



Just as
HE *said*

HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL

PALM SUNDAY

He Will Reign Forevermore

MEMORY VERSE

Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; *all came to pass.*

JOSHUA 21:45

In our crazy busy weeks, my husband Nick and I try hard to keep Saturday wide open. All week long, there isn't much wiggle room for projects, activities, chores, or rest. By the time my eyes pop open on Saturday mornings, I have a wonderful running list in my head of all of the things I will do on this glorious day. I'll wake up, make pancakes for Nick, take my dog on a long-deserved walk. I'll have the laundry drying in the background while I'm reading that book I haven't quite finished yet. I might even take our front door off the hinges and give it a fresh coat of black paint if it's sunny enough. I'm definitely going to run to the grocery store to pick up fruit for a bridal shower tomorrow... and I think I'll have an hour to go on a bike ride with my quality-time-loving husband.

The picture I'm painting here is full of expectations. You are probably seeing that I might have issues with time management—or I might have no concept of how long certain things take at all. I often fill my Saturdays with fun or anticipated tasks, and I am always shocked when the sun goes down and I only got through two or three things on my giant list.

Our expectations for good things are HIGH. We expect the very best of our vacations, of clothes we order online, or of food we order at a restaurant.

We say prayers to God and expect them to be answered. We expect deep connection with God on Sunday mornings. We expect to grow closer to God through a Bible study. We expect God to want the same things that we want to happen. We expect to be motivated to wake up every day and read our Bibles. Sometimes we expect God to make us feel something—or to give us something—or take something ugly away.

In Matthew 11, we read the classic story of Palm Sunday, and we get a glimpse of the high expectations of the Israelites. They were waiting for a Savior. One who would deliver them from their sins. They were waiting for a King. One who would save them from their oppressors. They had all kinds of perceptions and assumptions of what they thought He should be—and when He was different, they were disappointed. They knew their King was coming, and they prepared for Him a grand king's welcome. Like you and I, they had all kinds of ideas of what Jesus would do for them, how He would change their lives, and how long it would take.

Jesus was and is the promised King. He had come to save them. He would do it by laying down his life, not by overthrowing the Romans like they expected. He had a great purpose, they just didn't see it yet.

When we go back to Scripture, we can discern the kind of King we've been promised. We have a King that promised to rule and reign from sea to sea. He promised to love us with an everlasting love that won't be shaken, and to give us a peace that won't leave us. (Isaiah 54:10).

Friend, His Will will be done. His plan is perfect. His promises are the ones you can trust. My expectations of my King are often built off of things I see or hear. Maybe yours are too? Are they built off of what you see God doing in your friend's life? Do you expect things from God because of what you think you deserve?

Jesus is our King. Today are you accepting Him and loving Him and worshiping Him for who He is, or for who You want Him to be?

He is great. He is mighty. He is loving, powerful, protective, near to you, fair, and perfect. His plans for you are only good and they are always for HIS glory.

He is our good and perfect King.

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HE WILL REIGN FOREVERMORE,

*Just as He
Said*

15

APRIL 2019

HOLY MONDAY

He is Making All Things New

SCRIPTURE

Mark 11:15-19,
Isaiah 56:7

MEMORY VERSE

Not one word of all
the good promises
that the Lord had
made to the house
of Israel had failed;
all came to pass.

JOSHUA 21:45

On Monday of Holy Week, we see Jesus' authority in a way we've never seen before. We see him with righteous anger in the temple; he's flipping tables. Who was once a meek, gentle teacher is now showing us a different side of Himself. We see the temple inwardly destroyed, filled with chaos and commerce. This space is no longer sacred, Holy Ground; it's been skewed and turned upside down. By price-gouging, the Pharisees and money-changers were able to exclude the Gentiles and the poor from the temple. Jesus is deeply moved by this, becoming enraged that the temple is being used for worship that is not God's. However, this isn't something Jesus has never seen before or is surprised by (in fact, this isn't the first time Jesus clears out the temple. Check out John 2:13-17). He even stood in the same temple just the day before. But in judgement and righteous anger on Monday, He rattles the misused temple for the sake of His Father's house—He's zealous.

