

April 12/13, 2025
"My King"
Pastor Jeff Manion



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

This Friday, we are pausing 50 Key Truths for a Good Friday devotional.

Day 1 [Psalm 22](#) | The Suffering Christ

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. Psalm 22:1-2

Jesus makes his way to the cross, and his disciples are nowhere to be found. They scattered after his arrest, though each claimed they would never abandon him. Even worse, on the cross, the sky goes completely black—a symbol of the Father's wrath. In anguish, Jesus prays from [Psalm 22](#), "'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' (which means 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?')" ([Mark 15:34](#)). Abandoned and alone, Jesus breathes his last, bearing our sin and shame.

Jesus knows our pain and brokenness. This is a truth we need to remember at all times, especially when life is hard or painful. We have a God who is not aloof about our pain and suffering. Rather, God has entered our pain and bore the full weight of our sin and the wrath we deserve.

TODAY: Allow the cross to fuel greater trust in Christ. If we can trust Jesus to take care of our greatest problem through his suffering on the cross, then we can certainly trust him with the entirety of our lives and problems. When we experience pain and hardships, we can turn to Christ, knowing he is familiar with our pain and mightily at work in our grief. If you are experiencing challenging times right now, consider using [Psalm 22](#) as a template for prayer. Consider especially these words from [Psalm 22:11](#), "Do not be far from me, for trouble is near."

Day 2 [Mark 15:27-37](#) | The Crucified Christ

Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!" Mark 15:29-30

To be crucified is to be stripped of dignity. Roman crucifixion is a dehumanizing form of torture and public execution. It is an excruciating way to be killed and associated with public humiliation and shame. Since the Romans typically crucified people alongside major roads or pathways, those crucified were often jeered at, mocked and even spat upon. At Jesus's crucifixion, the religious leaders mock Jesus. "'He saved others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself!'" ([Mark 15:31](#)).

Because he was committed to saving us, Jesus chose not to save himself. It is only through his wounds that we can be healed. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" ([Isaiah 53:5](#)). He was crushed so we could be freed. He was abandoned so we could find peace. He was killed, so we might know life. He paid the ultimate price to free us from sin and give us new life.

TODAY: The work of Jesus should prompt our gratitude and worship. Spend time today giving God thanks for what Jesus has done for you. Journal a prayer of gratitude expressing your appreciation for all Christ has done to set you free from sin and give you new life. Think through the words of [Isaiah 53](#) and all that Jesus went through to accomplish your salvation.

Day 3 [Revelation 5:6-14](#) | The Exalted Christ

In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” Revelation 5:12

The moment Jesus breathes his last, an earthquake rattles the earth, and the temple curtain is torn in two. The centurion standing near Jesus witnesses how Jesus died and exclaims, “Surely this man was the Son of God!” ([Mark 15:39](#)). Ironically, it is through Jesus’s humiliation on the cross that he is exalted as the Son of God. Later, Jesus’s disciple John sees a vision of Jesus, the Son of God, in the throne room being worshipped as the slain and worthy Lamb of God.

Jesus is the only one who is worthy of our everything. God desires for the entirety of our lives to be offered to him as a “living sacrifice” ([Romans 12:1](#)). God wants our entire lives to be offered to him in worship—including our family life, work, recreation, friendships and finances. Such a life of worship implies recognizing the true identity of Jesus and then offering every aspect of our lives to him in obedience and grateful surrender. He is the only one worthy of such devotion.

TODAY: Respond to the God who is worthy of your worship. Though worship involves more than singing, expressing gratitude through song is one way to worship our worthy God. Join Ada Bible Worship as they sing, “[Worthy, Worthy](#).” As you sing, think of the uniqueness of Jesus, the Son of God and Lamb of God, who is worthy to take away our sins and receive worship and honor forever.

Day 4 [Mark 8:34-38](#) | The Way of Christ

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” Mark 8:34

Jesus teaches that following him involves taking up the cross, even “daily” (see [Luke 9:23](#)). Jesus wanted his followers to know that his way was to become their way. Later, at his crucifixion, Simon of Cyrene takes up the cross of Jesus—intentional language in the Gospels that recalls Jesus’s earlier commission to his disciples. The problem is Jesus’s disciples were nowhere to be found. Simon of Cyrene illustrates for Jesus’s followers then and now what it means to be a devoted follower: to be with Jesus and faithfully carry one’s cross.

Jesus’s way is to be our way, too. When we experience God’s forgiveness, love, generosity and sacrifice, he intends to transform us into people who are forgiving, loving, generous and sacrificial. This transformation impacts every area of life including family, work, finances and church. We respond to his forgiveness by growing in capacity to quickly forgive petty slights and oversights. We respond to his generosity by viewing our finances as a vehicle to bring him glory and benefit others. We make self-giving love a priority within the church in response to the one who loved and gave himself for us.

TODAY: Over the past couple of weeks, Pastor Jeff Manion has challenged us to think of one relationship and one area of life that we should grow in by serving and sacrificing in the way of Jesus. Talk with a trusted Christian friend or your small group about how you are doing in that relationship and area of your life. Be honest and commit to continuing to follow Jesus’s way.

Day 5 [2 Corinthians 5:14-21](#) | Good Friday

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

Paul writes a series of letters to the church in Corinth, a group of believers that was stumbling and bumbling its way through life. Paul reminds them about Jesus's identity and all Jesus did to accomplish their salvation. Paul teaches that the cross is central to thinking properly *and* living properly. Jesus became sin so they could be freed from sin and have eternal life. Jesus died so they might have life and live to the full.

Today is Good Friday, which provides a special opportunity to pause and think about the cross. What was true of the church in Corinth is certainly true of us today. Jesus died so we might live. He suffered the agony of the cross and bore our sins so we might be freed from sin and live a new life. Like the believers in Corinth, we can easily forget the significance of the cross and its realities for our lives. So, we must slow down and (re)consider who Jesus is, what he has done and what is available to us because of his sacrifice.

TODAY: As we head into the Easter weekend, memorize [2 Corinthians 5:21](#). This verse is a helpful gospel summary that reminds us of the great exchange that took place through Jesus's saving work. He bore our sin so we might gain his righteousness. What a reason for praise! Join us today for one of our Good Friday services to slow down and remember his sacrifice. Find Good Friday and Easter service times [HERE](#).