



THE  
Character  
OF BOB

40-DAY LENT DEVOTION

**40-Day Lent Devotion**  
**The Character of God**  
**Beginning Ash Wednesday**

**Author:** Matt Peeples

**Disclaimer and Copyright information:**

This devotional reading plan was created with the assistance of artificial intelligence as a tool to help organize content and support clarity. The Scripture selections, theological focus, and pastoral direction reflect the convictions and oversight of our pastoral team and were intentionally aligned with the teaching series developed by the lead pastor.

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. ESV Text Edition: 2025. The ESV text may not be quoted in any publication made available to the public by a Creative Commons license. The ESV may not be translated in whole or in part into any other language. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

# Overview

We all carry questions about who God really is - especially when life feels unpredictable or painful. If God is good, how does He respond to failure, doubt, or suffering? Scripture gives a clear and surprising answer. In Exodus 34:6–7, God steps forward and introduces Himself, revealing the core of His character in words that echo throughout the entire Bible. Our Lent series, *The Character of God*, invites us to slow down and listen to what God says about Himself - not as an abstract doctrine, but as a living, relational reality.

Over the season of Lent, we will unpack these defining traits of God one by one, discovering a God who is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and overflowing with faithful love. Each Sunday, we will explore a specific attribute of God revealed in Exodus, and each Wednesday, we will step into a story from the life of Jesus that puts that character on full display. This rhythm leads us to a powerful realization: Jesus is not merely reflecting God - He is God, embodying the very heart of the Father in every word spoken and every life touched. As we encounter the consistent, unshakable character of God, we are invited into transformation - learning not only who God is, but what it means to trust Him fully and follow Him faithfully.

# Introduction

Lent is a forty-day season the Church has always set aside to slow down and give focused attention to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It is a time for honesty, reflection, and renewal - a time to return to what matters most. This year, our Lenten journey centers on a simple but profound question: Who is God, really? We all carry questions about God's character, especially when life feels unpredictable or painful. If God is good, how does He respond to failure? To doubt? To suffering? Scripture gives a clear and surprising answer.

In Exodus 34:6-7, God steps forward and introduces Himself. Not through abstract ideas or theological speculation, but by declaring His own character: compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. These words become the most repeated description of God in the entire Bible, echoing again and again throughout the story of Scripture.

The Character of God series invites us to slow down and listen to what God says about Himself - not as doctrine to memorize, but as a relational reality to trust. When you know someone's character, you begin to trust how they will act. And when God's character comes into focus, fear gives way to confidence, and confusion gives way to hope.

You might wonder why a Lenten series focused on why Jesus would spend so much time in Exodus. The answer is simple: Jesus is the image of the invisible God. He is God in human flesh. Everything God reveals about Himself in Exodus finds its fullest expression in the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus does not merely reflect God's character - He embodies it.

Each Sunday during Lent, we will explore one of God's defining character traits. Each Wednesday, we will look at a moment from the life of Jesus where that same character is put on full display. This forty-

day reading plan is designed to help you carry that focus throughout the entire season of Lent.

Many forty-day devotionals include several paragraphs of commentary on each Scripture passage. This year, we wanted to do something a little different. Rather than give you our thoughts on every reading, we want to create space for you to engage with the Scriptures directly. Each day, you are invited to simply read the assigned passage and allow the Discovery Bible Study questions on the next page to guide you as you meditate on the character of God revealed there. We will continue to teach on these character traits together during our Sunday morning gatherings and Wednesday night messages.

This journal is designed to complement that teaching by giving you time and space to listen, reflect, and encounter God's Word for yourself - while still walking together as a church through our shared Lenten theme.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, you'll find Scripture readings that prepare your heart for the journey ahead. As the weeks unfold, each day will center you in the specific character trait we are reflecting on together. You'll quickly discover that these are not isolated verses or occasional moments - these are the consistent ways God reveals who He is across the whole story of Scripture, from the Old Testament to the life of Jesus in the New Testament.

Our prayer is that over these forty days, you would come to know God more deeply - not just what He does, but who He is. And that by the end of this Lenten journey, you would find yourself renewed and refreshed in the God whose character is consistent, whose love is faithful, and whose grace led Him to come into the world for you, to live for you, to die for you, and to bring you the hope of the resurrection.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Matt

# Discovery Bible Study

DBS is designed to help believers deepen their understanding of Scripture and confidently share its teachings with others. This simple yet powerful approach to Bible study will equip you to share the Gospel and make disciples where you live, work, learn, and play.

