

Many of us are familiar with Jesus, the friend of sinners. This is the same Jesus who appears in the book of Revelation, but in Revelation we see a much different side of him: a Glorified Jesus sitting on the throne. Consider the devotional this week as a step in returning to your first love.

New to daily devotionals? Here are a few tips for this week:

- Remember that we are humans trying to understand God-breathed Scripture—don't get hung up on what you don't understand but rather, seek the Lord and ask Him for guidance. What might He want to reveal to you?
- God is equally powerful and patient—sit with Him attentively as you explore pieces of God that you may not have known before.
- You don't need to have a big revelation every day—take one thought and remind yourself of it throughout the day.

Monday, October 22nd

Read Psalm 8.

*LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory in the heavens.
2 Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against
your enemies, to silence the foe and the
avenger.
3 When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers, the moon and the
stars, which you have set in place,
4 what is mankind that you are mindful of
them, human beings that you care for them?*

*5 You have made them a little lower than the
angels and crowned them with glory and
honor.*

*6 You made them rulers over the works of
your hands; you put everything under
their feet: 7 all flocks and herds, and the
animals of the wild, 8 the birds in the sky, and
the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of
the seas.*

*9 LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

How does this psalm help foster your awe of God? Spend time praising Him for the things that leave you in awe of Him.

In all of God's power and glory, He is mindful of man. What does that mean to you? How might that grow or reignite your love for God?

Tuesday, October 23rd

Read Matthew 10:37-39

37 "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

Tuesday continued...

How do Jesus' words here make you feel? Why do you think Jesus would use such important relationships—father, mother, son and daughter—to illustrate his point?

It's clear that anything we love more than Jesus is a stumbling block. If you were honest, who or what do you find yourself loving more than Jesus? How might loving Jesus first and foremost impact your other relationships?

How might Jesus be inviting you to claim him as your first love again? What steps might you need to take?

Wednesday, October 24th

Before Jesus spoke to the church in Ephesus through John's revelation, Paul wrote to the church in what we now call the book of Ephesians, warning them to not live separate from God. Read Ephesians 4:20-24.

20 That, however, is not the way of life you learned 21 when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

When have you found yourself living as your "old self" - loving other things before Jesus? How has that impacted your relationship with God? With others?

How might God be inviting you to return to the "new self" He is creating in you? How is He inviting you deeper in love with Him?

Thursday, October 25th

Read John 14:21-27

21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them." 22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

25 "All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Thursday continued...

When do you find it easy to keep God's commands? Difficult? Out of what posture do you keep God's commands—obligation, fear, love, joy? Here we see a relationship between following Jesus' teaching and loving Jesus. How might that change your perspective?

Judas asks Jesus why he has not revealed himself to the world, but Jesus redirects him towards obedience. Why do you think Jesus redirects the conversation? Given that Jesus was going to leave them, why might it be important for them to follow his teachings? Why might it be important for us?

How have you been taught by the Holy Spirit? What questions do you have about the Holy Spirit? How might you continue to grow your relationship with the Holy Spirit?

Friday, October 26th

Read 1 Peter 1:6-9

⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

How has your faith been made stronger by trials you have faced? How has Jesus helped you overcome those trials? Are there ways you can see now that Jesus has helped you overcome?

What has it been like to love someone you have not seen? In what ways has God shown Himself to you? How do you long for Him?

Does believing in Jesus give you inexpressible and glorious joy? What does the promise and assurance of salvation mean to you?



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