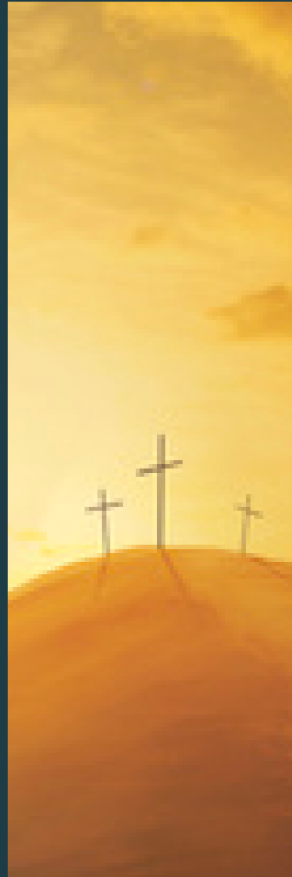
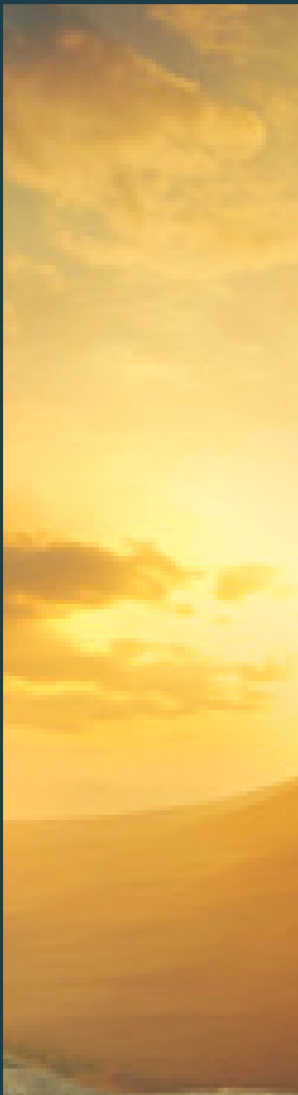


# 31 DAYS



## WITH

# JESUS



# 31 WITH DAYS JESUS

Welcome to the journey!

**You are embarking on a 31 day journey that has the potential to radically change your life!**

Seriously, for the next 31 days, spending time with Jesus - **consistently**, practicing spiritual disciplines - will transform from the inside out. It's my prayer that you will commit to spiritual growth. That you'll commit to surrender. That you'll commit to intentionally spending time each day and pursue Jesus.

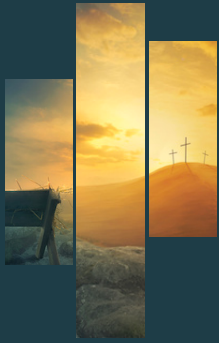
So, take time to prayerfully and intentionally plan each week to include times of prayer, Bible reading, journaling and more, with the focus of connecting with the Lord. Take time to be still. Listen more than you talk. Ask God to show you what you need to see and what you need to surrender so that your life will reflect Christ more and more.

**Take a moment to sign-up** on our website and let us know you're joining in this month. Go to: [www.nbchurchcf.org/31days](http://www.nbchurchcf.org/31days) and sign-up today! When you access the website, you'll find tools, videos and support to help you on your journey. Also, I (and others) are committed to praying for you specifically that God will, in fact, radically impact your spiritual life for His glory.

You got this! Together, by God's power, let's continue to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" for His glory (2 Peter 3:18).

May the next 31 days be times of growth, encouragement, insight, surrender and transformation as we "press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

At His Feet:



# 31 DAYS WITH JESUS

## Week 01: Jesus' Humanity

Welcome into our 31 day journey with Jesus! Over the next month, we (as a church, together) will be spending time each day in the Scriptures learning more about Jesus, and applying truths to our lives.

Each day you'll have time to pray, read Scripture, reflect and/or actively apply the things you're learning. Spend time. Be still. Listen to what God may be speaking to your heart, and commit to walk out the things He shows you for His glory.

Check out the website for more helps, insights and tools for your journey!

### MARCH 01 - Isaiah 53

Read this Isaiah passage slowly... deliberately.