## Follow these simple steps:

- Choose a Scripture.
- Let the Holy Spirit be the teacher.
- Ask these three simple questions to guide the discussion:

1 What does this tell you about God?

2 What does this tell you about yourself and the world?

3 How will you live this out?

# Sundays / Wednesdays during Lent

## Sunday, February 22 - The Character of God

**Text:** Exodus 34:6-7

**Focus:** Understanding the consistent character of God.

**Other texts, resources, or info for this message:**

- Overview Video on The Bible Project

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/character-of-god-exodus/>

- The list of God's character traits found in Exodus 34:6-7 is the most repeated and re-quoted text in the Bible. But what does it mean when God describes himself as compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and overflowing with loyal love and faithfulness? Understanding the significance of these Hebrew words will bring God's character into clearer focus.

- John Mark Comer's Book, "God Has a Name."
- 

## Wednesday, February 25 - The Word Became Flesh

**Text:** John 1:14-18

**Focus:** v.18, Jesus is the one who makes God known to us. So the same character you hear about in Exodus, is the Character traits Jesus embodies as God made man.

---

## Sunday, March 1 - Compassion

**Text:** God hears Israel's groaning in Egypt – Exodus 2:23-25; 3:7-8

**Focus:** Divine mercy is consistently portrayed as God's response to affliction and helplessness, not to merit.

**Other texts, resources, or info for this message:**

- Bible Project Video - Compassion <https://bibleproject.com/videos/character-of-god-compassion/>

In the Bible, "compassion" is a deeply emotional word used to convey the strong bond between a parent and their child. It's also the first word God uses to describe himself in Exodus 34:6-7. God

is portrayed as a compassionate parent throughout Scripture - both as a mother and a father - and his compassion is embodied in the person of Jesus.

- Old Testament Narratives
  - God hears Israel's groaning in Egypt – Exodus 2:23–25; 3:7–8
  - The LORD relents after the golden calf – Exodus 32–34
  - God's compassion toward Nineveh – Jonah 3:10; 4:2
  - God's pity for Hagar and Ishmael – Genesis 16; 21:14–19
  - Research Note: Divine mercy is consistently portrayed as God's response to affliction and helplessness, not to merit. The language of "seeing," "hearing," and "remembering" recurs.
- 

### **Wednesday, March 4 - Jesus' Compassion**

**Text:** Raising the widow's son – Luke 7:11–17

**Focus:** Mercy is not abstract sentiment; it is God's concrete action toward the helpless. Jesus' mercy flows from His identity as the LORD who sees affliction (Exodus 3:7).

---

### **Sunday, March 8 - Grace**

**Text:** Naaman healed – 2 Kings 5

**Focus:** Grace toward the outsider and the enemy. (Gift received through trust, not status)

**Other texts, resources, or info for this message:**

- Bible Project Grace - <https://bibleproject.com/videos/character-of-god-grace/>

Grace is a word we hear a lot in Christian circles, but the deeper meaning of this rich Hebrew word, especially how it relates to God's character, can get lost. In this video we look at what it means for God to be gracious.

### **Wednesday, March 11 - Jesus' Grace**

**Text:** The sinful woman forgiven -Luke 7:36–50

**Focus:** Grace is unmerited favor, not moral improvement. Jesus gives forgiveness prior to and apart from works, scandalizing the religious elite. Jesus does not reward the worthy; He creates worthiness by His word. "Your sins are forgiven" is pure Gospel.

---

### **Sunday, March 15 - Slow to Anger**

**Text:** God's patience with Israel in the wilderness – Numbers 14

**Focus:** Divine patience is frequently paired with warning and delay, allowing time for repentance while not denying the seriousness of sin.

**Other texts, resources, or info for this message:**

- Bible Project Slow to Anger - <https://bibleproject.com/videos/slow-to-anger/>

In Exodus 34, God describes himself as being "slow to anger," but what does this mean? The literal translation is a Hebrew idiom that has the potential to make this description even more confusing to modern readers. Something about a long nose? What? Learn more in this video.

---

### **Wednesday, March 18 - Jesus is Slow to Anger**

**Text:** Jesus rebukes James and John – Luke 9:51–56

**Focus:** Jesus' patience reflects God's covenantal restraint. Christ bears with sinners on the way to the cross, even when their sin contributes to His suffering.

## **Sunday, March 22 - Loyal Love**

**Text:** God's covenant with Abraham - Genesis 15; 17

**Focus:** Hesed is covenantal and enduring. It often appears where the relationship should have failed, but God remains faithful.

**Other texts, resources, or info for this message:**

- The Bible Project - Loyal Love - <https://bibleproject.com/videos/loyal-love/>

The Hebrew word "khesed" is one of the most common descriptions of God in the Hebrew Bible, and it's almost impossible to translate into any other language! This word combines the ideas of love, loyalty, and generosity. Meditating on the meaning of this word can shape our understanding of God's character.

---

## **Wednesday, March 25 - Jesus Show's Loyal Love**

**Text:** The Good Shepherd – John 10:1–18

**Focus:** Hesed is not emotion; it is faithful love that keeps covenant at personal cost. Jesus embodies God's promise-keeping love, even unto death. The cross is the ultimate "abounding" of steadfast love - overflowing even for enemies.

