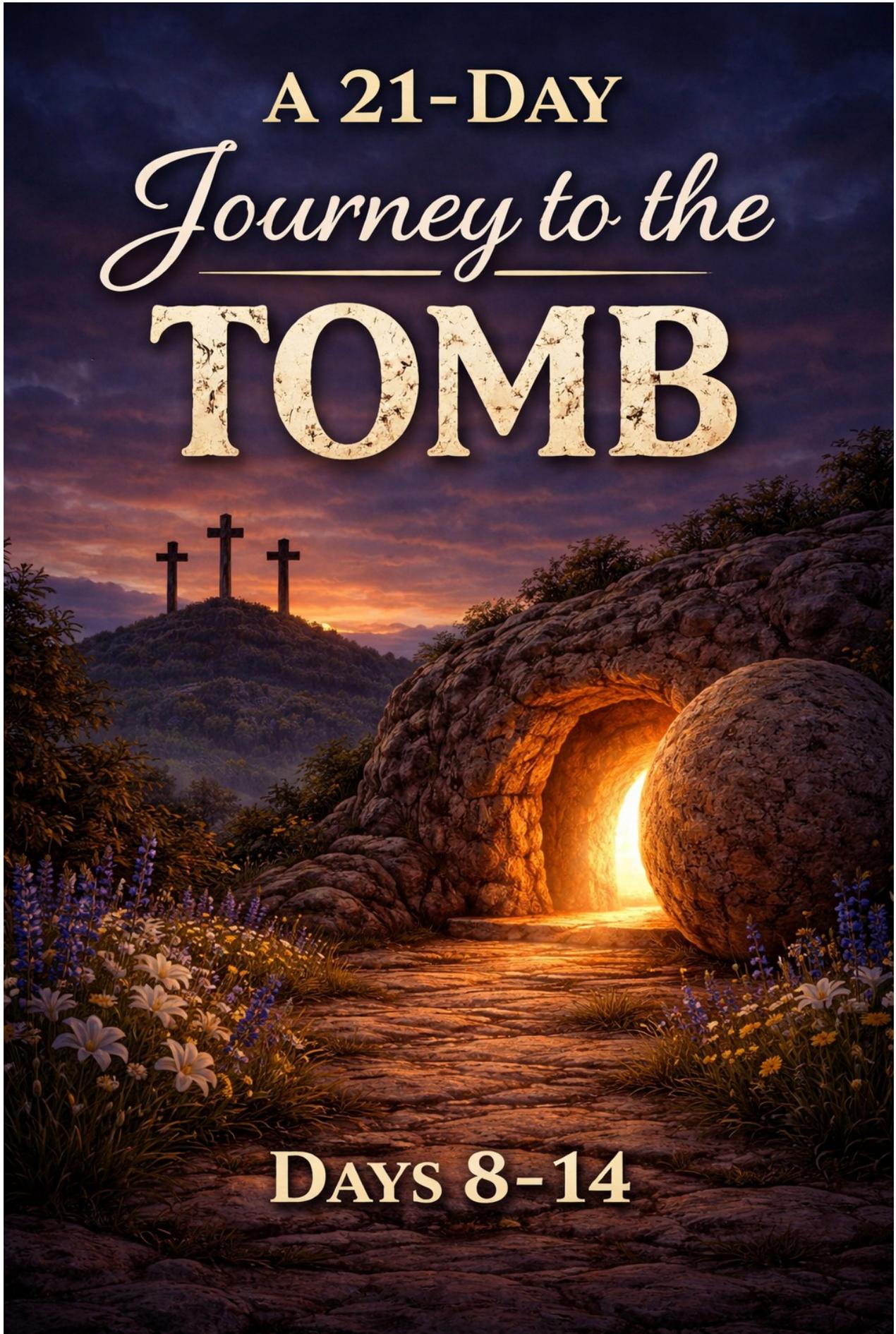


A 21-DAY
Journey to the
TOMB

DAYS 8-14



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 8 – And there was Jesus.

