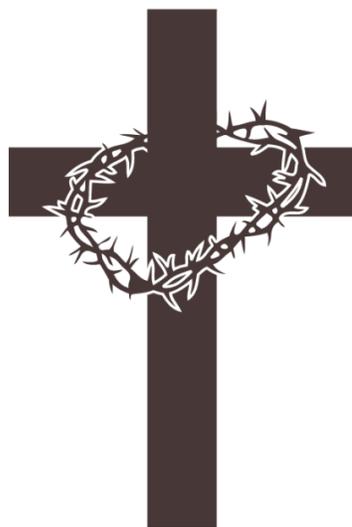


Jesus Calling
A 5-Day
Easter Devotional



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The Last Supper

Can you remember that intimate dinner with your spouse? Just the two of you seated having a romantic dinner and heartfelt conversations. It was an intimate moment where you got to share your heart, fears, dreams, unburden and also talk about your shared future together. I bet you never forgot those special moments.

Jesus spent his last moments on earth in intimate conversation with those closest to him. He shared from his heart with those in his inner circle of influence about what was about to happen to him.

The last supper is the last meal Jesus ate before his betrayal and arrest. And during that meal, he spoke about the suffering that was ahead of him and his eventual death. He also reinforced his purpose on earth as they shared the passover meal - a reminder of his sacrifice for mankind and the gift of salvation.

“And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Luke 22:19 ESV

Jesus also showed his disciples what servanthood looked like as he stooped and began to wash his disciples' feet after the passover meal. He modeled to us through his actions what true service and humility looks like. His life was never about him but was always about serving God's greater purpose on the earth.

Today, each time we take the communion, we can remind ourselves of the redemptive nature of Christ's death. And how his blood that was shed rescues us from spiritual death and bondage.

Reflections

1. What lessons can you draw from the Last Supper?
2. Why do you think Jesus spent his last moments on earth with those closest to him?
3. When last did you take communion? And why do you think Jesus insisted that they take the communion often in remembrance of him?

Gethsemane

Have you ever been in a situation when you felt alone and abandoned? You turn around to find succor and comfort in the words of those closest to you and still you have no answers. Your heart is heavy and soul burdened and you do not know who and where to run to. This must have been how Jesus felt that night in the Garden of Gethsemane.

He was close to accomplishing his mission on earth, yet his heart was heavy at the pain and suffering that lay ahead of him. The bible says that he was sorrowful and troubled even though his disciples were with him.

“ Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch^d with me.” Matthew 26:38 ESV

“And he said to them, “My heart is overwhelmed and crushed with grief. It feels as though I’m dying. Stay here and keep watch with me.” Matthew 26:38 TPT

Jesus felt some of the emotions you and I face today especially in tough seasons of life. His heart was heavy, he was overwhelmed, troubled, sorrowful and even felt like he was dying. The bible says that as he prayed, sweat fell from his face like great drops of blood. And he said, ***“My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” Matthew 26:39 ESV***

However, all of these feelings did not stop Jesus from turning his focus on God and trusting wholly in God’s plan for his life. Despite his pain, grief and sorrow, he still went ahead to die for you and I today. Jesus loved you enough to die for you so that you may be saved from the clutches of sin and receive a new life in him. His desire to see you walking in this newness of life in God helped him keep his eyes on the cross. Remember that Jesus looked beyond his feelings/emotions and still died for your salvation.

Reflections

1. Do you feel alone and distant amid your family and friends? Why?
2. What are those emotions you have been feeling lately? Write them down.
3. Are your emotions holding you captive in any way?
4. How can you walk past your feelings and emotions and do what God is calling you to do?

Betrayal, Abuse and Trial

As I write this chapter, I am reminded of the words of Brooklyn, a young woman who died recently. She was dying and decided to let us into her world as she journeyed back home to her heavenly father. Read more about her journey to heaven [here](#). Here is an excerpt from her last post.

“Jesus didn’t JUST die...

I’m dying in a bougie adjustable pillow-top bed. He died naked and exposed amongst criminals. I get kind notes and cards from friends and strangers alike. He was hurled insults and abuse. My best friends visit me, his abandoned Him, denying even knowing Him. Every step of this process makes me even more elated over the gift of salvation.” Brooklyn

Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples. Peter denied ever knowing him. He was abandoned by those closest to him. Beaten, slapped, spat at and stripped before a crowd. They put a crown of thorns on his head, wore him a robe and mocked him.

He was condemned to die a criminal’s death and a notorious criminal was released in his place. What more shame could a man endure? Yet, Jesus endured the shame because of the joy that was set before him. ***“Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”***

Hebrews 12:2 ESV

His undying love for mankind compelled him to stay calm in the midst of the pain, shame and suffering. Today, you and I can live a life free of shame, guilt and struggles just because Jesus was willing to bear it all to pay the price for your salvation. Take a moment right now to tell God how much you appreciate the sacrifice he made to set you free from a life of sin.