---

## **Palm Sunday, March 29 - Faithful**

**Text:** Luke 19:28–44

**Focus:** We're wrapping up the series by talking about faithfulness. Jesus faithfully rides into Jerusalem knowing what He is about to go through. He rides in hearing the cheers of the crowd with a tear in His eye, weeping for Jerusalem.

**Other texts, resources, or info for this message:**

- The Bible Project - Faithful <https://bibleproject.com/videos/faithful/>

The word emet is a common word used to describe God in the Bible. It can be translated as "faithfulness" or "truth." So when the authors say that God is "full of emet," they are saying that







Why  
God's  
character  
matters

## **Day 1 – Ash Wednesday, February 18**

Joel 2:12-17

**Lent begins with honesty - about our sin, our frailty, and our need.**

### **Return to the LORD with all your heart**

12 "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 13 and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster. 14 Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; 16 gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. 17 Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

## **Day 2 – Thursday, February 19**

Psalm 51

**Confession clears space to receive grace.**

Create in me a Clean Heart, O God  
To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin!  
3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
4 Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.  
5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.  
6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.  
7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
8 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.  
9 Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.  
10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
11 Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.  
13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.  
14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.  
15 O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.  
16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;  
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.  
17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.  
18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;  
build up the walls of Jerusalem;

19 then will you delight in right sacrifices,  
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

## **Day 3 – Friday, February 20**

Isaiah 6:1-8

**“Woe is me... here am I”**

**Encountering God reshapes how we see ourselves.**

### **Isaiah’s Vision of the Lord**

6 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

### **Isaiah’s Commission from the Lord**

8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

## **Day 4 – Saturday, February 21**

Psalm 25:1-10

**We prepare to listen - not to assumptions about God, but to His self-revelation.**

### **Teach Me Your Paths Of David.**

25 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

2 O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies exult over me.

3 Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

5 Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all the day long.

6 Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

7 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

8 Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

9 He leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches the humble his way.

10 All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

## Day 5 – Sunday, February 22

Exodus 34:1-9

### The LORD proclaims His Name

#### Moses Makes New Tablets

34 The Lord said to Moses, "Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. 2 Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain. 3 No one shall come up with you, and let no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain." 4 So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. 5 The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. 6 The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." 8 And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. 9 And he said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance."

## Day 6 – Monday, February 23

Exodus 33:12-23

“Show me your glory”

### Moses' Intercession

12 Moses said to the Lord, “See, you say to me, ‘Bring up this people,’ but You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, ‘I know you by name, and You have also found favor in my sight.’ 13 Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in Your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” 14 And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” 15 And He said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how shall it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not in Your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and Your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?”

17 And the Lord said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for You have found favor in my sight, and I know You by name.” 18 Moses said, “Please show me Your glory.” 19 And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The Lord.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. 20 But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” 21 And the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, 22 and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

## Day 7 – Tuesday, February 24

Psalm 103:6-14

### Compassionate and Gracious

- 6 The Lord works righteousness  
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- 9 He will not always chide,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.
- 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
- 12 as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
- 13 As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.
- 14 For he knows our frame;  
he remembers that we are dust.

## Day 8 – Wednesday, February 25

John 1:14-18

### The Word became flesh

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

## **Day 9 – Thursday, February 26**

Nehemiah 9:16-21

### **God's character remembered in rebellion**

16 "But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments. 17 They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them. 18 Even when they had made for themselves a golden calf and said, 'This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,' and had committed great blasphemies, 19 you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go. 20 You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst. 21 Forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell.

## **Day 10 – Friday, February 27**

Numbers 14:17-19

### **Appealing to God's name**

17 And now, please let the power of the Lord be great as you have promised, saying, 18 'The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.' 19 Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now."

# Day 11 – Saturday, February 28

Psalm 145

The goodness of the LORD to all

## Great Is the Lord

A Song of Praise. Of David.

- 1 I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.
- 2 Every day I will bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.
- 3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,  
and his greatness is unsearchable.
  
- 4 One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.
- 5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
- 6 They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,  
and I will declare your greatness.
- 7 They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
  
- 8 The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- 9 The Lord is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.
- 10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,  
and all your saints shall bless you!
- 11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and tell of your power,  
12 to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

[The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and kind in all his works.]

14 The Lord upholds all who are falling  
and raises up all who are bowed down.

15 The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.

16 You open your hand;  
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways  
and kind in all his works.

18 The Lord is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.

19 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;  
he also hears their cry and saves them.

20 The Lord preserves all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy.

21 My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,  
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

## **Day 12 – Sunday, March 1**

Exodus 3:1-12

### **God sees and hears suffering**

#### **The Burning Bush**

3 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." 4 When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." 6 And he said,

"I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9 And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" 12 He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

## **Day 13 – Monday, March 2**

Genesis 16:7-13

### **The God who sees Hagar**

7 The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. 8 And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." 9 The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." 10 The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." 11 And the angel of the Lord said to her,

"Behold, you are pregnant  
and shall bear a son.

