of eight blessings that Jesus pronounces on people enduring different hardships, emphasizing the rewards of living in accordance with God's will. Jesus speaks a blessing over the people who find themselves mourning over a life event. There is a breakthrough in knowing that the brokenness that we experience in life will end in repair. That is part of God's plan for us. With this in mind, we should hold onto the assurance that brokenness is only for a moment in time. He will handle our mourning heart because that is the plan that he established for our lives.

Prayer Focus: Lord, I pray to feel remain secure in your plan for all of my emotions, conditions, and experiences.

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Day

18

“An Appetite for Seconds”

READ – 2 Kings 2: 1 – 15

Elijah was a prophet who was faithful to God, and Elisha was faithful to serving this prophet. God performed mighty miracles through the service of Elijah. So, it comes to no surprise that Elisha would ask for a double portion of Elijah’s spirit before he went to be with the Lord. The bible tells us that both men approached the Jordan River, and Elijah struck it so that the waters would stand upright, and the pair could cross on dry ground. The breakthrough here is not that they crossed on dry ground, but that God would give his Elisha exactly what he asked for. He repeated his power for another. As the story reads, Elisha later returned to the Jordan and struck the Jordan in the same fashion as Elijah. Again, the water stood up and Elisha crossed on dry ground. What God has done before he is able to do again.

Over time God has not lost His power. It is still as mighty today as he was yesterday. We should draw encouragement from knowing that God will not withhold blessing us today in the same manner he blessed us before. If He healed you 30 years ago, He could heal the same way today. If He comforted you through a loss 20 days ago, He could do the same again today. If He bailed you out yesterday, God could bail you out again today. There is a breakthrough in knowing that God’s power is greater than our appetite for a second helping of what we need from Him.

Prayer Focus: God, I pray to remain thankful in how you have already blessed my life and keeping the faith that you will do what’s needed for my life again and again.

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Day

19

“Overtime Not Approved”

READ – Luke 13: 10 – 17

The word “overtime” can refer to the employment status where someone works more than their assigned time. Sometimes a workload can exceed the time and talent available, so workers will spend extra time on the job while getting paid extra money. Because overtime work costs employers’ extra money, they’ll have a process of approving overtime work before allowing someone to do it. In the instance of our faith, we serve a God (and boss) who refuses to approve overtime in our labor.

The scripture for today shows us how Jesus healed a woman who working through an “out-of-shape” situation for over a decade. The synagogue leader had an issue with Jesus because he healed her on a sabbath (they believed in not working on the sabbath). However, the breakthrough that we witness is how Jesus refuses to allow us to labor or suffer a single moment beyond our allotted time. He’s a boss who will not approve overtime because our time is up. Be encouraged to know that any hard labor that you’re going through has a predetermined time to “clock out.” Your time will not exceed what the Lord has not approved.

Prayer Focus: God help me to stay secure in your divine timing for my life. Allow me to stay faithful that every challenge in life has a divine deadline.

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Day

20

“There is a Reason”

READ – John 9: 1 – 12

I remember in Middle School being very excited about joining the outdoor track team. To my surprise, I was ready to quit after the 3rd day because we didn't do any running for the first few practices; we spent the entire practice doing sit-ups and other abdominal exercises. On day 3 I approached the coach and asked, “why are we doing sit-ups for the entire practice?” The coach responded, “We're doing sit-ups now because running is 70% core strength and 30% leg strength. If you have a weak core, you won't last long on the track.” I never complained again about the work I was doing because I understood the reason for it all. Knowing the reason gave me incentive to continue with the work.

Knowing the reason for why we encounter different experiences in life is a breakthrough from God. Without it, we question every move that God makes at the risk of our faith taking a hit. Our study scripture for today showed us how Jesus gave the reason for the man's blindness. It was customary to believe that a parent is at fault if a child is born with defect. The disciples asked Jesus for the reason why this man was born blind because they believed one parent had sinned. Jesus said the reason is so God can be revealed to him, in him, and through him when he's healed from the condition. Be encouraged. If you feel as though you are going through something that is not your fault; consider that the reason is because God's glory will be revealed to you, in you, and through you. Keep this knowledge in your core so you can run your race.