Immediately when I read through this story, I was struck by how similar it felt to Psalm 51 that pleads, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me... Restore to me the joy of your salvation." Go ahead and take some time to read through Psalm 51:10-12 ESV:

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit."*

What should be a God-filled space within us is filled with false gods. We're drowning as we grasp for security, lust, money, appearance and so much more, distorting the truth that we are the Imago Dei, the image of God. If Jesus never came and flipped tables, if He never acted out of His own zeal and authority, we would never have a way to our Father. In the same way his zeal and righteous anger cleared out the temple and restored it to its intended use, his zeal and righteous anger in our hearts clear out tempting idols and restore it to its intended use which is always his glory. We also might never recognize the filth in our own hearts and what we are allowing to enter into them if it were not for his jealous, righteous anger and zeal. I've stood on so many different "rugs" of false gods, only to feel God rip every single one out from under me. But in these jolting moments, I truly believe God is saying, "it's time to look at me now. Look at me. I am your Father and I am restoring you." Seeing Jesus' righteous anger and zeal for his Father's house on this Monday of Holy Week fills me with hope for His ultimate restoration and redemption.

"Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security. I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as they were at first. I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me. And this city shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them. They shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the prosperity I provide for it." —Jeremiah 33:6-9 ESV

Friends, whatever it is inside of you that needs to be brought into the light, or has already been exposed, God promises us restoration and redemption through repentance (when we turn and look at Him instead of the world). Our fists are shaking and clenched so tightly on the things of this world. He wants to restore us, uncurling our fists so we can lay it all down. It is hard to fathom the thoughts and motives that harbor within us, but Jesus is coming—to restore and to call us home. To make all things new and to make things how they were supposed to be from the beginning. And sometimes it might take a flipped table to get us to listen to Him in the middle of a loud world.

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HE IS MAKING ALL THINGS NEW,

*Just as He
Said*

16

APRIL 2019

HOLY TUESDAY

He is the Savior of the World

SCRIPTURE

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

1 JOHN 4:14 ESV

MEMORY VERSE

Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; *all came to pass.*

JOSHUA 21:45

Today is Holy Tuesday. After a triumphant entry into the city, and the exciting events of Jesus cleansing the temple, the disciples are likely excited to see this side of Jesus they had never seen before. He is now in the Holy City, and in their minds, he's kickin' butt and takin' names! They thought He was finally stepping up to be the king they thought he would be. But Jesus is about to flip all of that on its head.

When I was a kid, I lived on a farm. I would auction off my hogs at the end of the 4-H season, and for a kid, it was a great way to make your own money and learn some discipline and responsibility. The thing about kids though, is they're not great at modesty. I loved telling my friends who were not in 4-H how much money I made. Their eyes would open wide in a funny blend of wonder and envy. But what they didn't know is that I absolutely hated farming. I hated the daily training of my hogs. I hated hoisting heavy feed bags into their feeder. And I really hated cleaning out their nasty pen. When I would tell my friends of the months of hard work that raising hogs required, they weren't nearly as interested in the prize.

In the Bible, we see verses like "I must be about my Father's business" (Luke 2:49 NKJV) and "I always do the things that are pleasing to [the Father]" (John 8:29 ESV). God carefully planned our redemption (Acts 2:23), and that plan included a perfect Savior who would die in the place of sinners. In Matthew 16:16, Peter declares "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." This is an amazing statement, and it sounds like Peter has it all right! But, like the Palm Sunday celebrators, Peter still doesn't really understand what it means to be "the Christ." The Messiah. The Savior of the world. This is made clear just a few verses later, when Jesus explains that He "must suffer many things... be killed, and on the third day be raised." Peter was all about the Savior part. But death? That didn't sound like the Savior he had imagined. So he told Jesus He was wrong. He rebuked Jesus.

Living on this side of the cross, it can be easy for us to look back at Palm Sunday or Peter and think, "Wow, you guys really got it wrong. It's so obvious!" But sometimes we do the same thing. We love the idea of having a Savior; someone who is looking out for us and has our best interests at heart. After all, Romans 8:28 does say that for all those who love God all things work together for good. We want the good. But God's greatest good for us may not be what we think it is. There can be no breath-taking mountain top experiences without first making your way through the dark valleys. There can be no glorious sunrise without first enduring the long, dark night. And there can be no resurrection without death.

Jesus is the Savior. Not the savior we imagine, nor the savior we wish Him to be. He is the Savior we need.