You shall call his name Ishmael,  
because the Lord has listened to your affliction.  
12 He shall be a wild donkey of a man,  
his hand against everyone  
and everyone's hand against him,  
and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."

13 So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me."

## **Day 14 – Tuesday, March 3**

Jonah 3:10; 4:1-4

### **Compassion that unsettles us**

10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

### **Jonah's Anger and the Lord's Compassion**

4 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. 2 And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. 3 Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." 4 And the Lord said, "Do you do well to be angry?"

## **Day 15 – Wednesday, March 4**

Luke 7:11-17

### **Jesus raises a widow's son**

11 Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. 12 As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." 14 Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." 15 And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. 16 Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" 17 And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

## **Day 16 – Thursday, March 5**

Psalm 34:15-18

### **The LORD hears the cry**

- 15 The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous  
and his ears toward their cry.
- 16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,  
to cut off the memory of them from the earth.
- 17 When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears  
and delivers them out of all their troubles.
- 18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted  
and saves the crushed in spirit.

## **Day 17 – Friday, March 6**

Isaiah 49:13-16

**A compassion stronger than forgetfulness**

13 Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!  
For the Lord has comforted his people  
and will have compassion on his afflicted.

14 But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me;  
my Lord has forgotten me."

15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child,  
that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb?  
Even these may forget,  
yet I will not forget you.

16 Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;  
your walls are continually before me.

## **Day 18 – Saturday, March 7**

Lamentations 3:31-33

**He does not afflict from His heart**

31 For the Lord will not  
cast off forever,

32 for, though he cause grief, he will have compassion  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

33 for he does not afflict from his heart  
or grieve the children of men.

## Day 19 – Sunday, March 8

2 Kings 5:1-14

### Grace that offends pride

#### Naaman Healed of Leprosy

1 Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. 2 Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. 3 She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." 4 So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel." 5 And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels[b] of gold, and ten changes of clothing. 6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." 7 And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

8 But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel." 9 So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. 10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." 11 But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me

and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. 13 But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" 14 So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

## **Day 20 – Monday, March 9**

Deuteronomy 10:17-19

### **Grace for the foreigner**

17 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. 18 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. 19 Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

## **Day 21 – Tuesday, March 10**

Psalms 130

### **Waiting for mercy**

My Soul Waits for the Lord  
A Song of Ascents.

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!

2 O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,

O Lord, who could stand?

4 But with you there is forgiveness,  
that you may be feared.

5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;

6 my soul waits for the Lord  
more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.

7 O Israel, hope in the Lord!  
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plentiful redemption.

8 And he will redeem Israel  
from all his iniquities.

## **Day 22 – Wednesday, March 11**

Luke 7:36-50

### **A Sinful Woman Forgiven**

36 One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. 37 And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, 38 and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." 40 And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

41 "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him

more?" 43 Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." 44 Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." 48 And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" 50 And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

## **Day 23 – Thursday, March 12**

Isaiah 55:1-7

### **Grace without price**

#### **The Compassion of the Lord**

1 "Come, everyone who thirsts,  
    come to the waters;  
and he who has no money,  
    come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
    without money and without price.

2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
    and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,  
    and delight yourselves in rich food.

3 Incline your ear, and come to me;  
    hear, that your soul may live;  
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
    my steadfast, sure love for David.

4 Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
    a leader and commander for the peoples.

5 Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,  
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

6 "Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;

7 let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

## **Day 24 – Friday, March 13**

Romans 5:6-11

**Grace, while we were enemies**

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die - 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## **Day 25 – Saturday, March 14**

Titus 3:3-7

**Saved by mercy, not works**

3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in

righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## **Day 26 – Sunday, March 15**

Numbers 14:11-23

### **God's patient restraint**

#### **Slow to anger, rich in mercy**

11 And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them? 12 I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they."

#### **Moses Intercedes for the People**

13 But Moses said to the Lord, "Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for you brought up this people in your might from among them, 14 and they will tell the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, O Lord, are in the midst of this people. For you, O Lord, are seen face to face, and your cloud stands over them and you go before them, in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. 15 Now if you kill this people as one man, then the nations who have heard your fame will say, 16 'It is because the Lord was not able to bring this people into the land that he swore to give to them that he has killed them in the wilderness.' 17 And now, please let the power of the Lord be great as you have promised, saying, 18 'The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.' 19 Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now."

## **God Promises Judgment**

20 Then the Lord said, "I have pardoned, according to your word.  
21 But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the  
glory of the Lord, 22 none of the men who have seen my glory  
and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet  
have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my  
voice, 23 shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers.  
And none of those who despised me shall see it.