Prayer Focus: God, give me the tenacity to endure hardship and circumstances while being encouraged by the reason for it all. You will get the glory from it all.

Friday, March 28, 2025

Day

21

“Redirecting the Ravens”

READ – 1 Kings 17: 2 – 6

Elijah was one of the most faithful prophets who ever served the Lord. His faithfulness often placed him in precarious and problematic situations. Our study scripture highlights how he had to retreat to the refuge of the Kerith Ravine to escape the threats on his life. And while he was camped out at the ravine he was fed by ravens. This feat is a mind-blowing breakthrough on behalf of Elijah.

By all accounts, ravens are ravenous birds (hence the name) due to their stingy nature. They are known to scavenge the landscape to eat whatever they can find for themselves. Sharing food is not on their radar. They have an aggressive temperament in comparison to a messenger bird. They tend to only look out for themselves. And yet, God rewires their nature for the sake of his prophet. He orchestrates the stingiest creature to bring him food daily. Our Lord rewired the ravens for Elijah's favor and His glory.

Likewise, there are times where God will rewire the situation surrounding you for your favor and His glory. You may have situations where no one and nothing is cooperating with your needs, yet God will orchestrate cooperation around you for your benefit. God doesn't need your input to make it happen, he just needs your cooperation too. As you submit to His will, you position yourself to see who...or what else has submitted also. Don't ever forget that every force opposing you must submit to God's authority. Just because things don't want to work with you, they must work with Him. And God will rewire some things (or people) if He has to.

Prayer Focus: Lord, give me the patience to see your possibilities in all things. Redirect, Redefine, and Renew as you see fit.

Saturday, March 29, 2025

Day

22

“Limitless Lord”

READ – Matthew 8: 5 – 13

The Centurion of this story showed us what it looks like to take God out-of-the-box. He approached Jesus with a dire need in his life, his servant was suffering unbearably. There’s no mistake that Jesus is a miracle-worker, so he asks the Lord for his healing help. Jesus asks whether he should make a house-call to help, and the centurion responds with a limitless answer. He articulates how all Jesus needs to do is say the word and it shall come to pass. He reiterated what he believed about the Lord; he believed that Jesus has unlimited power.

That type of wisdom is the major breakthrough of this story, among other miracles of this text. He knows that Jesus can do anything and everything in any way. We should glean from this type of faith. There are times where we’ll miss our blessing because we have God’s methods of deliverance trapped in a box. Our shortsighted faith is only satisfied if God works in the ways that we imagine. If this is our mindset, we’ll rob ourselves of the many ways that God can move in our lives. God’s unlimited power positions us to see God work through unlimited means. If we are open, we can see how truly amazing God is. We can see how truly limitless our Lord is.

Prayer Focus: Lord, give me the confidence to take the mental and spiritual limits off your power so your glory can truly be revealed in my life.

Monday, March 31, 2025

Day

23

“Finish Better Than You Started”

READ – Genesis 8: 1 – 5

Research has proven that the most popular “New Year Resolution” is losing weight. The same researchers have gone further to report that within the first 40 days of a New Year’s workout routine people drop the resolution altogether. The reason is because people don’t see the progress fast enough. Modern society has conditioned us to want to see results sooner than later, or else we abandon the plan and search for something else more convenient. However, substantial and sustainable rewards are given to those who remain diligent and consistent. This is not just for weight loss; this is a principle of how God rewards us. God remembers those who remain consistent in their faith and blesses them to end better than they started.

Noah was a man who endured long-term chaos and calamity in the Old Testament yet remained faithful to the Lord. His obedience allowed him to build an ark to save him, his family, and the creatures of the earth from the flood waters that swallowed the earth’s surface. He was blessed to be chosen to survive, but the breakthrough of the story resides in how his story ended. The ark started on the ground, but after the flood, it ended on the mountains of Mt. Ararat. Noah ended higher than where he started. He ended in a better position than he started.