This section of Scripture describes the "Suffering Servant." It has been understood by many that this describes a Redeemer who will one day come. We know this Redeemer to be Jesus - the Son of God, the Savior of the world.

Jesus, fully human, came to us, lived a perfect life (because He's also God, but we'll look at that next week) and died for us to make the way for us to be forgiven from our sin - reflect on that for an extended time. Talk to God about it.

**Reflect:** Why is it important that Jesus is fully human? What does Jesus being the **Suffering Servant** communicate about His character and purpose? How does understanding Jesus in this way affect how you understand God's love and mercy and Jesus' sacrifice?

### MARCH 02 - Luke 2:1-38

The Savior has arrived! He's here! For unto us is born a Savior - He is Christ the Lord! How does that affect you? Does it affect you? If you're a Christ follower, that should stir something within you!

Did you notice the responses that people had to Jesus' birth: the shepherds, Mary, angels, Joseph, Anna. So many responses.

**Reflect:** Do you identify with any of these responses? Do you have a different response?

It's interesting too that God didn't choose to share this life-changing announcement with kings and queens, the popular people, the "in" crowd. Rather, it was told to the outcasts, the unclean, the marginalized - why do you think that is? What is the implication in that for your life?

## LUKE 2:52

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people."

### MARCH 03 - Luke 2:39-52

Jesus, the child. Jesus, the teenager. Can you even imagine? What we know is that Jesus was human - as crazy as that may be to understand, it's true! **Think about it!**

Jesus was **born** (Luke 2:7). He **grew** and developed **physically, spiritually, relationally, intellectually** (Luke 2:52). He experienced **limitations**: He **hungered** (Matt 4:2), **thirsted** (John 4:7; 19:28), grew **tired** (John 4:6), and experienced the full range of ordinary, non-sinful human **emotions** (Matt 26:37; John 2:15; 11:35). He was **tempted, yet never sinned** (Heb 4:15; 9:14; 1Pet 1:19). He **suffered, died**, and was **buried**. He was **raised** in his humanity (1Cor 15:45). There's so much here. On this day, take time to truly reflect on each of these, prayerfully.

Because of Jesus' humanity, He is our representative, He's our substitute, He's our example. It is only through faith in Christ's perfect life, death, burial and resurrection that we can be born again; that we can receive Christ's righteousness for ourselves. The truth of the Gospel keeps us centered on our need for Jesus, on God's immense love and mercy and on the reality that we need to remain humble and live a life that reflects the Gospel message to the world.

**Reflect:** What is God showing you about yourself, your need, your surrender as a result of what you're already learning about Jesus?

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## SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Over the next month, take time to work on spiritual disciplines that will connect you with Jesus in a deeper way: prayer, fasting, Scripture memory, silence, rest & reflection, Sabbath, journaling, gratitude, Bible study, celebration and more!

**Prayerfully** commit to focusing on **one** spiritual discipline each week.

The choice is yours as to when / how - because it's not about the ritual, it's about the relationship. The end goal should lead you to application of what you're learning, to spiritually surrendering more of yourself, to allowing God to transform your heart and life in such a way that you are drawn into a deeper walk with the Lord.

So, starting Monday, prayerfully decide which one you'll focus on. Sit in quiet before the Lord long enough to discern which one you need focus on, and commit to it. Ask God for the strength to work on it each day. In the process, ask God to change your heart, help you connect to Him in meaningful ways, and grow spiritually.

If you want an added layer of accountability and prayer, send an email to:

**31days@nbchurchcf.org**

and let us know which discipline you're focusing on each week, and we'll be praying with you and for you as you stretch yourself! You can do this!

## BONUS: JESUS TEMPTED

Take time to read **Matthew 4:1-17**. This is the account of the temptation of Jesus.

**Reflect:** What tactics do you see Satan using? What do you see Jesus do to combat these attacks?

How can you take the example of Jesus and apply it to your life? What needs to be true if you're going to fight like Jesus did? How will you make that be true of you?

## HYMN REFLECTION

Each week includes a "hymn reflection" (like the one on the next page). This reflection is an opportunity to experience God in a unique way.

Take time to read the words.

If you're able, sing it or play it - or both, do it. Be drawn into the message as you step back in time, from centuries past, to connect with people whose hearts burned for the Lord and for His righteousness in their lives.