## **Day 27 – Monday, March 16**

Exodus 32:7-14

### **Intercession delays judgment**

7 And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, for your people,  
whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted  
themselves. 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way that  
I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden  
calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These  
are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of  
Egypt!'" 9 And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people,  
and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. 10 Now therefore let  
me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may  
consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you."

11 But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord,  
why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you  
have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and  
with a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, 'With  
evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains  
and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from  
your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your  
people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants,  
to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, 'I will  
multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land  
that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall  
inherit it forever.'" 14 And the Lord relented from the disaster  
that he had spoken of bringing on his people.

## Day 28 – Tuesday, March 17

Psalm 86:8-15

### Abounding in steadfast love

- 8 There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,  
nor are there any works like yours.
- 9 All the nations you have made shall come  
and worship before you, O Lord,  
and shall glorify your name.
- 10 For you are great and do wondrous things;  
you alone are God.
- 11 Teach me your way, O Lord,  
that I may walk in your truth;  
unite my heart to fear your name.
- 12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,  
and I will glorify your name forever.
- 13 For great is your steadfast love toward me;  
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.
- 14 O God, insolent men have risen up against me;  
a band of ruthless men seeks my life,  
and they do not set you before them.
- 15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

## Day 29 – Wednesday, March 18

Luke 9:51-56

### Jesus rebukes James and John

#### A Samaritan Village Rejects Jesus

51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. 53 But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want

us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"  
55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 And they went on to another village.

## **Day 30 – Thursday, March 19**

Isaiah 30:15-18

**The LORD waits to be gracious**

15 For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel,  
"In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."

But you were unwilling, 16 and you said,

"No! We will flee upon horses";  
therefore you shall flee away;

and, "We will ride upon swift steeds";  
therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

17 A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;

at the threat of five you shall flee,  
till you are left

like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,  
like a signal on a hill.

**The Lord Will Be Gracious**

18 Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you,  
and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you.

For the Lord is a God of justice;

blessed are all those who wait for him.

## **Day 31 – Friday, March 20**

2 Peter 3:8-9

**Patience for repentance**

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

## **Day 32 – Saturday, March 21**

Micah 7:18-20

**God delights in mercy**

### **God's Steadfast Love and Compassion**

18 Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity  
and passing over transgression

for the remnant of his inheritance?

He does not retain his anger forever,

because he delights in steadfast love.

19 He will again have compassion on us;

he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins

into the depths of the sea.

20 You will show faithfulness to Jacob

and steadfast love to Abraham,

as you have sworn to our fathers

from the days of old.

## **Day 33 – Sunday, March 22**

Genesis 15:1-6

**Covenant love that endures**

### **God's Covenant with Abram**

15 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." 2 But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." 4

And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." 5 And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 6 And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

## Day 34 – Monday, March 23

Ruth 1:6-17

### Loyal love embodied

#### Ruth's Loyalty to Naomi

6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food. 7 So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. 8 But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. 9 The Lord grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. 10 And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." 11 But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? 12 Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, 13 would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me." 14 Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15 And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." 16 But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you."

## Day 35 – Tuesday, March 24

Psalm 136

### His Steadfast Love Endures Forever

136 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

2 Give thanks to the God of gods,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

4 to him who alone does great wonders,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

5 to him who by understanding made the heavens,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

6 to him who spread out the earth above the waters,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

7 to him who made the great lights,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

8 the sun to rule over the day,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

9 the moon and stars to rule over the night,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

10 to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

11 and brought Israel out from among them,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

12 with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

13 to him who divided the Red Sea in two,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

14 and made Israel pass through the midst of it,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

15 but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea,

for his steadfast love endures forever;  
16 to him who led his people through the wilderness,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

17 to him who struck down great kings,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

18 and killed mighty kings,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

19 Sihon, king of the Amorites,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

20 and Og, king of Bashan,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

21 and gave their land as a heritage,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

22 a heritage to Israel his servant,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

23 It is he who remembered us in our low estate,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

24 and rescued us from our foes,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

25 he who gives food to all flesh,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

26 Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

## **Day 36 – Wednesday, March 25**

John 10:1-18

### **I Am the Good Shepherd**

1 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

## Day 37 – Thursday, March 26

Hosea 11:1-9

Love that refuses abandonment

### The Lord's Love for Israel

11 When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
and out of Egypt I called my son.

2 The more they were called,  
the more they went away;  
they kept sacrificing to the Baals  
and burning offerings to idols.

3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;  
I took them up by their arms,  
but they did not know that I healed them.

4 I led them with cords of kindness,  
with the bands of love,  
and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws,  
and I bent down to them and fed them.

5 They shall not return to the land of Egypt,  
but Assyria shall be their king,  
because they have refused to return to me.

6 The sword shall rage against their cities,  
consume the bars of their gates,  
and devour them because of their own counsels.

7 My people are bent on turning away from me,  
and though they call out to the Most High,  
he shall not raise them up at all.

