



A 21-DAY
Journey to the
TOMB

Holy Week
Days 15-21

21-day Journey with John

Over the next 21 days, I invite you to join me in an intentional journey in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. However, I am not your guide, but John the disciple will be our guide. Over the next 21 days, I pray that you will personally experience the living God and He will transform you.

This journey will culminate on Resurrection Sunday, where we will join together in celebrating the Risen King.

Why 21 days? Daniel 10:12-14 is the scriptural basis for a 21-day prayer and fasting focus. Daniel had not determined the length he would fast from certain foods, but it was after 21 days that he experienced a spiritual breakthrough.

What will each day look like? Each day will have a short passage focused on Jesus from John's gospel, followed by a few thoughts and questions. At the end of each day, I will have a suggested song to listen to as part of our daily worship.

Day 15 - A Father who speaks when your soul is troubled.

John 12:27-32 "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say, 'Father, save me from this hour? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.'" Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

The troubled soul of the Savior. Troubled means to be stirred up or unsettled. This same word is used in Psalm 6:3, *"My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O Lord – How long? Even when Jesus understood His purpose, His soul was unsettled. In His unsettled soul, He calls to His father, and the Father responds. Who do you talk to when you feel unsettled? What do you turn to that your soul may be calmed? Too often, we distract and busy our minds so we can ignore our unsettled heart and soul. Social media is a great distractor. What has troubled your soul, and will you call upon your Father? For our prayer, let's use David's prayer in Psalm 6*

Prayer: Father, be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled. My soul is greatly troubled. But you, O Lord –how long? Turn, O Lord, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love. For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol, who will give you praise? May your name be lifted high in my life.

Song: Good Good Father - Chris Tomlin

Day 16 - The Humble King (Thursday)

John 13:4-9 Rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments and, taking a towel, tied it around His waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with a towel that was wrapped around Him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered Him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head!"

Washing feet was a necessary custom in the first century. Can you imagine how dirty and disgusting first-century feet would get each day? One person seems to be missing from the story, the foot washer. If a Rabbi graces your home with his presence and needs the guest room, there is a customary law that mandates you grant his request. The Rabbi would never do the foot washing. That is the role of the lowest-ranking member of the home or of the lowest-ranking Rabbi's disciples. But Jesus was more than a rabbi. He is the Savior of the World, the King of Kings, and He lowers Himself to the lowest rank, foot washer. When Jesus is finished, He calls on His disciples to follow His example and wash one another's feet. A command to lower oneself and serve others. Serve from a place of willing humility. Who can you serve today?

Prayer: Jesus, you have commanded me, as your disciple, to serve as you served. Open my eyes to those around me that I may see the opportunities for serving. May my hurriedness not get in the way, and forgive me for the times I did not serve others but served myself.

Song: Humble - Audrey Assad

Day 17 - The Savior and the Betrayer (Thursday evening)

John 13:21-30 After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in His spirit, and testified, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.' The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at the table at Jesus' side, so Simon Peter mentioned to him to ask Jesus of whom He was speaking. So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to Him, "Lord who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, He gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then, after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." Now, no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. After receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

The betrayer has been discovered. The plot was uncovered. So the events that unfold are not the blindsiding of Jesus, but are placed under the permission of Jesus. Jesus could have stopped the betrayer and exposed him to the rest of the group. Can you imagine what Judas felt when he heard Jesus' words? Judas' plan could have been stopped if Jesus desired. But He permits the plan to move forward. Knowing all of the pain and suffering the plan will bring, Jesus gives permission to Judas. Judas doesn't realize that this is actually Jesus' plan. No one takes Jesus life; He willingly lays it down. This is the Lamb of God whose blood takes away the sin of the world.

Prayer: Jesus, you are the all-knowing, all-powerful God of the universe. And you willingly went to the cross for me. There were opportunities to change course, but you were faithful that Salvation could be available to all people. Today, I ask that you work in the hearts of my friends and family who do not know you. Awaken their hearts to you and your great love. Speak to them, and may they respond to your voice. If you open a door for me to invite them to Easter service, give me the courage to do so.