Storms and floods show up for all of us. But consider this question, “will you remain faithful in the flood?” When you stay consistent and faithful during moments when you can’t see results, God will remember the work you’ve done and reward you with results. Challenge yourself to endure when you can’t see the results, and God will show you a breakthrough where you finish better than where you started.

Prayer Focus: Lord, give me the strength to stay the course and finish according to your will

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Day

24

“A Special Kind of Specialist”

READ – Matthew 15: 29 – 31

Physicians are some of the most gifted and intellectual professionals in the world. However, even with all that intellect, they are still limited. Whenever a doctor is confronted with a certain type of illness or procedure beyond their scope of study, they’ll send a patient to see a specialist. For instance, your general doctor may diagnose your broken foot, but will send you to see a podiatrist to have special work done to make it better. In short, every doctor can’t heal everything. However, we have access to a specialist that can heal anything.

There is a breakthrough in knowing that our Savior is a special kind of specialist. The Lord is special in healing all special conditions. Consider how the scripture shared today shows multiple people coming to Jesus with several kinds of issues...and Jesus heals them all. The breakthrough goes beyond the Lord’s ability to heal. It is shown in the faith of the people. They *know* that Jesus specializes in treating all their issues. Don’t miss the mental transformation here. Prior to Jesus showing up, the people would’ve likely gone to other people to treat their conditions with no guarantee of being healed. Here they approach Jesus with confidence that He will do it all. We are encouraged in knowing that Jesus is our true source of healing and help; not the other people, sources, or substances we often run to. Jesus is the only answer. The breakthrough is finally knowing and trusting that Jesus specializes in everything.

Prayer Focus: Lord, allow me to remain confident in your ability to handle everything I bring to you.

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Day

25

“Prepared for the Moment”

READ – 1 Samuel 17: 34 - 50

An old-school football coach was remembered for telling his team the following statement at the beginning of every season, “Preparation will always overcome what raw talent cannot.” His words stressed the importance of preparing for the moment ahead and not relying simply on charisma and talent to get you over. In short, always be prepared for the opportunity before it presents itself and the opportunity will be prepared for you. As you partner with God and submit to His plan for your life, you’ll discover that God will make provision for your preparation.

David’s story is a prime example of God making provision through his preparation. Throughout his career as a shepherd, he prepared for battle against threatening obstacles. Later, he is anointed by Samuel as the next King of Israel, but in order to get to this plan for his life, he must go through Goliath. From what we’ve read about David, he’s already prepared for threatening obstacles. The breakthrough shown to us is how God provided 5 smooth stones for him to take on Goliath with. But what is hidden in scripture is how much God provided for David’s preparation. The 5 stones weren’t just for Goliath; God provided enough for David to take on all of Goliath’s brothers. When you are prepared for the moment and the plan God has for your life, you will realize the breakthrough God has for you. God will provide everything necessary for you to see that plan come to pass.

Prayer Focus: Lord, give me the strength to study and show myself approved for you assignment for my life.

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Day

26

“Lord, Do Something!”

READ – John 2: 1 – 10

There are moments in our lives where we need God to show up and do something miraculous in our lives, but sometimes we don't know what we need God to do. These are the moments when our conversations with the Lord are short and to-the-point. Our prayer is, “Lord...do something!”

These are the thoughts of Mary, the mother of Jesus, during the wedding at Cana. When the wine ran out, her response was to tell Jesus. He responded to his mother, “What am I supposed to do?” Mary moves on from the moment and instructs the nearby servants to do whatever Jesus says to do. In Mary's eyes, Jesus is going to handle it. It's in His hands.