8 How can I give you up, O Ephraim?  
How can I hand you over, O Israel?

How can I make you like Admah?  
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?

My heart recoils within me;  
my compassion grows warm and tender.

9 I will not execute my burning anger;  
I will not again destroy Ephraim;  
for I am God and not a man,  
the Holy One in your midst,  
and I will not come in wrath.

## **Day 38 – Friday, March 27**

Romans 8:31-39

### **Nothing can separate us**

#### **God's Everlasting Love**

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Day 39 – Saturday, March 28

Psalm 23

Goodness and mercy pursue us

### The Lord Is My Shepherd

#### A Psalm of David.

23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

3 He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness

for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

forever.

# Holy Week: Faithful to the End

## Day 40 – Palm Sunday, March 29

Luke 19:28-44

**Faithful, even with tears**

### **The Triumphal Entry**

28 And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" 32 So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. 33 And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 And they said, "The Lord has need of it." 35 And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. 36 And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. 37 As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, 38 saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" 39 And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." 40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

### **Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem**

41 And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your

eyes. 43 For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side 44 and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

## **Day 41 – Monday of Holy Week, March 30**

Luke 20:1-19

### **The faithful Son rejected**

#### **The Authority of Jesus Challenged**

20 One day, as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders came up 2 and said to him, “Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority.” 3 He answered them, “I also will ask you a question. Now tell me, 4 was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?” 5 And they discussed it with one another, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why did you not believe him?’ 6 But if we say, ‘From man,’ all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.” 7 So they answered that they did not know where it came from. 8 And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

#### **The Parable of the Wicked Tenants**

9 And he began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. 10 When the time came, he sent a servant[b] to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 11 And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. 12 And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. 13 Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ 14 But

when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.' 15 And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? 16 He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Surely not!" 17 But he looked directly at them and said, "What then is this that is written:

"'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'?"

18 Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

### **Paying Taxes to Caesar**

19 The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people.

## **Day 42 – Tuesday of Holy Week, March 31**

Luke 22:1-13

### **Preparing the Passover**

#### **The Plot to Kill Jesus**

22 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. 2 And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people.

#### **Judas to Betray Jesus**

3 Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. 4 He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. 5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. 6 So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.

## **The Passover with the Disciples**

7 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. 8 So Jesus[a] sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." 9 They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" 10 He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters 11 and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' 12 And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." 13 And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

## **Day 43 – Wednesday of Holy Week, April 1**

Luke 22:39-46

### **Faithful in prayer and surrender**

#### **Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives**

39 And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. 40 And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." 41 And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." 43 And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. 45 And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, 46 and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

## Day 44 – Maundy Thursday, April 2

Exodus 12:1-13

### The Passover

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2  
“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be  
the first month of the year for you. 3 Tell all the congregation of  
Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a  
lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.  
4 And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his  
nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons;  
according to what each can eat you shall make your count for  
the lamb. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old.  
You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, 6 and you shall  
keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole  
assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at  
twilight.

7 “Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the  
two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.  
8 They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with  
unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Do not eat  
any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs  
and its inner parts. 10 And you shall let none of it remain until the  
morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.  
11 In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your  
sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall  
eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. 12 For I will pass through  
the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the  
land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt  
I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. 13 The blood shall be a  
sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the  
blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy  
you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

## Day 45 – Good Friday, April 3

Luke 23:32-49

### Faithful unto death

32 Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 33 And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. 35 And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" 36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine 37 and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" 38 There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

### The Death of Jesus

44 It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45 while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. 47 Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" 48 And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts.

49 And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things

## **Day 46 – Holy Saturday, April 4**

Matthew 27:57-66

### **Waiting in silence**

#### **Jesus Is Buried**

57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. 58 He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. 59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud 60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

#### **The Guard at the Tomb**

62 The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate 63 and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' 64 Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." 65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