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HE IS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD,

*Just as He
Said*

17

APRIL 2019

SPY WEDNESDAY

He is Better than Life

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 26:14-16,
Matthew 26:20-25

MEMORY VERSE

Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; *all came to pass.*

JOSHUA 21:45

Today is what many people know to be Spy Wednesday. This was the day Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus. He sneakily created a plan to hand Jesus over to the Pharisees. It was as if Judas was acting as a spy for the Sanhedrin, giving them what they wanted; the so called “King of the Jews”. The most shocking part of this painful piece of the most glorious story, is that Judas was one of Jesus’ disciples. He had followed Jesus closely (literally) for the entirety of His ministry on Earth, and yet he betrayed Him. Being a part of the twelve disciples, Judas walked alongside Jesus as He taught, hearing and knowing the lessons and wisdom of Jesus that He shared with the world. Judas was knowledgeable about Jesus and what it meant to be a follower of His, and yet, the facts and person of Jesus that Judas knew to be true meant nothing to him when he was put to the test. Judas was only a fan of Jesus, not a true follower. He reaped the benefits of being a “follower” of Jesus: notoriety, knowledge, and close fellowship with the very Son of God, but having a deep, loving relationship with Jesus, Judas lacked.

There is a stark difference between being a fan of Jesus and being a follower of Jesus. A fan wants to enjoy the benefits that come from claiming to be a follower of Jesus. They want the promised eternal life, the grace, the always-open door to bring any request to Jesus. But the sacrifice of their time, money, or earthly pleasures, they don’t want. Being transformed to be made more like Jesus, if it hurts... nah, they don’t want to deal with that pain. A follower of Jesus gets to enjoy all the benefits that a fan enjoys, and so much more. A follower wants Jesus for all that He is and for everything that it will bring in this life and the life to come; both the amazing and the painful. Walking through suffering like Jesus did, followers endure, because they see their suffering as a blessing. They feel honored to be counted worthy enough to suffer for following Jesus. A follower of Jesus sacrifices whatever they need to in order to stay on the straight and narrow, knowing that life with Jesus is far better than anything this world has to offer (Psalm 63:3). A follower of Jesus is like “a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither” (Psalm 1:3).

I can’t remember a time when I wasn’t following Jesus. But, if I’m being honest, I usually don’t ask Jesus to bring the painful seasons. Sometimes, I even pray against them, asking for His mercy to fall on me; that He wouldn’t allow me to walk through the same trials I see so many others walking through. I believe He hears that plea of mine, pours His grace over me, and whispers back, “My daughter, I will never leave you to handle this on your own. I will never forsake you. Whatever comes your way, I am sovereign. I know what is best for you” (1 Corinthians 1:8, 10:13, Deuteronomy 31:6, Jeremiah 29:11, Isaiah 55:8-9).

Being a follower of Jesus requires great faith. And Jesus, knowing how faithless we can be, asks us to have faith even as tiny as a mustard seed (Matthew 17:20). Let’s start small and pray that He grows our faith to become much bigger than that of a mustard seed!

Where do you stand? Are you a fan or follower? Do you proclaim Him to be King of your life while only surrendering certain areas of your life to Him—or have you knelt down, with hands raised high, asking the King of the world to lead you, step by step, trusting Him with everything? He will never let you down. He wants to bless His children. And He wants your entire heart. No amount of knowledge a fan has of Jesus can compare to the joy a follower feels through having a close relationship with the King of the world.

Yes, Judas betrayed the Son of God. Yes, the Pharisees and Satan saw this as victory. But they missed something so crucial: they fulfilled the very prophecies and plan of God that has been since the beginning of time. While Satan believed he was victorious the day Jesus was crucified, he couldn’t have been more wrong. Only three days later, he was completely defeated. Jesus rose from the dead. Satan has no power over Jesus or this world. We are victorious because He was and is victorious. And no matter how many times we are unfaithful to Him, He will always be faithful to us!

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HE IS BETTER THAN LIFE,

*Just as He
Said*

18

APRIL 2019

MAUNDY THURSDAY

He is God with Us

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 26:36-46

MEMORY VERSE

Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; *all came to pass.*

JOSHUA 21:45

Friends, it is Thursday (Maundy Thursday to be exact). I don't know about you, but for me, this day feels like the ramp to the crescendo of Good Friday, where emotions pivot and day turns to night. We see new sides of Jesus' character that we've never seen before. We see His kindness in service—His willingness to get on his hands and knees and wash the feet of His disciples. We see communion and the Last Supper. We see friendship, denial, and betrayal all in one fell swoop. We peer into a deep well of sorrow in Jesus, juxtaposed to seeing His unhindered faith in His Father.