What does Jesus do? Something! And that *something* is the breakthrough that should encourage us. Whenever we are positioned against insurmountable obstacles, our response should always be to leave it in God's hands and pray, “Lord, do something.” And the breakthrough is found by knowing that the Lord will do whatever is needed to handle the issue. We don't pray by telling God what to do, we take confidence in knowing that God *will do*. Your breakthrough is found in whatever God does when you put your situations in His hands.

Prayer Focus: God, I pray for your provision over my life and that you will have your way no matter what I encounter.

Friday, April 4, 2025

Day

27

“Just Face It

READ – Numbers 21: 4 – 9

Fear is considered a paralyzing emotion. It's rooted in the superficial thoughts that we create in our minds about situations, people, or things...and not all fears are created equal. For instance, some people are afraid of the dark, flying on a plane, insects, fast speeds, loud noises, and other random things, while other people aren't. Our fears can be so strong that we find ourselves afraid to face them head on. However, God has not given us the spirit of fear and encourages us to submit to His spirit of power to face what paralyzes us from progress. In fact, God has shown us that sometimes we find our breakthrough on the other side of our fears, if we are finally bold enough to face them.

As the Israelites journeyed with Moses, they found themselves in a fearful situation. After complaining about the Lord's provision for their lives, He sent out poisonous snakes among the people. Many who were bitten died soon after. The people cried out that God would remove the snakes and God answered in an unusual way. He instructed Moses to find a pole and build a replica of a snake...the same thing that was attacking the people. Anyone who looked up at the snake replica would be healed from their snake bite. Everyone who looked up lived. Imagine finding healing and restoration through facing the same thing that has been hurting and harming you. God shows us that he provides a breakthrough if we can face the thing that has sought to stop us and take us out. Be strong and courageous as you journey with the Lord. He has given you power to live beyond your fears. And God has placed your breakthrough on the other side of your fears...you'll just have to face them first.

Prayer Focus: God, I pray for your power to face whatever fears have navigated to and through my spirit.

Saturday, April 5, 2025

Day

28

“Running With The Horses”

READ – 1 Kings 18: 41 – 46

God’s power is so amazing that He’s able to do the unimaginable. God’s power is even more amazing because He’s able to do the unthinkable through us! According to this passage, God’s power allowed one of His prophets to outrun a horse...a creature that was created to run!

The full story gives the account of Elijah standing against over 400 prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel. After God proves that he is the sovereign God over Baal through a display of supernatural power, Elijah, and his servant Ahab, prepare to leave Mt. Carmel because a storm was soon coming. However, only Ahab was traveling by horse while Elijah traveled by foot. And scripture captures how Elijah outran his servant on horseback because the power of the Lord came on him. This shows us that whenever God’s power shows up you can expect a breakthrough.

We serve a sovereign God who alone controls supernatural power. In moments of our lives where supernatural provision is needed, God partners with us to display his power through us. There is no logical reason for a human to outrun a horse. After all, modern engines measure their power in “horsepower” because of the power horses move with. Yet, God doesn’t submit to our logic or anything else in creation. Everything submits to Him. Keep this in mind as you face moments when the odds are against you and situations don’t appear logical. God’s power supersedes at all. Logic and situations submit to His will. And if His will says we’ll out run the horse, I suggest you lace your shoes up now.

Prayer Focus: Lord, I pray for your power everyday!

Monday, April 7, 2025

Day

29

“Breakdown in Communication”

READ – Genesis 11: 3 – 9

This devotional entry is an anomaly compared to others. It is different because it highlights the breakthrough that almost happened. This scripture shows us how the people of the text all communicated with one language, and they made plans to build a temple so tall that it would reach the heavens. The project arrested the attention of God to the point of stopping the project altogether. The Lord sabotaged the building project by confusing the languages of everyone involved for 2 reasons. 1) Because the motive behind building the tower was self-serving, and 2) because it was possible! And the reason why God knew it was possible was because everyone was speaking the same language.