May our hearts align and beat in the same way. That we would surrender to the Lord in fresh ways and experience revival in our hearts as we seek to live for Him today!

## HYMN REFLECTION

# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*When the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son... Galatians 4:4*

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy  
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,  
yet a King; born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -  
now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear De - sire of  
Spir - it, rule in all our hearts a - lone; by Thine all - suf -

eve - ry na - tion, joy of eve - ry long - ing heart.  
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744  
MUSIC: Rowland Prichard, 1830

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# 31 DAYS WITH JESUS

## Week 02: Jesus' Divinity

Here you are - you made it! Yes, it's only been 3 days, but you're here! So, have you taken the time to prayerfully commit to a spiritual discipline this week? If you have, and you want to share, email [31days@nbchurchf.org](mailto:31days@nbchurchf.org) and let us know! If you haven't decided yet, take the time right now, we'll wait for you.

This is an exciting week as we journey with Jesus toward Easter. This week is all about Jesus' divinity; the fact that Jesus is fully God. May you be encouraged, challenged and changed as you discover the importance of Jesus' divinity. May you connect with God in deeper ways as you experience His love, grace and mercy this week.

### MARCH 04 - Philippians 2:1-11

We kick off this week with powerful words from Paul in Philippians. Jesus' life was all about servanthood. Though Jesus was God, He emptied Himself, He humbled Himself - for you.

Jesus is our example. There is a heart and a love that is on display in the life of Jesus. It's a life that you are called to live as a Christ follower. Understanding that it's impossible to live like this apart from God's power working in and through you.

The key to remember as a follower of Jesus: it's not about trying harder, it's about surrendering more. If your life is going to reflect the heart of Jesus, it's about surrendering ALL that you are to Him to change you, to transform you, into the image of Christ.

**Reflect:** What do you need to surrender in order for your life to reflect the heart of Jesus? What's holding you back?

### Your surrender prayer...

Write out a simple prayer that expresses your heart to surrender to the Lord...

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### JOHN 1:1

"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God."

### MARCH 05 - Matthew 3:13-17

Today's passage focuses on Jesus' baptism. This is a significant moment. Did you see it? It's subtle, but maybe you saw it. It's the Trinity.

Wait! The word "trinity" isn't in the Bible! True, but the concept is certainly in the Bible. The fact is that three things are true of God: (1) God is three Persons, (2) each Person is fully God, (3) there is one God. It's a reality and a mystery that we'll never fully grasp.

Also, in this moment, God the Father, declares that Jesus is His Son and that He is pleased with Him. Jesus' ministry is both confirmed and revealed on earth.

**Reflect:** Why is Jesus' baptism so significant? How does Jesus fulfill all righteousness? What can you apply to your life from these truths?

### MARCH 07 - Luke 4:14-42

Have you ever felt rejected? That stinging pain of pushback and harsh words doesn't feel great. How much more does rejection hurt from people who you would expect to have your back? Not fun, I get it. If you've ever felt like that, know that Jesus understands.

There were mixed reviews to Jesus' message - some loved Him, others rejected Him. Some of those "others" were people from His hometown: Nazareth. Jesus reads from Isaiah while visiting them, and claims that He is the fulfillment of this prophecy to be the Messiah who would come to heal, rescue and bring good news.

Instead of being met with cheers, His former neighbors react with skepticism. Who can blame them, right? Who IS this guy? We KNOW this Jesus! That's Joseph's kid! Not only did they reject Him, they were ready to kill Him! That's some serious rejection! Jesus was able to escape and moved on to others who would receive His message.

Rejection is tough. The opinion of others can drive us to act or react in ways that we wouldn't normally. Jesus is a good example of responding to rejection.

**Reflect:** What can you learn from Jesus' example of responding to rejection? In what ways are you tempted to respond to people's opinions of you instead of what God says about you? What light does **Galatians 1:10** shed on your situation?



## MARCH 08 - Matthew 8

Jesus is God. The miracles that Matthew highlights put His power and divinity on display. From disease to demons, sickness to calming seas, it was evident that Jesus was not like other men they had ever seen before!