Song: Son of Suffering – David Funk + Matt Redman

Day 18 - Reassured by the Savior (Thursday night).

John 13:36-38, John 14:1-2 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times. Let not your hearts be troubled, believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."

Did you know that chapters and verses were not part of the original writings? They were added much later in history to help people find scriptures. All of today's scriptures are from the same continuing conversation in the upper room. Peter has just overestimated the strength of his faith and loyalty. Jesus responds by revealing that Peter's faith will fail that night. Ouch! Thankfully, Jesus continues talking in this moment. Jesus didn't demote Peter, nor did He kick him out of the group. He calls Peter to trust Him and the Father. Jesus reveals to Peter that there is a place for him in heaven. Wow! Do you live with a troubled heart because of failure and sin? Have you struggled to get past your past? His grace is sufficient, and His blood has washed you from ALL unrighteousness. May the words Jesus spoke to Peter speak to you. Let not your heart be troubled.

Prayer: Jesus, what part of my past still haunts me? What past failure am I holding onto that you forgave and remember no more? I want to be free from shame and guilt. Jesus, you said that you set us free. That includes freedom from our past so we can live in your freedom. Lord, heal me and set me free. Remove the shame from my past. Your word is true, and right now I exchange the lie that I believe about me and my past for Your truth; You have forgiven me and freed me from the past. You remember my sins no more.

Song: Amazing Grace My Chains are Gone – Chris Tomlin

Day 19 - A Savior who pays your total bill (Good Friday)

John 19:28-30, 19:38-39 After this, Jesus knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit...After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus, also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight.

Finished. Done. Completed. Fulfilled. Paid in Full. Jesus had finished all of the work the Father had sent Him to complete, including the payment of sin once and for all. On the cross, Jesus paid for all sin and makes life everlasting available to anyone who trusts in Him as Lord and Savior. The Greek words, "It is finished," is the same phrase that has been found at the bottom of tax bills from the same time period. It means the entire bill has been paid, and there is no more debt. Your debt to God has to be paid. God's justice demands that sin be paid for. He cannot ignore sin or pretend it didn't happen. And the payment for sin is death. Someone will pay for your sin. Good news, it doesn't have to be you. Jesus paid for it on the cross. This is the good news! Receive Him as your Lord and Savior, trust in Him and His death on the cross to make you right with the Father.

Hallelujah! (Hebrew for Praise the LORD)

Prayer: Jesus, I cannot fathom the physical, emotional, and spiritual pain you endured on the cross. I don't have the words to express my gratitude. All I can do is thank you. Thank you, Jesus, for paying for all my sins. The debt of my sin was greater than I could pay. I was separated from my Father and couldn't get back. On the cross, you paid for all of it. You are the Lamb of God, the one who takes away the sin of the world. Thank you, thank you, thank you. May I live with the joy of salvation that you have given me.

Song: *Jesus Paid It All* – Brooke Ligertwood/Gateway Worship

Day 20 – Silent Saturday

The Bible has no verses for Saturday; it has been named Silent Saturday. Jesus is in the tomb. The disciples must have thought death had won. I suspect the disciples reflected on all they had experienced and witnessed over the last 3 years with Jesus.

Prayer Instructions: Spend 5 minutes in silence. No phone, no radio or tv. Reflect on the last 20 days, the conversations, miracles, and teachings of Jesus. What has God been saying to you?

Day 21 – The Victorious Savior (Sunday)

John 20:11-16 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to Him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means teacher).

Death is defeated! Jesus is forever victorious over Satan and sin. He is the resurrection and the life. He is alive! He reigns forever! The cross would not be a sign of death but of victory. This is the greatest day in history. When Jesus opened the tomb and walked out, He opened a door for all people to have new life in Him. ZOE life. The life that is abundant today and forever. He did it! He Won! He invites you into New Life in Him. Life that is fulfilling and forever. Praise Him today.

Prayer: Hallelujah! Jesus you are Alive. You are reigning on your throne. You are king of kings, Lord of Lords. I praise you, I worship you. May my life glorify you.

Song: *Forever* by Kari Jobe