This passage shows us the breakthrough in possibility. God teaches us that anything is possible when you and others around you are all speaking the same language. Pay close attention to verse 6 of this passage. God makes it clear that nothing is impossible to the people who plan together, build together, and on the same page together. There is a breakthrough that we find together. If you are invested in seeing success in life, be encouraged to see that objective happen through proper planning and partnership. Stand against the spirit of division and confusion in the process of building. Because if the communication breaks down, then the potential breakthrough breaks apart.

Prayer Focus: God, bless me to speak the language of my circle.

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Day

30

“Proper Care Instructions”

READ – 2 Kings 5: 1 – 15

Virtually every article of clothing you wear has a tag or inscription near the collar, seam, or stitch. This tag includes the size, the name of the designer and instructions on how to properly care for the clothing. Although the designer is nowhere in sight, they’ve communicated instructions on how to take care of what they created to ensure that you get color brilliance and longevity from the clothing. These instructions should be adhered to, even when the instructions seem inconvenient. After all, you don’t want to fade your clothes from a wash cycle, shrink your clothes, from a dryer cycle or burn your clothes with the wrong heat. Simply being obedient to the instructions will warrant a breakthrough in proper care.

Naaman is an example of listening to proper care instructions. He approached Elisha about curing his leprosy, however Elisha’s care instructions were inconvenient. Elisha thought his platform entitled him to receiving different treatment, so he initially neglected proper care. The result, he subjected himself to more time with leprosy. Eventually he returned to the prophet and submitted to the instructions given; dip seven times in the Jordan and he was healed. Following these specific instructions fostered his specific breakthrough. We should follow the Lord’s specific directions for our lives because He is our designer, He desires that we have longevity in life, and he knows the best care for us. Even when the instructions appear inconvenient to our desires, trust that His proper care instructions will make all the difference in our lives.

Prayer Focus: God, I pray to have the discipline to submit to your will for my life.

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Day

31

“A Hidden Blessing”

READ – Luke 4: 14 - 30

Not everyone in your family, social circle, professional networks, or even your church will accept you. And that is ok. Sometimes people will reject you due to previous interactions or because they found superficial reasons to disregard your presence. That is ok. And sometimes people will take issue with you because you are exactly who God called you to be. That is ok, also.

Jesus experienced rejection while in the synagogue (in the house of worship) shortly after announcing who He was and stated what he believed to be true about them. His words and position caused them to become indignant towards him to the point of wanting to kill him. Jesus was driven out of the town to the top of the hill for the purpose of being thrown off by the townspeople. However, the scripture shows us a very salient yet veiled breakthrough. Jesus just walks through the crowd untouched...as if He were hidden from them in the confusion.

Every breakthrough we experience in life doesn’t come with thunder, lightning, and an earthquake. Sometimes we find a breakthrough when God hides us in plain sight. There are moments where God will hide us from the sight and attention of others so that we can continue the work He’s called us to without the interference of others. It is a blessing to be kept and protected when others seem to have ulterior motives. If you want to appreciate God in His fullness, learn to appreciate God in the hidden moments of life. Embrace the breakthrough found in your out-of-sight seasons.

Prayer Focus: Lord, hide me according to your will!

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Day

32

“Right Place, Right Time, Right People”

READ – Acts 2: 42 – 47

If you peruse and study Acts chapter 2, you’ll find the ideal picture of what God’s church is meant to look like. The scripture shows us how many people were devoted to their faith through study. They prioritized discipleship and willingly welcomed fellowship. They engaged community through authenticity and vulnerability. They cheerfully gave possessions to uplift others who were burdened. And they freely worshiped the Lord. This church was the right place, operating at the right time, with the right people. When God’s ideal picture comes together like this, you must expect a breakthrough.

The church is the gift that God gave humanity to understand how-to live-in community with one another. When everyone fully committed to the cause needs were met and lives were changed. In the text, people showed up having needs but left having solutions because of the good people around. Don’t miss the breakthrough that comes through Godly community. God can and will use YOU to be a blessing to others. Further, God can and will use others to bless YOU. Be encouraged to do your part as we journey through this life together. The church is the place, now is the time, and you are the person that God wants to use to facilitate a breakthrough.