John 4:5-9 So He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Woman of Samaria? (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

Jesus never had a random conversation. He was always at the right place at the right time for the right person. This divine appointment was with a Samaritan woman, who had looked for love in all the wrong places. She is surprised when this Jewish Rabbi speaks to her and asks her for some water. Jews and Samaritans hated one another. Jews refused to even set foot into the Samaria region. Jesus not only goes through Samaria but stops for a rest in Samaria. The woman sees a Jewish Rabbi and is caught off guard. When Jesus speaks to her with dignity, she is taken aback. This Rabbi did not insult her or throw rocks, but invited her into a life-changing conversation. His disciples later returned and were surprised to find Jesus talking to this woman. They didn't understand that Jesus came to save the whole world, including this Samaritan woman. I wonder what conversation Jesus wants to have with you today? And perhaps, you too will be surprised by His grace and truth in the conversation.

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for coming to me, just as you went to the woman. At my lowest points, you are there. Thank you for inviting this woman into everlasting life found only in you. Thank you for inviting me into everlasting life. Open my eyes to see you today.

Song: *There was Jesus*- Zach Williams & Dolly Parton

<https://youtu.be/37wV6D49iEY?si=OZ9HiiQH2gI8nD9r>

Day 9 – What God desires in worship.

John 4:19 The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is here now, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

The Samaritans were barred from Jerusalem and the temple. They were not welcome. So they worshiped God on a mountain in Samaria. It might be safe to call the fight between the Samaritans and the Jews the first worship war. Worship of God evokes strong feelings and emotions, which is why people have long fought over worship. This particular battle was over location. More modern worship battles focused on the music aspect of our worship. But Jesus answers the all-important question, what does God desire? A person who will worship in spirit and truth. It isn't about the place or the style of music; it's about honoring God from a genuine heart.

Prayer: Lord, have I made any part of worship about me? Am I entering your courts with thanksgiving or praise? Help me to focus on you and worship you with a genuine heart.

Song: *Heart of Worship* - Matt Redman

<https://youtu.be/gljs4N7ZoD4?si=jm1INtD8gf4f3cWH>

Day 10 – God’s timing.

John 5:2-8 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. In these lay a multitude of invalids – blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.”

The man is healed. After 38 years. I find Jesus’ question worth pondering: “Do you want to be healed?” The obvious answer is yes, of course, I want to be healed. However, the man seems to have given up hope of healing. After all, it was a race to get into the pool, and he would never win. But Jesus saw him. Jesus stopped for him, and Jesus healed him. What have you prayed for that you doubt will ever change? A physical issue? An unsaved person you care about? An addiction? A broken relationship? Is there an area I need God to heal me or transform me, but it hasn’t happened yet? The man didn’t wake up that day believing it was the day his life would change. Go back to Jesus with that unanswered prayer, ask that His will be done.

Prayer: Jesus, you can do the impossible. It isn’t too late. I call on you to heal the sick, free the addict, deliver the captive. There is not a problem too big, a healing too complicated, an issue too old for you to bring healing. In my own life, I ask you to heal every part of me. Heal my body, my mind, my heart and emotions. Have your way Lord.

Song: *I know a name* – Elevation Worship

<https://youtu.be/TPoQw8xx3EU?si=LO85oWUmHg7zo0da>

Day 11 – A test of faith

John 6:4-10 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up His eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward Him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” He said this to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.” One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then took the loaves, and when He had given thanks, He distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted.

This miracle is called the Feeding of the 5000, because it says that about 5,000 men were fed. We can estimate that between 15,000 and 20,000 people were fed. Did you notice that Jesus asks Philip a question to test Philip’s trust? Jesus knew He had the power to provide, but did Philip believe Jesus had the power? One more observation to ponder today, Jesus chose to use what was brought by the little boy: 5 loaves and 2 fish. Probably a lunch for him and a sibling. The disciples dismissed it because it was so little and insignificant compared to the need. But Jesus saw that the little boy believed He had the power to provide, and He could use the lunch to feed 5000. I wonder how many times the boy tells this story? Jesus calls us to have faith like a child. How might God be testing your faith? Is He asking you to trust Him with something impossible?

