



Scripture is clear on many occasions about the importance of “keeping our eyes on Christ.” For Peter out on the water it was the difference between sinking and staying above the waves. For the writer of Hebrews (in 12.1-4) its what determines your ability to run the race of this life to the standard God calls us.

Fixing our eyes on Christ in his final hours with his disciples around the table, and through his arrest, crucifixion, and burial is not easy. Its sad, heart wrenching, graphic, and dark; but it’s necessary. 2 Timothy 2.11 tells us its only after we die with him that we live with him; and while that’s a direct reference to dying to our sin nature and putting on the new life Christ gives us, reminding ourselves of *the cost* of our new life in him is one of the healthiest things we can do each year.

So that’s what this devotional is. Its nothing fancy, its not even that carefully worded. It simply walks you through the events of Jesus life, from the beginning of the Last Supper with his disciples, to the time that died and was buried.

Its recommended that you take these chunks slowly and over an extended period of time. Those suggested times are marked off at the beginning of each section, starting with the Last Supper on Thursday night, and then small sections throughout the day Friday to “keep your eyes on Jesus” not just one time, but throughout the day, constantly keeping him in view.

There are also song suggestions to help center you in different moments – praying for you – hope this helps you worship our incredibly loving and amazing God.

Pastor Micheal

Thursday Evening

Pray: Start your time by asking God's Spirit to reveal the glory of Jesus to you during this time. Pray that you would truly see him as you read and pray. Confess your own inability to do this on your own.

Read Mark 14.12-31

Once you've read it once, go back and read it again, this time answering the question: What do I see about Jesus here?

- What's he like?
- What's he do?
- What's he say?

The disciples' problem at the end of this passage is that they are not humble enough to admit their own shortcomings and NEED for a Passover lamb. They say "I won't fail" "I won't fail" but of course – eventually they all do. Knowing what we know now its almost painful to watch this argument ensue after such an incredible moment together during the last supper.

- Where do you need to stop being delusional about your own sin and denial of Jesus by your own sin?
- Take some time and confess your own to God right now – and be as specific as you can.

If possible, finish this time by taking communion before the Lord with the same meaning Jesus describes it here. The bread represents his body given for you, the cup his blood poured out. As you take it say to God in your heart how much you need his sacrifice to cover your sin, and how thankful you are for this gift.

Suggested song: Mercy – by Matt Redman

Friday Morning

Pray: Again, start your time by asking God's Spirit to reveal the glory of Jesus to you during this new time today. Pray that you would truly see him as you read and pray. Confess your own inability to do this on your own.

Read Mark 14.32-65

What stuck out to you about this account to you as your read and reflected?

What are some initial observations about how Jesus personally handles himself here?

Meditate/Dwell

Take a moment and feel the weight of being in Jesus shoes:

- He prays but God is silent,
 - A friend (someone he personally invested in) betrays him,
 - His other friends abandon him
 - People are lined up to bear false witness about him
 - He is spit upon
 - *No one* stands up for him
- * How would you feel in this situation? Would you have handled it differently?

Finish your time by listening to the song “Jerusalem” by CityAlight, and take a moment to thank Jesus for what he endured for YOU here when you’re done.

Friday Noon

Pray: Again ask God to ready your heart and eyes to see and hear his word to you here before you begin.

Read Mark 14.66-15.15

There’s a lot of examples of failure here, first on the part of Peter, later in the role Pilate plays along with the religious leaders of Jesus day.

- What do you learn about us as fallen people from this account?
- Where do you most relate with those in this section?

Next read Mark 15.16-39

What do you want to say to Jesus in these moments as you reflect on his cross?

Take a few minutes in the wake of what you’ve read and meditate on the love of God on display for you in these verses.

Finish your time by meditating on the following 2 songs:

- There is a Fountain Filled with Blood (Norton Hall Band, or Selah)
- Jesus, Thank You (Sovereign Grace Music)

Friday Evening

Pray: again for the Holy Spirit to show you Christ during your time with him now.

Read Isaiah 53.3-6

Answer (with notes) the 3 questions on the following page:

What further light does prophecy about the crucifixion shed on Christ's sacrifice?

What does this tell you about you?

What more are you thankful for to God having read these verses?

Finish your time by reflecting on the song "Hallelujah, What a Savior" by Ascend the Hill, and then praying to God when its done.

Saturday Morning

Pray: Ask for God's help to begin to transition to understanding the future meaning of Christ's sacrifice for you. Pray this passage you'll study next will remind you of some wonderful implications of these real events so many years ago.

Read 1 Peter 2.22-25

What new light does this New Testament commentary shed on Christ's sacrifice for us?

Take a moment to dwell on your now perfect standing before as you stand forgiven in Christ.

Now, start thinking now about how we're called to live in light of receiving Christ's sacrifice.

- What might that change for you for the rest of the day?

- What about next week? The rest of this year?

See you Sunday (may your heart be ready to celebrate)!