Prayer Focus: God, empower me to do my part for your people!

Friday, April 11, 2025

Day

33

“Seeing Ain’t Believing”

READ – Acts 28: 1 - 6

There’s a popular phrase, “seeing is believing.” It speaks to the reality that only comes with seeing something with your own eyes that is hard to believe. But sometimes that phrase doesn’t apply, especially when it comes to your testimony. For instance, you can look at yourself in the mirror and say, “I don’t look like what I’ve been through” or “I still can’t believe what I’m seeing.” What we see can be hard to believe because we must accept that something supernatural intervened along the way to preserve us and protect us. That thing is a breakthrough courtesy of the Lord.

Our study verse for this morning is a prime example of seeing something that’s hard to believe. Paul was preparing wood for a fire when a viper suddenly bit him. The viper had the capacity to kill him due to its potent venom. However, Paul shook the viper off and shook the hearts of the bystanders. They could not believe what they saw. Contrary to logic, what they witnessed was God’s protection over God’s person. And given Paul’s past, many of us wouldn’t consider him worthy of supernatural treatment like this. But it’s God’s prerogative. God does what God wants to do, loves who He wants to love, and protect who he wants to protect. We consider ourselves blessed because of His intervention. As we continue our walk with the Lord, keep in mind that we’ll never be immune to the surprises and attacks that come, but God makes us immune to what could happen as a result. We’ll see it and still won’t believe it.

Prayer Focus: God, I thank you for keeping me yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Day

34

“Breaking Protocol”

READ – Luke 14: 1 - 6

Our nation is full of laws that should be adhered to for the sake of maintaining order, safety, and fairness. When these laws are broken it is considered a crime. Depending on your situation and experience, sometimes we justify broken laws. For example, a person may justify stealing food if they are extremely hungry. Someone may justify speeding in a car if there is an emergency. Jesus shows us that He also takes situations into account when he decides to break the law on our behalf. And whenever the Lord breaks protocol in the presence of others, it’s a breakthrough for us.

This study scripture shows us an example where Jesus broke protocol for the benefit of others. While he was eating in the presence of some Pharisees, he asked the question about whether it was lawful to heal on the sabbath. They did not respond but knew this was the law according to their belief. They were also in the presence of a man with the skin disease dropsy. This man was living with an uncomfortable swelling of the skin, and in that moment, Jesus healed him to prove a point. There are moments where God will break the things that are established and entrenched to show you how much he loves you and cares. The law doesn’t apply when God is the law. Be encouraged that He will break the law for you.

Prayer Focus: God, allow me to submit to the changes you choose to make in my life according to your will.

Monday, April 14, 2025

Day

35

“Even the Rocks have a Reason”

READ – Luke 19: 28 – 40

There is no power on earth that has any recourse against your memory. If you are certain about something, no one can convince you otherwise. For example, if you consistently have a great experience with a favorite meal at a favorite restaurant, no one will be able to convince you that the restaurant is bad. Why? Because your tastebuds remember the flavor, your nostrils remember the divine scents, and your mind remembers the experience. So, where’s the breakthrough in this example? The fact that you can remember is the breakthrough.

Today’s study surveyed how the Pharisees challenged Jesus regarding the noise all his disciples were making. His reply was, “if they are silent, the rocks will cry out.” If you are not careful when reading this passage, you’ll easily overlook the relationship that Jesus has with creation. The animals know God. The trees know God. The waters know God. And even the ground knows God. If the rocks are positioned to cry out in worship if the disciples are quiet, then they must have a reason. Make no mistake, creation has full recollection and memory of who God is and what God is capable of. I’m certain that the rocks remember that God sustained them through many quakes and eroding waters. And they will testify at the first opportunity. I’m also certain that God’s resume on your behalf is more extensive than what the rocks have. Every day you ought to take the time and remember what the devil wants you to forget; that the Lord is still good. There is a breakthrough in remembering the breakthroughs from before. Your memory of the Lord’s power is an invincible weapon in your faith. What you remember is your reason to press forward, to pray fervently, and to praise fully. Remember your reason so that you’ll never give the rocks a chance to out-praise you!