Prayer: Jesus, help me to trust you as the little boy. Give me the faith of a child. Forgive me for the times I doubt your power. May I focus on your power instead of my weakness? Take what I have and use it for your kingdom.

Song: *I trust in God* – Jesus Culture

<https://youtu.be/CfA94XxOKiw?si=h1JooDnc39k6Jyh->

Day 12 – I AM

John 6:16-21 When evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. But He said to them, "It is I, do not be afraid." Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

The disciples were about halfway home at this point. It had been a long day, and I imagine they were ready to get home. Storms often appear at inopportune times. Bad weather doesn't check our schedule to see if it's convenient. Fighting against the strong winds, in their tired rowing, Jesus comes walking to them. But He is there, and He is walking by them. When the disciples see Jesus, they become terrified because they think it is a ghost. The rain and choppy seas conceal His identity. It is in their moment of terror that Jesus calls out to them and identifies Himself. Jesus does not want His disciples to be fearful or terrified. That is true for you. What has troubled your heart?

Prayer: Jesus, I am afraid of _____. Would you make your presence known to me in my moments of fear? Would you reassure me that you are with me? I do not want to live in fear; I want my heart and mind to be at rest because of your power and presence.

Song: *Fear is a liar* – Zach Williams

<https://youtu.be/1srs1YoTVzs?si=t8x8kIwOPik5K7xe>

Day 13 –Abundant Life is Available.

John 10:1-5 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. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.

John 10:10-11 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Something Jesus made clear was that His disciples follow His ways. Here, He uses the illustration of sheep following their shepherd. To be a follower of Jesus means to follow Jesus. To follow Jesus means to live our lives according to His instructions and commands. This is what trusting Jesus ultimately looks like. Jesus continues teaching with one of my favorite verses in verse 10. He contrasts Satan's plan (the thief) with His plan. When we see stories of death and destruction, we can know that it is the plan of the thief. Jesus came to give a different life, an abundant life. As in John 3:16, the Greek word used here for life is ZOE. A full heart kind of life. It implies a quality of life (full/abundant) as well as a quantity of life (eternal). When we follow Jesus, we experience the fullness of life He desires for us. When we follow something contrary to His ways, we cause pain and destruction.

Prayer: Jesus, you are the source of abundant life. Thank you for making that abundant and eternal life possible. Fill me with your joy, peace, love, and hope. By the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells in me, help my life to honor you and be an example to people who are looking for life.

Song: *Firm Foundation (He won't)* – Maverick City Music

https://youtu.be/uOP4s8fOEm0?si=H8IhxLIJb_5sng0S

Day 14 – A God Who Weeps

John 11:28-35 When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met Him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Now, when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jew who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in His spirit and greatly troubled. And He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus wept.

The raising of Lazarus from the dead would be the miracle that pushed the Pharisees over the edge in their desire to kill Jesus. There is a lot that can be unpacked from this miracle. I am just going to focus on the few verses above. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus were very close friends of Jesus. He would spend time at their house. Jesus knew what He was going to do. He was going to raise His friend from the dead. Yet, before He performs this miracle, He weeps. Why did Jesus weep? Scripture says, when Jesus saw Mary and the others weeping, He was deeply moved in His spirit. He felt a deep compassion for the sisters and friends. Jesus, fully man and fully God, weeps with His friends even though He knows the future outcome. He is mindful of our sorrows. We serve a God who is mindful of us and comes alongside us in our darkest hours.

Prayer: We are grateful that you made us with deep emotions and feelings. You understand all of our feelings. You know when we are happy, when we are angry, and when we are sad. When we experience sadness, you come alongside us to comfort. We claim the promise in Psalm 34:18, *The Lord is close to the brokenhearted*. So today, we pray for those who are grieving. May they experience your comfort and peace, your presence and hope in the midst of their grief.

Song: *Son of Suffering* – David Funk feat. Matt Redman.

<https://youtu.be/wBk4spqcXdM?si=6sqasblG41cdVF-F>