**Reflect:** As you reflect on each individual miracle in this chapter, what do you see them communicate about God's power? As you think about your life, how does that help you in your life as you face storms and trials?

Take time to journal, writing to yourself in the future, reminding yourself what you learned today about God's power and how that should comfort you when you face difficult times.

## MARCH 10 - Matthew 4:18-22 & 9:9-13

Jesus intentionally made disciples. Why? Because, without them, without followers who were all-in, sold out for the message of the reality of Who Jesus is - the message would have died with Jesus (even after His resurrection). Because of them, because of their sacrifice, because of their commitment, the message of the Gospel has been proclaimed for thousands of years, right up to this very moment.

We often point to **Matthew 4:19** as the call and the process that we go through as disciples today. Jesus' call to "follow me" and "I will make you...fishers of men" is the call that is extended to us all. We see in these words, God's desire for our lives as we follow Him, as we surrender all to Him. We can confidently surrender because we know that Jesus is worthy. Jesus is all we need. Jesus is God - and in Him, we find hope.

**Reflect:** Have you responded to Jesus' call in your life to "follow" Him? Have you surrendered your life, and are trusting Jesus as Savior? If you have, what **evidence** is there that you are following Him as Lord? Jesus would say "I will make you" - in other words, Jesus will transform your life - what evidence do you see of that in your life? Also, the "fishers of men" piece - are you a disciple who's making disciples? If not, what's holding you back?

## MARCH 09 - Matthew 12

Jesus was harshest and most critical with the religious leaders, the Pharisees. What He found in them was a life that appeared to follow God, but their hearts were far from Him. They were bent on trying to trap Jesus and attack Him in the hopes of proving Him to be a false teacher and ultimately get rid of Him.

**Reflect:** Why do you think Jesus was so harsh on the religious leaders who most would have expected to be closest to God? What do His interactions with them, and the words He said, reveal about the heart of God?

What areas of your life do you need to reevaluate and surrender where you may be speaking Godly words, but your heart is far from Him?

## HYMN REFLECTION

# O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

*My tongue shall declare Your righteousness and Your praise all day long. Psalm 35:28*

1. O, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise;  
 2. My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,  
 3. Je-sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease!  
 4. He breaks the pow'r of can-cel'd sin, He sets the pris-'ner free.  
 5. Hear Him, ye deaf! His praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues em-ploy!

the glo-ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of His grace.  
 to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of Thy name.  
 'Tis mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.  
 His blood can make the foul-est clean, His blood a-vailed for me.  
 Ye blind, be-hold your Sav-ior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy!

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739  
 MUSIC: Carl Glaser, 1828

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## ADD YOUR VERSE...

Try your hand at writing an additional verse to this hymn. What would you want to express about God that would point people to Him and give Him glory?





# 31 DAYS WITH JESUS

## Week 03: Jesus Loves People

Jesus loves people. The outcast, the sick, the popular, the pauper and everyone in-between. This week with Jesus, you'll see many times that Jesus expressed genuine love and concern for people, with the ultimate aim to open their eyes to the truth of the Kingdom of God. He would meet physical needs to open the door to meeting spiritual needs.

As you spend time this week learning about how Jesus loves people, ask the Lord to help you recognize opportunities to choose to love people this week and for His power to walk out love for them. If you're part of a LIFE Group, have a conversation around how you might, together, be the hands and feet of Jesus and meet physical needs in order to meet spiritual needs in people's lives.

### MARCH 11 - John 3

"You must be born again." Those are the words that Jesus said to the high-ranking, devout Pharisee - Nicodemus.

Jesus saw through the platitudes and was focused on the need. **Verses 16-21** summarize the Gospel. The fact that God loved us enough to send Jesus to save us from our sin. This was the message that a self-righteous religious leader needed to hear. This is the message we need to hear and respond to, that we might be born again by faith.

**Reflect:** What does it mean to be born again? How are we born again?

The Gospel that Jesus shares not only addresses those who believe, but it also mentions those who don't - what does Jesus say about those who reject the message? What is the implication for your life, and the lives of others?

What does this interaction reveal about Jesus' love for people and about His mission and purpose?

How does this apply to you?

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### MATTHEW 9:36

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

### MARCH 12 - John 4

This account is rich in the love that Jesus has for people- specifically for a woman who probably was an outcast in her town.