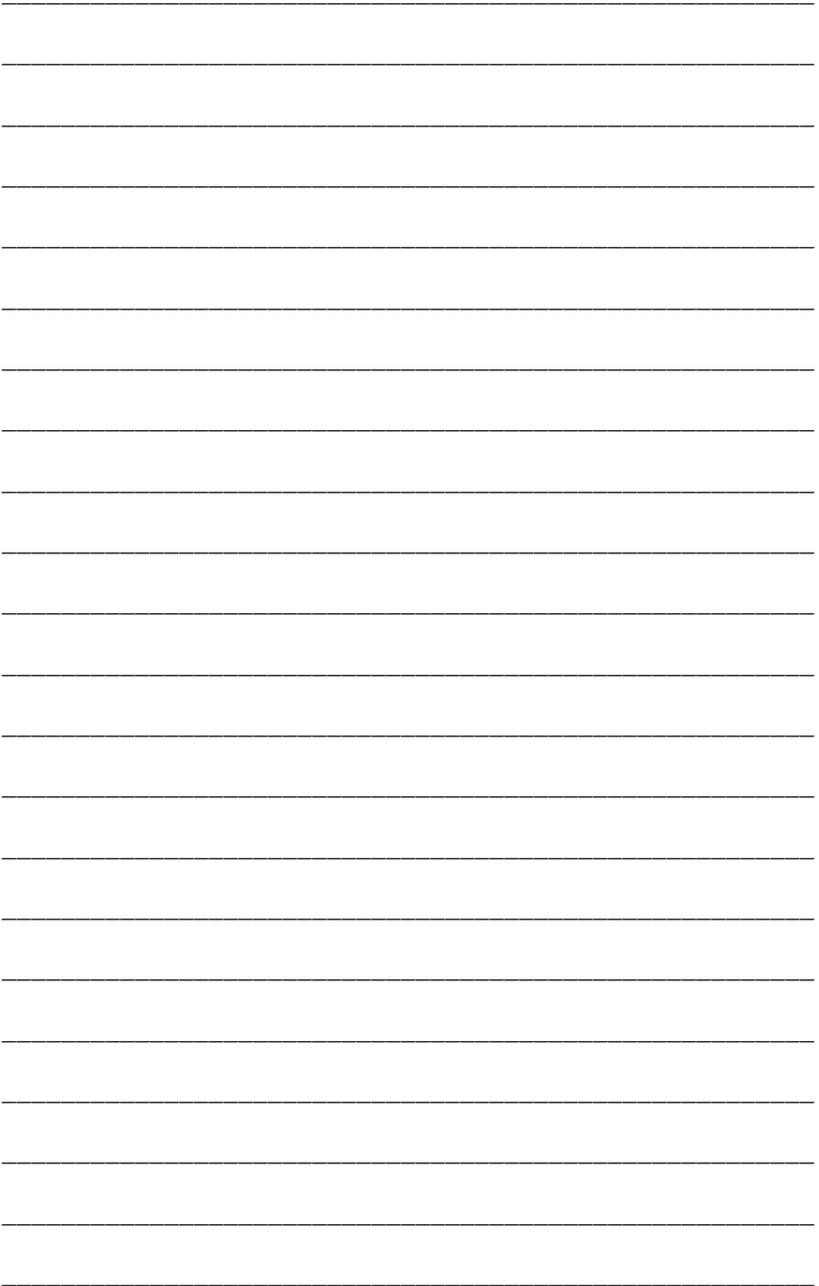
## Day 47 – Easter Sunday, April 5

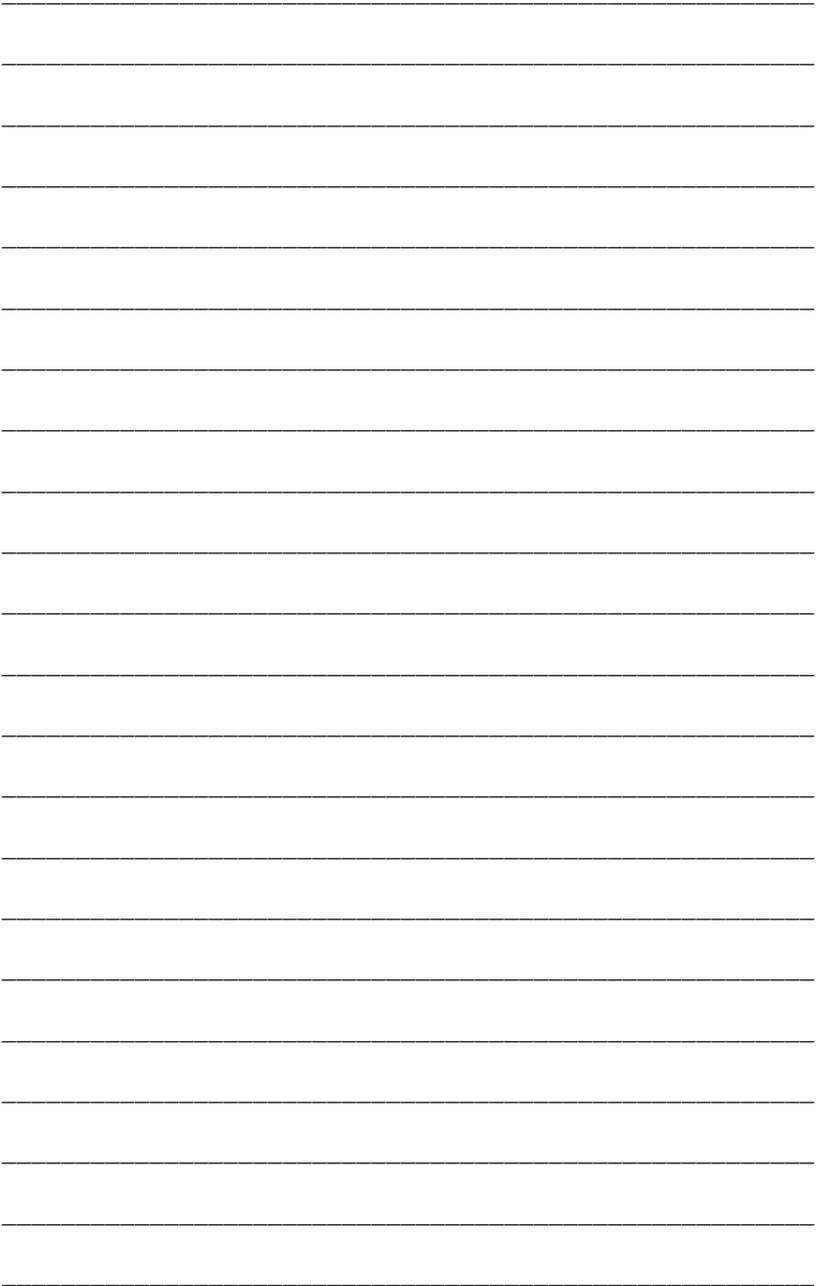
Luke 24:1-12

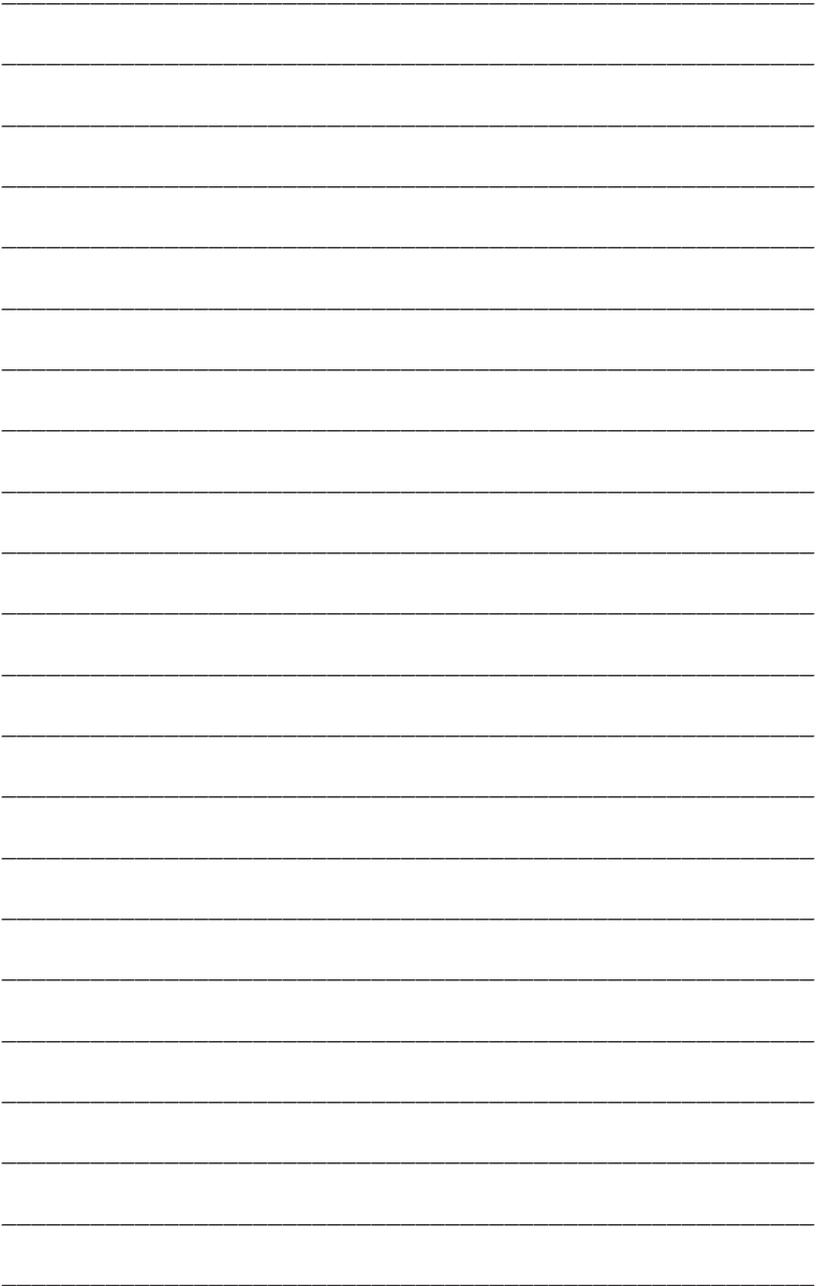
**Faithfulness fulfilled**

### **The Resurrection**

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." 8 And they remembered his words, 9 and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, 11 but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12 But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.









**FAITH**

[faithoakville.org](http://faithoakville.org)