Reflections

1. Have you ever been betrayed by someone close to you? How did you feel?
2. Look at some of the things Jesus experienced before his death. Betrayal, pain and abandonment. Have you experienced any of these in your own life?
3. Think about how much Jesus had to endure for your freedom and deliverance from the kingdom of darkness.

Crucifixion

Can you imagine how this mother must have felt on that day watching her dear son die to save humanity on the cross?

Mary the mother of Jesus stood before her son hanging on the cross. He was stripped of his clothing, battered and bleeding, wounded and broken, hanging on a cross at Golgotha and about to draw his last breath.

She fell flat on the dusty hills of Golgotha, her fingers violently scratching the soil beneath her face. She watched in dismay at what had become of her son and the tears gushed out like a river.

Now you imagine right now that you are standing before the cross, watching Jesus die for you. Think about his sacrifice and gruesome death. He went through all of this so that nothing can separate you from his love.

And on that cross, just before he drew his last breath, he said - It is finished! The Greek word translated "**it is finished**" is **tetelestai**, an accounting term meaning paid in full.

Jesus Christ paid the debt in full to rescue us once and for all from sin and destruction. God's will had been accomplished through him and man was no longer held bound by the power of sin and satan. Today, you can rest in the assurance of God's love for you and the victory he secured for you on the cross.

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18 ESV

Reflections

1. What comes to mind when you think about Jesus dying on the cross?
2. What does the phrase '**it is finished**' mean to you?
3. What personal lessons can you draw from the cross?

Resurrection

'I'll be back' is a popular tagline from the famous children's cartoon PJ Masks. Whenever Romeo loses out in his quest for control to the trio of Owlet, Gecko and Catboy, he usually screams out - you may have defeated me this time, but I will be back.

When Jesus walked the earth, he spoke many times about his death and eventual resurrection. ***“ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.” Mark 8:31 NIV***

Jesus was more like saying - I will be back because it is not over yet. On the third day, just like he had said, three women were at his tomb to anoint his body. But guess what, the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. Jesus was alive. He had risen from the grave.

Jesus Christ made his first appearance to Mary Magdalene, the woman out of whom he cast out seven demons. It is good to note that a woman who was once considered an outcast in religious circles was the first person Jesus chose to announce his resurrection from the dead. The barriers of religion and sin had been broken. And everyone now had access to Father.

“There is [now no distinction in regard to salvation] neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you [who believe] are all one in Christ Jesus [no one can claim a spiritual superiority].” Gal 3:28
Amplified

When Jesus rose from the dead, he confirmed his identity once and for all as the son of the most High God. And today, his redemptive work of atonement and salvation is still reconciling many back to God. Jesus is alive and wants you to live and walk in the realities of this new life given to you by God.

Jesus Christ is risen and the sting of death which is sin has been broken. Are you feeling weary, broken or lost? Jesus is alive and wants to fill your heart and life with his love and presence. He is calling you into a life of victory, blessings, peace and love today. Will you welcome him into your heart today?

Reflections

1. What does resurrection mean to you?
2. What does an empty tomb signify?
3. Take a moment to thank God for the gift of Jesus in your life.

Jesus is Calling

Jesus is alive!

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Colossians 1:13-14 ESV

Jesus is calling you today into this newness of life where that old nature of sin passes away. You do not have to keep living in fear of your past, mistakes and inadequacies. Jesus wants to give you a new life that comes with peace, progress, hope, joy, prosperity, hope, faith and love in abundance.

Are you weary, burdened, broken or feeling hopeless in your life right now? Jesus is alive and calling you today to arise from the ashes of pain, abuse, despair and hopelessness into the fullness of life that he has to give you. Will you answer his call today?

A Prayer of Salvation

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for dying on the cross for my sin. Please forgive me. I ask that you come into my heart today and take control of my life. I receive You as my Lord and Savior. I ask that you help me to live for you from this day and for the rest of my life.

In Jesus name, I pray.

Amen.

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name " John 1:12 NKJV



Ufuoma Fijabi is a Christian writer, encourager, wife and mom to two children. She currently lives in Lagos, Nigeria and works alongside her husband. Her motherhood journey is a great source of inspiration to her and she strongly believes that mothers have a great role to play in nurturing, shaping and influencing the next generation. When she is not working or playing the role of mom, you can find her writing on her blog www.oneinspiredmum.com where she shares God-inspired articles on faith, hope, spirituality and encouragement to help build, inspire and support moms in their motherhood journey. She also loves learning from people's stories and getting lost in the words of a good book.

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