What we see is a great example of Jesus connecting physical needs to the spiritual needs of someone. The message is very clear: God sees you, knows you, knows what you've done, and loves you anyway.

**Reflect:** What specific events, words, actions display Jesus' love for this woman? What evidence do you see that there was heart change and transformation as a result?

How does this challenge you to love people in your spheres of influence? What is your next step?

### MARCH 14 - John 9

Physical blindness can be challenging. Maybe for you, without your glasses you might as well be labeled as blind! But a much worse condition in our lives is spiritual blindness. Stumbling through life, lost, searching, wondering, maybe even unaware of your spiritual condition is a far worse place to be.

Jesus loves spiritually blind people. Again, we see here an instance of Jesus meeting physical needs in order to meet spiritual needs. In the process, He's able to teach His disciples (and us) valuable lessons that they couldn't learn any other way. Jesus loves people.

**Reflect:** Upon being healed, it opened up a series of meetings and questions trying to discover the "how" of the healing, but not the "who". Why do you think most people were enamored with the "how" and not the "who"?

How did the parents respond to spiritual blindness by serving **self**? How did the pharisees respond to spiritual blindness by serving **sin / Satan**? How did the blind man respond to spiritual blindness by serving the **Savior**? What progression do you see? (ref. **9:11, 9:17, 9:30-33, 9:38**).

How do you see Jesus loving blind people from this passage? How can you live like that in your own life by His power in you?

### MARCH 13 - John 5:1-14

Bethesda - a place of mercy. In this place, Jesus meets someone in need of mercy. Someone who wasn't seeking it, but someone who needed it. He was broken. In His need, Jesus met Him, and ultimately healed him.

In the midst of all of the sick people, Jesus singled this guy out, and He changed his life. Jesus loves broken people, and so should we!

**Reflect:** How can you better "see" broken people in your life? What would it mean for you to "see" them? How can you share truth with broken people in your life?

How can you love broken people despite what others might think? Why should we expect push-back and misunderstanding when we help broken people?



### MARCH 15 - John 6:1-15

Today is another moment where Jesus met needs, and in the process taught lessons. To the large crowd gathered, there was astonishment of never-ending food that was in abundance. To the disciples, they saw God's provision and Jesus' power.

Jesus would then go on to express that He is the Bread of Life. This would be a turning point for many as they begin to understand that Jesus' ministry was more spiritual than physical. As a result, many left following Jesus.

**Reflect:** When you consider Jesus' love for people, what do you see in His response to the needs of the crowd? How did His actions teach faith lessons to the disciples? What does it teach you?

### MARCH 17 - VARIOUS VERSES

Take the time to look up the following verses and learn what Jesus has to say (and other verses) about how we are to love:

Matthew 5:16

Matthew 25:37-40

Luke 3:10-11

Luke 6:35-36

Luke 6:38

Luke 12:33-34

John 15:12-13

### MARCH 16 - Luke 19:1-10

Jesus lived and loved intentionally. When going through Jericho, Jesus encountered a wee little man. A man that was despised by people, and for good reason. His livelihood was founded on taking advantage of people. Jesus knew this and He knew him.

Out of all the people clamoring for His attention, Jesus saw Zacchaeus. Intentionally, Jesus invited Himself over to his house, and Zacchaeus' life was changed forever.

**Reflect:** What does Jesus specifically say was His mission? How have you seen Jesus embody this mission through what you've learned over this past week?

What affect does this have on your life today?

Romans 12:9-10

Galatians 6:2

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Philippians 2:3-4

Hebrews 13:16

James 2:14-17

1 John 3:16-18

## HYMN REFLECTION

### Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*The LORD's lovingkindness indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail... Lamentations 3:22-23*

1. Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fath-er; there is no  
2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and  
3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, Thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with Thee; Thou chang-est not, Thy com-  
stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in  
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

-pas-sions, they fail not; as Thou hast been, Thou for-ev-er wilt be.  
man-i-fold wit-ness to Thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.  
hope for to-mor-row: bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed Thy

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

Music: William M. Runyan, 1923

FAITHFULNESS



# 31 DAYS WITH JESUS

## Week 04: Jesus the Teacher

Jesus was a masterful teacher. Parables. Stories. Questions. He could connect with His hearers in ways that, for some, opened their eyes, for others, would leave them with more questions than answers.