Prayer Focus: Lord, let me be constantly reminded of your grace, love, and mercy in the midst of challenges.

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Day

36

“An Offering that’ll Move the Maker”

READ – Luke 21: 1 - 4

Have you ever thought about how you have the capacity to leave God awestruck? Think about this for a moment; you have the potential to give the creator of the cosmos a feeling of amazement. It is true. God is moved by how we sacrifice for His sake. And what’s even more amazing is how God provides us with what He is looking for us to give back to him. In short, God is the supplier of what He demands from us. And the breakthrough for us is knowing that what little we give back to God actually matters to God.

The bible is intentional about describing the woman of the text as being both poor and a widow. Based on the history, the culture didn’t think much of her, and her description suggests that we shouldn’t expect much (financially) from her either. During this period of offering, the wealthy would often steal the attention of everyone in the temple because they would make so much noise whenever they’d drop their coins in the offering container. However, these offerings meant nothing to Jesus. It wasn’t until the poor woman sacrificed her two coins, which were barely heard in the room, that Jesus was moved. Her offering was a sacrifice from a genuine place. We ought to glean from this woman’s sacrifice. God is not moved by what we give but how we give. And God freely gives us the resource He seeks from us. God gives us time, and He is moved when we give Him our time. God gives us resources to live, and yet, He’s moved when we give a portion back. It is a breakthrough knowing that God appreciates what we give. Consider this whenever you’re on the fence about giving anything to God. It matters to Him and it moves Him.

Prayer Focus: God, give me the spirit to freely sacrifice for your sake.

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Day

37

“Time for Your Name to be Called”

READ – John 11: 17 – 44

The resurrection of Lazarus is one of several resurrections that Jesus performs during His earthly ministry. However, this story is considered a standout compared to the others due to the timing of the events. The bible states that Lazarus had been dead for 4 days before Jesus arrived. That is important information to know because it gives weight to the miracle that takes place. Ancient Jewish culture believed that when a person passes their spirit remains close to the body for 3 days. With this considered, resurrection was possible within that window of time. But when the 4th day comes, that possibility goes. Jesus shows up during a time when everyone completely writes him off as dead. However, the breakthrough in this text is witnessing how Jesus is always on time...even when He’s not on time according to our time.

When Jesus arrived (4 days late), Martha greeted him reluctantly because she believed that resurrection was possible sooner. But Jesus responds to her, “I am the resurrection.” We are guilty of taking on Martha’s disposition. We tend to pray and tell Jesus how we expect Him to show up and answer our prayers. Sometimes we’re only satisfied when Jesus works according to our timetables. Jesus has another agenda. And His agenda includes being whatever we need at the time we need it. For Lazarus, He was the resurrection. For us, He is our breakthrough. Whenever he shows up, He’ll be on time. And we can believe that He’ll speak to our individual need. Jesus told Lazarus, “come out,” by name 4 days after death because that was the appointed time for the breakthrough. If Jesus just said, “come out,” everyone would’ve gotten up. This miracle was only for Lazarus because it was his time. Be encouraged that Jesus has a breakthrough for you, and you’ll see it when the time is right.

Prayer Focus: Lord, give me the faith to trust your timing and your tactics.

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Day

38

“Defending the Defenseless”

READ – John 12: 1 – 8

In my house there is a constant war going on between the fish and the cat. However, only one party is participating in the battle while the other is oblivious to the fight completely. Every day the cat, Shuri, would creep over to the fish tank and swipe at the fish for sport. But her attacks are always blocked by the fish tank’s glass. Meanwhile, the fish are just swimming around the inside of the tank...unbothered and unaware. The fish don’t have a care in the world for what’s going on outside the tank because they are constantly defended. If there was no glass, the fish wouldn’t stand a chance, but the glass both serves as protection and a breakthrough for the fish. The breakthrough is knowing that it remains protected even when it’s defenseless.

