

APRIL 2ND, 2021
GOOD FRIDAY DEVOTIONAL

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1)

Take your time going through this devotional. It may seem different, **but don't rush through things**. Find a quiet space and **please put your phone on silent or turn it off!**

PART ONE: ~SLOW~ DOWN

Tangible: So often we are chased around by our schedule. Intentionally unplug yourself from worries about time and worries about schedule.

Thought: Take 5-10 minutes (or longer!) and slow down. I know, there is probably a lot going through your mind, but take some time to take control of your thoughts and meditate upon God. Thank him for what he has done in your life and purposefully worship him in silent prayer.

Scripture: Psalm 61:1-4

"Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings."

Prayer:

Lord, please calm my mind and my heart. I choose to slow myself down and give myself space to hear you and experience you. Please come and speak to me. AMEN.

PART TWO: CHRIST'S ~JOURNEY~ FOR YOU

Tangible: Imagine a quiet path through the woods. What do you see and hear and smell?

Thought: So often, life is talked about as a journey. The choices we make affect the road that we walk down. Christ *chose* to carry the cross for you. He carried it down a rough path to a dark place.

When Jesus was being arrested, his disciples started to fight back and then he said these words, "Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:53). He had a choice and he chose the journey of the cross - for you. Christ died for YOU! Spend some time thinking on just that. Use the following scripture to help focus your thoughts.

Scripture: Romans 5:6-8

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Prayer:

Lord Jesus. Thank you for your sacrifice. Thank you for choosing to die for me. You carried my sin to the cross and bore it on the cross because of your love. Thank you for your great love. AMEN.

PART THREE: CHRIST'S SHED ~BLOOD~

Tangible: Look at the veins in your hand. What is pumping through those? What color is it?

Thought: Red can symbolize many things- passion, love, heat and blood. Today, I want you to think for a second about the blood that was shed by Christ. He was whipped, beaten, dragged and nailed to the cross. His blood would have been everywhere. It was a horrific, brutal scene. Pause here.

Do we really realize what Christ's shed blood bought us? It *rescued us* from eternal separation from God. Do we take this for granted? Or do we realize what he has actually purchased? If we make Christ our Lord and Savior, what he purchased through death becomes ours. Eternal life with Him in heaven instead of eternal separation. Take some time to praise him and understand this. The following two scriptures will help:

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:18-19

“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”

Romans 5:9-10 - “Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!”

Prayer:

Oh Lord, thank you for salvation. Thank you for dying for my sins. Thank you for purchasing my eternal life through your death. Help me to be aware of what you have done for me. AMEN.

PART FOUR: SALVATION MEANS ~LIFE~

Tangible: It's spring! Imagine a new plant breaking through the soil as the seed goes from dead to alive!

Thought: The last word of Romans 5:10 is **life**. Christ was raised from death to life. We as Christians should be ready to live in this life and as Christ said, abundantly. Christ's resurrection demonstrates that God has the power to give life in any circumstance - struggles, addictions, worries, burdens or any kind of heaviness. However, some struggles seem particularly sticky. We invite you to be really sensitive this morning and leave one or more of them at the cross this morning.

Christ carried your struggle to the cross and when he was nailed there and died, he won your victory over all forms of death when he rose again. Take joy in this and rejoice over Christ's victory over your struggle.

Scripture: Romans 6:4: "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

Prayer:

Jesus, as I consider your death today, help me to realize that you want me to have life, to live with joy and to live life abundantly. Help me to enter into this life. Jesus, I believe that your death frees me from _____ and I give this to you today. AMEN.