With eyes focused on the mission, and the cross that lies ahead, Jesus taught the message of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and opened eyes to the message of the Scriptures that the people already knew - but, He helped them to see that the verses they already knew actually pointed to Him!

May the teachings of Jesus cause you to be transformed and empowered to live for Him in fresh ways. Which discipline could you work on this week that could help you in your growth?

### MARCH 18 - Matthew 5:1-7:29

The Sermon on the Mount is a powerful section of Jesus' teachings that don't move us from the letter of the law to the actual intent: our hearts.

As you spend time reading today (and, yes I know there's a lot), take it all in. Journal what you see and hear. Without over analyzing, what does the Holy Spirit bring to the forefront for you to see specifically? Is there a sin to confess? Is there a promise to claim? Is there something you need to surrender? Write it down, pray about it and commit to allowing God to change you from the inside out.

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### MATTHEW 4:23

"Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom..."

### MARCH 19 - Matthew 13

In today's reading, Jesus teaches in parables. Parables are usually short stories designed to emphasize a greater truth with the purpose to make abstract or large ideas easier to grasp.

Outward facing, to the larger crowd, Jesus often left with this cryptic story without explanation. Inward facing, to the disciples, Jesus would often explain the meaning. The people on the outside, even the religious leaders, weren't receptive and often didn't welcome the message. But, those on the inside were more apt to receive the message and live it.

**Reflect:** How do you see parables being used to make deep truths more understandable? Which parable has had an impact on your life?

### MARCH 21 - Luke 15

Our God is a restoring God. He restores our lives. He restores our relationships. Now in the shadow of the Cross, Jesus is on the brink of bringing ultimate relational restoration when He takes our place, paying for our sin with His own life.

In today's reading, we see a progression through the three parables from the relationship of **one** in a **hundred** (Luke 15:1-7), to **one** in **ten** (Luke 15:8-10), to culminating in **one** in **one** (Luke 15:11-32). The story of the prodigal son is powerful. We see the grace and mercy of the father overshadow the sinfulness of the son. It's interesting how the son remembering the father's goodness brings the him to repentance (Romans 2:4).

**Reflect:** Despite your feelings on the word "reckless" in the song "Reckless Love" 🙌 take time to dwell on the lyrics. If you have a better word for "reckless," replace it with a better word, but take time to process and respond to these truths in your prayer time with the Lord:

**CHORUS: Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God; Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine; I couldn't earn it, and I don't deserve it, still, You give Yourself away; Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God, yeah**

**BRIDGE: There's no shadow You won't light up; Mountain You won't climb up; Coming after me; There's no wall You won't kick down; Lie You won't tear down; Coming after me;**





### MARCH 22 - Luke 11

Jesus' teachings were not in a classroom. He would leverage life opportunities to teach lessons that couldn't be learned other ways. The death of Lazarus is one of those times.

Jesus waited until after He knew Lazarus was dead for a reason: **it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.** We would naturally think that God would get the most glory in keeping him alive, but Jesus says otherwise.

**Reflect:** Why do you think God would get more glory in showing up late and letting Lazarus die? What do you learn about death and God's perspective on it?

How does this help you in your life when God seems to show up late in your life?

### MARCH 24 - Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus the man. Jesus, God in the flesh. Jesus, the One Who loves people. Jesus, the teacher. All of His life is growing toward a crescendo as Palm Sunday dawns. As Jesus and His disciples enter Jerusalem, He continues to fulfill prophecy - revealing that He truly is the long-awaited Messiah.

As Jesus rode into town on a borrowed donkey (ref. Zechariah 9:9), people put down their outer garments and branches on the road, symbolizing their submission to Jesus. The problem in this moment is that the people were hailing a political savior, One who would rescue them from the government, but Jesus came to rescue them from their sin; a spiritual Savior. The same voices that were hailing Him as King on Sunday, shouting "hosanna" would soon turn on Him, shouting, "crucify Him!"

