

2025 Post-Easter Devotional Series

Atonement – The Center of Everything

DAY 1 – MONDAY, APRIL 21ST

The Story That's Not Over

Scripture: "Woman, why are you weeping?" – John 20:15

Meditation: Mary's tears reflected a world still bound by loss, confusion, and shattered hope. She had come to honor a dead friend—never imagining she'd encounter the living Lord. But resurrection speaks another word. The risen Christ stands near, even when we don't recognize Him at first. Her weeping became wonder when Jesus called her by name. The empty tomb doesn't erase our grief, but it reframes it. Our sorrow is not the end. In Christ, every tear carries the promise of joy to come.

REFLECT

- What am I still weeping over that Jesus might be reframing with resurrection hope?
- Where might Jesus be standing nearby, unseen?

BREATH PRAYER

Inhale: "You are near." | **Exhale:** "Even when I don't see."

PRACTICE

Sit silently for 5 minutes, imagining Jesus speaking your name like He did Mary's. Let His presence transform your sorrow.

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23RD

Resurrection Confronts My Doubt

Scripture: "Put your finger here... Do not disbelieve, but believe." – John 20:27

Meditation: Thomas doubted, and Jesus didn't shame him—He invited him closer. Jesus doesn't scold those who struggle with belief; He meets them in their questions. The empty tomb isn't afraid of your doubts. Jesus offers His scars as evidence of His love and truth. This is the kind of Savior we follow—one who is willing to enter our pain, show us His wounds, and gently call us to believe. Faith isn't blind. It's grounded in the reality of a risen Lord who makes space for our uncertainties.

REFLECT

- What wounds make it hard to believe?
- How is Jesus meeting you in your doubt?

BREATH PRAYER

Inhale: "I bring my doubt." | **Exhale:** "You meet me with peace."

PRACTICE

Bring one honest question to God in prayer today. Write it down. Don't rush the answer. Stay with it.

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, APRIL 22ND

The Happy Ending Is Real

Scripture: "Go to my brothers and say... I am ascending to my Father and your Father..." – John 20:17

Meditation: Because of the cross and the empty tomb, Jesus' Father is now our Father. This changes everything. We are no longer outsiders—we are adopted sons and daughters. Jesus tells Mary not only that He is ascending but that *"our"* relationship with God has changed forever. The resurrection isn't just His triumph—it's our invitation. We are brought into the divine family, co-heirs with Christ. This is more than a happy ending. It is the beginning of an eternal relationship rooted in the atonement.

REFLECT

- How does it feel to know God is "your Father"?
- What does resurrection mean for your story?

BREATH PRAYER

Inhale: "My Father in Heaven." | **Exhale:** "Has made me His child."

PRACTICE

Write out a brief version of your life story—include where God's atonement and grace have shaped your past, and where you hope resurrection power will shape your future.

DAY 4 – THURSDAY, APRIL 24TH

Victory Over My Enemies

Scripture: "My Lord and my God!" – John 20:28

Meditation: The resurrection is God's declaration of victory—not just over death, but over every enemy of the soul. Fear, guilt, shame, addiction, and spiritual darkness no longer get the last word. When Thomas declares, "My Lord and my God!", it's not just a statement of belief—it's a surrender to the One who conquered the grave. We are no longer slaves to the powers of this world. Jesus' victory becomes our inheritance. In Him, we are more than conquerors.

REFLECT

- What "enemies" (fear, guilt, shame) try to rule your life?
- What would it mean to declare Jesus "my Lord" today?

BREATH PRAYER

Inhale: "My Lord." | **Exhale:** "My God."

PRACTICE

Declare aloud or write: "Jesus has victory over..." and name your current struggle. End with, "And He is Lord over it all."

DAY 5 – FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH

Do You Love Me?

Scripture: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" – John 21:15

Meditation: Peter's denial had been loud and public. But Jesus' love was louder. The question "Do you love me?" was asked three times—one for each denial. Jesus wasn't just forgiving Peter; He was restoring him. God doesn't discard us when we fail—He draws us near and calls us to love again. Failure doesn't define us—Jesus does. And love, not guilt, is the foundation for following Him. Christ's mercy reclaims our identity and calls us back into mission.

REFLECT

- What failure needs to be restored in the presence of Jesus?
- How is Jesus asking you, "Do you love me?"

BREATH PRAYER

Inhale: "I love You, Lord." | **Exhale:** "You love me still."

PRACTICE

Speak or write a prayer of love to Jesus, using your own words—simple, sincere, even if halting.

DAY 7 – SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH

The Atonement at the Center

Scripture: "...that Christ died for our sins... was buried... was raised on the third day..." – 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Meditation: When the atonement is the center of our lives, everything else finds its proper place. Without it, we drift into performance, fear, legalism, or self-reliance. The resurrection isn't just a past event—it's a present power and a future hope. Christ died, was buried, and rose again—this is the heart of the Gospel. Let the cross and the empty tomb shape how you see your story, your relationships, and your purpose. Keep the atonement central—and your life will stay rooted in grace.

REFLECT

- What have you centered your life on lately?
- How does keeping the cross and resurrection central reorder everything?

BREATH PRAYER

Inhale: "You died for me." | **Exhale:** "You live in me."

PRACTICE

Celebrate today! Feast. Rejoice! Worship. Resurrection isn't just for last Sunday—it's for every day!

DAY 6 – SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH

Follow Me

Scripture: "And after saying this, he said to him, 'Follow me.'" – John 21:19

Meditation: The risen Christ not only forgives the past—He charts a course for the future. When Jesus said, "Follow me," He was inviting Peter (and us) into a lifelong journey of discipleship. This call is deeply personal and profoundly communal. It means learning from Jesus, walking in His ways, and embodying His grace. We don't follow to earn His love; we follow because we already have it. To follow Jesus is to live with open hands and an open heart, day by day.

REFLECT

- Where is Jesus calling you to follow Him today?
- What needs to be left behind to walk with Him?

BREATH PRAYER

Inhale: "You lead me." | **Exhale:** "I will follow."

PRACTICE

Go for a walk and pray as you move. Let your steps be a physical reminder of your journey with Jesus.

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