Jesus serves as our protector when we are oblivious to outside attacks and forces. We learn from this passage that Jesus served Mary in the same fashion. While she took the time to wipe the feet of Jesus with her hair and perfume, Judas took the liberty to verbally attack her motives. The bible does not indicate that Mary heard his comment, but Jesus did. He immediately comes to her defense. While she was serving Jesus, Jesus was serving her. Here we are encouraged by the breakthrough of Jesus defending the defenseless. You ought to serve Jesus with the confidence that your interests will be protected from unknown attacks. You should also be thankful for the things that God did not allow to happen.

Prayer Focus: God, I remain grateful for your protecting power over my life.

Friday, April 18, 2025

Day

39

“The Promise of a Passport”

READ – Luke 23: 32 – 43

We live in a time where it is increasingly easy to travel to other countries. The only requirements to traveling abroad include the means (resources) and a passport. Your passport legally gives you access to step onto foreign soil by your country of residence. However, if you find yourself involved in illegal activity or unpaid debts, you run the risk of having your passport revoked or not gaining access to other places. In short, your past can prevent you from moving into desired destinations. However, Jesus acts with an authority that supersedes the local and foreign state departments. His authority is our breakthrough.

In His final hours Jesus hangs on a cross between two criminals. The two unnamed thieves were deserving of death based on their crimes, but Jesus was completely innocent or any wrongdoing. One thief patronized Jesus while the other defended Christ’s in this senseless slaughter. That same thief asked that Jesus would remember him when He goes to the father, and Jesus replies, “You’ll be with me in paradise.” Jesus spiritually stamped the passport for this thief despite his actions. Remember, the thief committed crimes that were deserving of death, but Jesus gave him access to a paradise he didn’t deserve. It was all because the ex-con decided to travel with Jesus and not his former colleague in crime. Even in His final earthly hours, Jesus shows us a breakthrough that we can be encouraged by. There is no stain strong enough to keep us from paradise if we keep Jesus in the center of everything. The power of Jesus breakthrough the mess that we’ve made in our lives. Jesus will take our stains and turn them into a stamp. There is a breakthrough in His promise for our unrestricted passport.

Prayer Focus: Lord, I thank you for seeing beyond my faults and failures, and not withholding your proximity from me.

Saturday, April 19, 2025

Day

40

“Life on the Other Side of This”

READ – Luke 24: 1 – 12

There are some situations in life that leave your spirit on life support. Tragedy and trauma can be so severe that you're left in a dead situation with no life left in you to fight with. For the sake of illustration, you sometimes feel like you're enclosed in a tomb. But according to our example in Christ, tombs are meant to be emptied. Through the power of His resurrection, we learn that there is life on the other side of what tries to kill us. The breakthrough in our darkest moments is that we are called to break out. The tomb is only temporary. We are called to live outside of death.

The women of the text eagerly approached the tomb of Jesus expecting a dead situation to greet them. However, angels met them to correct their erroneous expectations. “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” Jesus rose from the grave. He lived outside of the death that once claimed him. And his resurrection sets the standard for our outlook. That is, nothing can stop the power of God. For us, death is the ultimate ending. Death seeks to claim different areas in our lives as we journey through. It attempts to claim relationships, finances, health, and future outlooks. However, Jesus is the breakthrough that cannot be bound by death. And Jesus shows us that death is only a detour; victory is the destination. No matter how dark things look and what death tries to tell us, we remain confident in the breakthrough that Jesus provides. Death has been swallowed up in victory. Jesus gives us life on the other side of this.

Prayer Focus: Lord, I am eternally grateful for your sacrifice for my salvation. I choose to live beyond the dead places in life.