**Reflect:** The crowd was wrong about Jesus. What skewed views do people have of Jesus today? How do these views of Jesus affect our faith in Jesus? Why is it important to worship Jesus as He is revealed in the Scriptures (and as you've learned this week) rather than as we would "hope" or "like" Him to be? How have your views of who Jesus is been affected this week? How has your faith been deepened as a result?

### MARCH 23 - John 15:1-17

Imagine Jesus walking with His disciples on a journey from one place to another. On the way, they walk by a vineyard. Cue another teaching moment.

In attempting to teach His disciples the importance of trusting Him and staying connected in relationship with Him, He leveraged the picture of a vine and branches. In short order (next week for us) Jesus would be facing trial and death. The disciples needed to understand the importance of staying connected to Jesus if they were going to survive.

**Reflect:** How does **John 15:5** speak to you about your relationship with God? What does it look like to stay connected to Jesus? What insight do you get from **verse 14**? How do you walk this out?

## HYMN REFLECTION

### 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

*And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, for You, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You. Psalm 9:10*

1. 'Tis so sweet to trust in Je - sus, just to take Him at His word;  
 2. O how sweet to trust in Je - sus, just to trust His cleans-ing blood;  
 3. Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Je - sus, just from sin and self to cease;  
 4. I'm so glad I learned to trust Him, pre-cious Je - sus, Sav-ior, Friend;

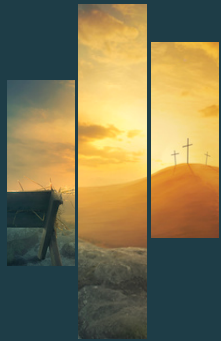
just to rest up - on His prom-ise, just to know, "Thus saith the Lord"  
 just in sim - ple faith to plunge me 'neath the heal - ing, cleans-ing flood!  
 just from Je - sus sim - ply tak - ing life and rest, and joy and peace.  
 and I know that He is with me, will be with me to the end.

Je - sus, Je - sus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!

Je - sus, Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus! O for grace to trust Him more!

TEXT: Louisa Stead, 1882  
 MUSIC: William Kirkpatrick, 1882

TRUST IN JESUS  
 87.87 with chorus



# 31 DAYS WITH JESUS

## Week 05: Jesus the Savior

Holy Week. This is the week we've been waiting for that's leading to the moment that changed everything. The cradle... the Cross... the Empty Tomb. Jesus IS the Savior of the world. In Him we have hope and forgiveness and eternal life.

What spiritual discipline will you commit to this week to help you center in on the sacrifice of Jesus? How will this Easter season be different, potentially more impactful in your life than past ones?

May God bless your efforts to surrender more. May this week be impactful in your life to the point that it will make an impact in your world as God works in you and through you.

### MARCH 25 - Matthew 21:12-46

Today, Jesus drives those who were buying and selling animals out of the temple. He's upset that people were profiting from the spiritual needs of others.

He applies **Psalm 118:22-23** to Himself. This is a powerful moment communicating that all who reject Jesus - even the religious leaders - will be broken by the cornerstone. It's a powerful way to begin the week as we journey to the cross.

**Reflect:** Why do you think that God is concerned with purity in people's hearts? Why is the heart so important?

What cleansing is God revealing that needs to happen in your heart as you draw nearer to Him?

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### Matthew 28:6a

"He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen...."

### MARCH 26 - Mark 13

In what is known as the "Olivet Discourse" - because Jesus and His disciples are on the Mount of Olives - Jesus prophesies about the fate of the Temple, Jerusalem and the end times. In a very real sense, God will be opening the gate, tearing the veil, so that all people (not just the Jews) could come to Him and have a relationship with Him.

**Reflect:** What warnings does Jesus give in this passage that are significant to your life today? How does this affect your faith?

In what ways is it important to identify the signs of Jesus' return? At the same time, how can we become so focused on the future that were not useful for the Kingdom in the present? How is it true that no matter what may happen, the call to love God, love people and make disciples is our purpose and doesn't change?

### MARCH 28 - John 13 & Luke 22

In an upper room, Jesus celebrates the Passover meal with His disciples. The meal that Israel has celebrated for hundreds of years (remembering God's powerful deliverance from slavery in Egypt) was a foreshadowing picture of God's ultimate deliverance of all people from spiritual slavery in Jesus. Imagine all the symbolism in that moment. Here sits the spotless lamb of God poised to be the perfect once and for all sacrifice for sin. This is it! Yes!