When I was a kid, I loved Disney World so much (and still do to this very day), but hated the process of getting there. Growing up I had very sensitive ears that didn't do well with air pressure differences. On road trips, this looked like crying fits over the Appalachian Mountains and it gave me a deathly fear of planes, afraid my little head would explode from the altitude. However, the only exception to get me to travel over these mountains to Florida was a ticket to Disney World waiting on the other side. I remember begging my parents for another way, another route, but there wasn't any other option without involving either bigger mountains to drive through or a five hour detour around them. I was determined—I had to get to Disney. I knew it would entail about 40 minutes of pain, but what was waiting on the other side was worth it.

Like my plea for another way to Disney World, Jesus also pleads for a different route; another way out. Jesus knows it's not going to be pretty or elegant, but he knows it will be worth it in the name of God. On this very day in the Scriptures, I am struck by Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane:

"Then He said to them, 'My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here and watch with me.' And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.'"
—Matthew 26:38-39 ESV

This glimpse of Jesus gives me chills; we see His complete humanity through a deep sorrow, asking for a way out. We know He's serious in pleading because He prays this prayer not once, but three times over. Yet it's contrasted by "not as I will, but as you will"; Your will be done. This prayer is so encouraging (and heartbreaking) to me because it shows His desire for God's will, yet at the same time his humanness in not wanting it. Here we see Jesus act out of deep love, but also feel the deep sorrow and pain it will take to get there.

Friends, I find myself here often—to want God's will, but resisting it at the same time. To live in the limbo between flesh and spirit, light and darkness. Isn't this where we fall many days on this side of Heaven? Sometimes I discredit my feelings, worries and sorrows, but I find this passage so comforting—to simply know that Jesus knows. He's been there too. To rest in the fact that the very pain that sits in my chest, the very conversations I want to avoid, the desires that burn in my heart, and the dreams that dance in my head—God feels them with me and does not ignore them. In fact, He's holding it all together; every fiber of our being. In all these things, it takes immense courage to finish these asks and desires with the phrase, "Your will be done," and to truly mean it. Sometimes it's hard to know and want what God wants. Let's ask bravely and boldly, and finish our prayers with, "Your will be done", being aware that this unfolding might not look like how we planned in our heads. Let us know that our desires might not be fulfilled on the timeline we have intricately crafted. Let us always ask, "Your will be done", knowing that our hope is beyond what happens on this earth, that we are taken care of, and in His will alone, we are moving closer and closer to Heaven and the fullness of joy that it will bring. Today, let's remember that God goes before and behind us—with a pure heart and thoughtful direction (we have NOTHING to fear). Let's remember that Jesus is Immanuel.

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HE IS GOD WITH US,

*Just as He
Said*

19

APRIL 2019

GOOD FRIDAY

It is Finished

MEMORY VERSE

Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; *all came to pass.*

JOSHUA 21:45

“But the LORD was pleased to crush him...
Out of the anguish of his soul, [Jesus] shall see and be satisfied.”
ISAIAH 53:10-11 ESV

Today all around the world, millions of people will gather to celebrate Good Friday together. Good Friday is the day of Holy Week that Jesus died. The beautiful song, *In Christ Alone*, puts it this way: “Light of the World by darkness slain.” It is literally the worst day in human history. The Bible tells us that at high noon—the brightest part of the day—the sky began to darken until it was completely black, and it remained that way for hours. The very moment Jesus breathed His last breath, the earth shook violently enough that graves were opened.

