

DAILY TIME IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

As we move into our Easter sermon series, "I AM changes who i am," we want to continue to practice prayer as a two-way conversation with God by reading the book of John and meditating on what this gospel revealed to His original listeners and taking a prayerful look at our own lives. Below is a daily reading guide with reflection questions to assist you:

1. **PAUSE:** Spend a few moments in silence. Then, open your heart, asking the Holy Spirit to direct your reading of His Word
2. **READ:** Read the scripture passage for the day (see below)
3. **REFLECT:** Reflect on the questions provided below, and write your responses in your journal.
4. **LISTEN:** Ask God how this passage applies to your life today; then, quietly listen to what He says.
5. **PRAY:** Write out a brief prayer using your own words, based on what you have written.

Monday, April 5: John 20:1-9

Reflection Question: Imagine you are Peter or John. You have been told, more than once, that Jesus will die, and on the third day, rise again, but you never really understand. Then, it happens...literally. Now, you find yourself standing inside an empty tomb, looking at graveclothes strewn around and Jesus' body nowhere to be found. At what point do you suppose it will all click, so that what you see with your naked eye translates into resurrection belief, in your heart?

Tuesday, April 6: John 20:10-18

Reflection Question: Neither seeing and hearing the angels' question ("Woman, why are you weeping?") nor experiencing the appearance and personal questions of Jesus Himself ("Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?") make the difference in Mary Magdalene's assessment of what just occurred. Rather, the gamechanger is when Jesus speaks her name ("Mary!") In your opinion, why is this the breakthrough moment? Has there been a time in your life when God through the Holy Spirit somehow called your name? What impact did this have on your life?

Wednesday, April 7: John 20:19-31

Reflection Question: Thomas said: "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." (Jn 20:25) Has there been a time in your life when, as you look back, you were Thomas in the way you responded? Likewise, was there a time when your faith response was closer to what Jesus desires ("Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (Jn 20:29) Give an example if you can.:

Thursday, April 8: John 21:1-14

Reflection Question: In John 21:1-14, there are several reminders, real or symbolic, of Peter's past (consider Peter's former career, previous experience with Jesus, past failure, etc.) Briefly jot down what these are. How do you think this post-Resurrection experience of Jesus affected Peter? Has there been a time in your life when God orchestrated what happened to you so that you revisited parts of your past? What impact did this "re-visit" have on you?

Friday, April 9: John 21:15-25

Reflection Question: What do you think Jesus was communicating to Peter by asking him three times: "Do you love me?" And three times commanding him: "Feed my sheep." How did this thrice-repeated question and command impact Peter's future life and calling? Has God through the Spirit ever had a similar conversation with you? How did this impact you?



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