Yet, in the room, we have disciples that had no clue. They had dirty feet that represented their dirty hearts. They still didn't get it. Masterfully, intentionally, Rabai Jesus takes off His symbol of authority (in a real sense a physical picture of Philippians 2) and humbles Himself to serve His disciples, giving them an example to follow. His point was not to wash feet. His point was to serve each other, love each other, walk humbly together for God's glory.

Take in the scene throughout the room. The smells, the heart motives, the conversations. Within couple of hours everyone's world will be falling apart - and it's all part of God's plan to rescue you.

**Reflect:** What is God showing you right now about you? What do you need to confess? What do you need to surrender? What do you need to embrace? How have you sat with Jesus with dirty feet and a dirty heart? Maybe it's right now. Confess. Repent. Be forgiven (1 John 1:9).

### MARCH 27 - Mark 14:1-12

In the background of this account, Judas and the religious leaders are working on the betrayal of Jesus.

Today, Jesus is being anointed on the day that the Passover lambs are being anointed. Potentially the imagery was lost on them, but it's a powerful picture to us. Jesus, as John said at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, really is the "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

**Reflect:** What evidence do you see that the disciples may not have understood the significance of the moment? What do we learn about Jesus in comparing his response versus the disciples' response to this woman anointing Him?

Now that we are nearing Jesus' death this week, what is God telling you?



### MARCH 29 - John 18:1-19:42

This is a difficult couple chapters. Jesus is betrayed, beaten and crucified. There's so much in these two chapters.

The pain...the agony...the punishment... should have been **yours**. That's the reality. Jesus suffered and died in your place for your sin so that, in Him, you might receive His righteousness by faith (dwell on **2 Corinthians 5:21**).

This was for you.

This is love.

**Reflect:** How have you taken this for granted at times as a Christ follower?

Journal which part of this account hit you the hardest? How will that impact how you live today?

### MARCH 31 - Mark 16 & 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

This morning we celebrate Easter! That morning that EVERYTHING CHANGED! That long-awaited moment of hope and forgiveness. Jesus was dead. Died on a Cross. Body put into a tomb. DEAD. But Sunday has come! Jesus is ALIVE! He is risen, just as He said!

The empty tomb cries out to a world in need that Jesus **is** the Savior of the world. There are two messages from the empty tomb that we can't ignore.

One, the empty tomb is a call to "**come and see.**" Come and investigate, see for yourself, Jesus is not here. His body wasn't stolen. He wasn't faking. He was dead and now He has been raised from the dead.

The second message, after "**come and see,**" is a call to "**go and tell.**" If your life has been changed, if your eternity has been changed through faith in a real relationship with God through Jesus – you owe it to the world to go and tell and live the Gospel to a world that needs to hear it, believe it and receive it.

**Reflect:** When you think about "come and see" and "go and tell" which is the step you need to take? What's your next step? What do you need to trust God with so that you can be transformed?

### MARCH 30 - Reflect

The in-between time. The waiting. If you've ever waited for news, or something to happen or someone to show up, you know what it feels like to wait. Now, add hopelessness to that waiting, things get exponentially worse.

In this moment, sometimes referred to as "silent Saturday," the disciples are scared and scattered. Everyone believed the end had come for Jesus. All of the talk and promises and hope...gone. Dead. Cold. In a tomb. D-E-A-D. No one knew Sunday was coming.

**Sit in this moment.** Dwell on that silence. Maybe God is silent right now in your life. How can you trust Him in the silence, waiting for the answer to come? Sit in that moment today. Know that Sunday is, in fact, coming.

## HYMN REFLECTION

### When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

*He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross... for by His wounds you were healed. 1 Peter 2:24*

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the  
 3. See from His head, His hands, His feet, sor - row and  
 4. His dy - ing crim - son, like a robe, spreads o'er His  
 5. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of Glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ, my God! All the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and  
 bod - y on the tree; then I am dead to  
 pre - sent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 all the world, and all the world is dead to me.  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1709  
 MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1824

HAMBURG  
 LM



# JOURNAL SPACE