But something else happened in that moment. The veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom. Before we consider why that is significant, let’s take a close look at the suffering of Jesus. The deepest and most painful part of Jesus’ agony was not physical, though His physical pain and torment was beyond what we can comprehend. His soul-wrenching agony was because for the first time in all of eternity, the perfect communion He had with the Father had been broken. As Jesus “became sin” (2 Corinthians 5:21), the Father turned His face away. God could not look upon sin. In despair, Jesus searched the skies in vain, feeling the weight of being forsaken by the Father (Matthew 27:46). But as Jesus begins to feel His very life slip away, He knows that His death is accepted as a perfect offering for the sins of His people. And as Jesus looks to the heavens once more, the Father’s smiling face has turned back and is shining down on him, beaming with pride. It is finished. Their perfect communion is restored. This is why Jesus can now pray to the Father once more, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” (Luke 23:46)

And the temple veil is torn wide open! Because Jesus suffered and was rejected in our place, we are now accepted by God. The wall separating us from God has been shattered. This is why it pleased the Lord to crush Jesus. This is why Jesus can be satisfied with suffering anguish; he knew the eternal good it would accomplish. Our good. The author of Hebrews says that Jesus endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him (Hebrews 12:2). Good. Joy. Pleased. These are the words the Bible uses to describe what happened on that awful day. Yes, it was the worst day in human history. But it was also a good day. It is only because of this day that we have the gospel—the good news of the grace of Jesus. There is nothing more for us to do. It is finished. It is done.

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IT IS FINISHED,

*Just as He
Said*

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APRIL 2019

HOLY SATURDAY

He is in the Waiting

SCRIPTURE

John 11:17-44,
John 16:16-20

MEMORY VERSE

Not one word of all
the good promises
that the Lord had
made to the house
of Israel had failed;
all came to pass.

JOSHUA 21:45

We don't see a lot of Scripture about Holy Saturday back when Jesus died, other than the disciples fearing the Jews and burying Jesus. I wonder what was going through the minds of the disciples once Jesus was gone, when they had to help him down from the cross, wrap Him in grave clothes, and carry His lifeless body to a tomb (John 19:38-40). Nowhere in scripture do we see them have hope in Jesus' return. There seems to be mostly silence on this day.

I imagine their grief was similar to Mary and Martha's when their brother Lazarus died. They both run up to Jesus one at a time and say, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (John 11:32, ESV). Jesus loved Lazarus deeply and wept at the thought of his death. Their hope for Lazarus to live, died when Lazarus died, and it seems as if the disciple's hope died when Jesus died, too.

About a month ago, I started getting angry with God, being in the midst of my own season of waiting. I've always experienced some kind of seasonal depression when winter comes, but this winter has been abnormally difficult for me. As I looked around at my circumstances, (my community, my career, my finances, etc.) I knew should be grateful, but I couldn't shake the aching in my heart.

I was so desperate to hear Him speak to the questions I had and for Him to bring clarity to the confusion and sadness that were running laps in my head. I spent time with Him each morning, praying for discernment and energy to make it through each day, and often left feeling more confused and defeated.

As months went by, I began to assume the same perspective as Mary and Martha. God, had you been here, I wouldn't be going through this. If you knew the hurt in my heart and were listening to my cries, this season would be over.

Before His death, Jesus says to his friends, "A little while and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me" (John 16:16, ESV). The disciples weren't meant to spend the day after his death in despair, but rather anticipating and expecting the joy that was to come the next day. Jesus had predicted His death and resurrection to them on multiple occasions. He told them not only would He return to them, but their sorrow would turn into joy (John 16:20).

Psalms 139:7 says:

"Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall overcome me, and the light about me be night, even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as day, for darkness is as light with you."

Seasons of waiting can feel dark and hopeless like this day felt to the disciples, but they aren't meant to. We are meant to expect the joy that He promised, while embracing God's presence right where we are.

He hears you. He is there with you, listening to you and working your sorrows into joy. The darkness is not dark to Him, for darkness is as light with Him.

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HE IS IN THE WAITING,

*Just as He
Said*

21

APRIL 2019

EASTER SUNDAY

He is Risen

MEMORY VERSE

Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; *all came to pass.*

JOSHUA 21:45

Today is such a special day. We have loved giving this season the celebration it deserves, and hope you have to. Today is the day when Jesus rose. We anticipate it, because we know the story... but put yourself in the shoes of the disciples, and into the shoes of all of the people that expected Jesus to be their Savior. They bought-in to His teachings. They believed in Him. They wanted Him to save them, they loved Him, and they wanted Him to be their King. Then on Friday, He died. They believed it was over. All of the teachings we hinge our lives on today, they were so excited to believe. And then it was gone. For two days, they thought they were back to square one: waiting again.

They were shocked, disappointed, and devastated. But if you look in the gospels, you will see that Jesus foretold His death, warning them of the plan (Not only once, but three times).

Read: Matthew 16:21-23 , Matthew 17:22-23 ESV, Matthew 20:17-19

It is easy to chuckle and say, “Jesus told them three times—why were they surprised at all?” But then I look at my own life, and see a consistent pattern. Maybe you see it too? Every time I am feeling distant from God or in a season of darkness, there is always evidence of me not hearing God’s warnings, or not believing His promises. In seasons of loneliness, I forget that God promised to never leave me or forsake me (Hebrews 13:5). In a season of feeling lost or distant, I forget God’s promise that I will find Him when I seek Him with all my heart (Jeremiah 29:13). In seasons of anxiety, I forget that I have been promised a helper that brings peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:6). In seasons of heavy stress where I don’t feel equipped to take another step, I forget that Jesus offers to carry my burdens and to give me rest. I could go on and on—but do you see the pattern? The Bible is full of promises from a Father to His children. Promises that we forget and ignore, sometimes when we need them most.

Let’s pick back up into the Resurrection story:

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.” —Matthew 28:1-10 ESV

He is not here, for he has risen, just as he said.

When Jesus rose from the dead, He defeated the enemy forever. When He died at the hands of our accusers, and rose from the dead, just as He said He would, He fulfilled the greatest promise He had ever made. He paid the price for our sins, just as He said He would. He made a way for us to finally have access to our Father in heaven again, just as He said He would. He extended grace and mercy to all people, just as He said he would. In one selfless act, He made the greatest sacrifice of love you and I will ever know, just as He said he would.

Whatever season you are walking through right now, let today be a big and bold reminder, that His promises are for real. He proved it with an empty tomb. Use your Bible or the internet to search what God has promised you that you might be forgetting.

He loves you, He is for you, and He is with you.

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HE IS RISEN,

*Just as He
Said*

22

APRIL 2019

MONDAY

He is Faithful

MEMORY VERSE

Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

JOSHUA 21:45

Yesterday, we celebrated the most GLORIOUS news! Thousands of years ago, Jesus was raised from the dead, changing the world forever. That moment in history led to so many blessings for those who choose to follow Him. The greatest of all: hope. Hope for eternal life. Hope for redemption, salvation, and a restored relationship with God through Jesus. Hope in knowing that He never turns on His word, but will always do what He says He will. Hope to one day be face to face with our King in all His magnificent glory! Hallelujah!

We read multiple statements made by Jesus throughout each gospel, all of which, came to be. Jesus told Peter he would deny Him three times before the rooster crows twice (John 13:38), that one of His disciples would betray Him (John 13:21), that His disciples will all scatter and leave Him at the time of His arrest (John 16:32), and that He would be raised from the dead three days after His death (Matthew 27:63), just to name a few. These were not just statements, but promises; all of which came true. God does the same exact thing throughout the entire Bible. Promise after promise is made, and the best news of all: He has been, is, and will always be faithful to fulfill every single promise He has ever made. Nothing that happens on this side of heaven comes as a surprise to Him.

"Now He is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come."

Ephesians 1:21

For us to choose to trust in man or other earthly things and powers, instead of in Jesus is pure foolishness— even worse, it is sin. Romans 14:23 says, "Whatever is not from faith is sin." So, we must continually choose to trust in Jesus over everything else as we walk through each day. When the evil one tries to convince us that our job, relationships, money or security can be trustworthy, may we quickly turn our focus back onto Jesus and His promises.

Just like we practice a sport or art over and over again to become better at it or make a habit from it, we must do the same in our walk with Jesus. We have to be extremely mindful of what comes out of our mouths if we want to become better at keeping a tight rein on our tongues. We need to practice trusting Jesus with the little things, so we are able to trust Him with the big things when they come. We need to work at making time during our day to read God's Word if we want it to become a part of our everyday routine. Not only so, but we should find a community of other Jesus-followers and cling tightly to them. Encourage one another, hold each other accountable and ultimately, point each other to the best example we can follow after: our Savior, Jesus.

Find that one verse that your heart needs to hear, memorize it, and repeat it to yourself over and over again until the promises you know to be true in your head reach your heart, with the help of the promised Holy Spirit. "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8, NIV). May we wait expectantly to see Him fulfill beautiful promise after beautiful promise for the rest of our days.

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HE IS FAITHFUL,

*Just as He
Said*