

MARGARET NWAKAEGO USIO MINISTRIES

CHRIST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION

Every Morning

A DAILY DEVOTIONAL

His mercies are new every morning;
great is Your faithfulness.

LAMENTATIONS 3:23

MARGARET NWAKAEGO USIO

SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION

EVERY MORNING

A Daily Devotional

MARGARET NWAKAEGO USIO MINISTRIES

Faith for every morning. Hope for every season.

margaretusioministries.com

contact@margaretusioministries.com

Every Morning

... A DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Margaret Nwakaego Usio

COPYRIGHT

Copyright © 2026 Margaret Nwakaego Usio.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission from the publisher, except for brief quotations used in reviews.

Published by Margaret Nwakaego Usio Ministries.

Website: margaretusioministries.com

Email: contact@margaretusioministries.com

Printed in Nigeria.

Scripture Translations Used

KJV — King James Version

NIV — New International Version

WEB — World English Bible

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Every Morning.

Each new day is a reminder that God's mercies are new, His grace is sufficient, and His presence is always available. This devotional was written to help you begin each morning with God's Word, finding hope, wisdom, encouragement, and practical truth for daily living.

My prayer is that these pages will draw you closer to Jesus, strengthen your faith, and inspire you to walk confidently in His purpose every day. May every morning become another opportunity to know Him more deeply.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

1. Begin with a short prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to speak to you.
2. Read the Scripture passage slowly and thoughtfully.
3. Read the day's devotional and reflect on its message.
4. Spend a few quiet moments applying the lesson to your own life.
5. End with the prayer provided and carry God's Word with you throughout the day.

Consistency is more important than speed. One encounter with God each morning can shape the rest of your day.

PERSONAL INFORMATION



Name: _____



Phone: _____



Address: _____



E-mail: _____



Note:



DAY 1

JESUS USED MUD... ON PURPOSE?

Key Scripture John 9:6–7 (NIV)

"After saying this, He spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 'Go,' He told him, 'wash in the Pool of Siloam.' ... So the man went and washed, and came home seeing."

DEVOTIONAL

Hold on first. Jesus did what? He spat on the ground... mixed the spit with sand... rubbed the mud on a blind man's eyes... then told him to go and wash. No antiseptic. No bottled water, no hand sanitizer. Just... mud?

If this happened in Nigeria today, somebody would quickly bring out a phone and shout, "Abeg record am! Wetin be this?"

Let's be honest, if someone told us this miracle before reading the Bible ourselves, many of us would say, "That one no fit dey Bible." Yet, there it is. One of the most beautiful miracles Jesus ever performed began with something that looked completely strange.

That's how God often works. Many of us have already decided what our breakthrough should look like. We have our own script in our head. "Lord, send the alert." "Lord, give me the promotion." "Lord, let the visa come." "Lord, change my boss." We expect God to move in ways that make perfect sense to us.

But sometimes, God chooses a road that looks unusual. Imagine if the blind man had argued?

"Jesus, mud? You sure? My eyes no even dey see before, you come add sand join?"

He could have refused. He could have walked away offended. Instead, he obeyed. And somewhere between the mud and the washing, his miracle happened. Sometimes we delay our own peace because we are arguing with God's method instead of trusting His heart.

Maybe your journey has been longer than you expected. Maybe you've prayed, fasted, cried, and wondered if God has forgotten your address. Don't conclude too quickly. The chapter isn't over yet. God is not limited

by what looks impressive. Throughout Scripture, He repeatedly used ordinary things to reveal extraordinary power. A shepherd's staff opened the sea. A little boy's lunch fed thousands. A sling defeated a giant. Even mud became part of a miracle.

So don't despise small beginnings. Don't despise ordinary obedience. Don't despise the season that doesn't make sense yet. We all know the economy is hard. Sometimes you work from morning till night and still wonder where the money disappeared to. Sometimes the news alone can make your heart heavy. It is easy to think God has gone silent. But today's story reminds us of something beautiful. God has never needed perfect conditions before He performs perfect work.

If He could use mud, He can use your situation. If He could turn an ordinary afternoon into a testimony, He can still surprise you. So before you complain about the "mud" in your life, ask yourself one question: "What if this is the very place where God is preparing my testimony?"

PRAYER

Father, help me to trust You even when Your methods confuse me. Give me the humility to obey You, the patience to wait on You, and the faith to believe that You are working, even when I cannot yet see the outcome. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dig Deeper: Exodus 4:1–5, 1Samuel 17:38–50, 2Kings 5:9–14, John 2:1–11

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - John 9, Psalm 27, Proverbs 3

Today's Thought: God doesn't need perfect conditions to do perfect work in you.



DAY 2

A DONKEY PREACHED!

Key Scripture - Numbers 22:28–31 (NIV)

“Then the Lord opened the donkey’s mouth, and it said to Balaam, ‘What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?’ Balaam answered the donkey, ‘You have made a fool of me! If only I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now. ‘The donkey said to Balaam, ‘Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?’ ‘No,’ he said. Then the Lord opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand. So he bowed low and fell facedown.”

DEVOTIONAL

Sometimes God's greatest protection comes in the form of an interruption. But hold on...

Can we all agree that this is one of the most unusual conversations in the entire Bible? A donkey started talking... and Balaam replied as though this was a perfectly normal Tuesday morning!

If this happened in Nigeria today, the video would scatter across every social media platform before lunchtime. People would be arguing in the comments, comedians would make skits about it, and somebody would definitely say, "Nah AI."

Yet behind the humour is a serious lesson. Balaam thought his donkey was delaying him. He had no idea the donkey was actually saving his life. Three times the donkey stopped because it saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road. Balaam couldn't see what was ahead, so he became angry and started beating the very animal God was using to protect him.

How often do we do the same? We pray for a job, but the interview doesn't work out. We plan a journey, then something delays us. We expect a relationship to lead to marriage, but it suddenly ends. Our first reaction is often, "God, why?"

But Isaiah 55:8–9 reminds us ***that God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours***. What looks like rejection from our side may actually be protection from His side.

My brother, my sister, sometimes nah so life be. Not every delay is punishment. Not every closed door means God has forgotten you. Some closed doors are acts of mercy. Years later, many of us can point to moments that disappointed us at first but eventually made us whisper, "Thank You, Lord, for saying no."

That is why Proverbs 3:5–6 tells us ***to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and not lean on our own understanding***. We simply don't have God's vantage point. The beautiful part of this story is that God eventually opened Balaam's eyes. The problem was never that God wasn't working; the problem was that Balaam couldn't yet see what God was doing.

Perhaps that's where you are today. You have prayed. You have cried. You have waited. And you're wondering why nothing seems to be moving. Before you conclude that God is silent, remember this story. Sometimes He is protecting you from dangers you cannot yet see. Sometimes the delay is mercy. Sometimes the interruption is grace. And when the full picture finally comes into view, you'll realise that God's "No," "Wait," or "Not yet" was just as loving as His "Yes."

As Romans 8:28 assures us, ***God is able to work in all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose***.

So don't be too quick to curse today's delay. It may become tomorrow's testimony.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, when Your plans are different from mine, help me to trust Your heart. Open my eyes to recognise Your guidance, give me patience while I wait, and teach me to believe that Your delays are never without purpose. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Dig Deeper: Numbers 22–24, Proverbs 3:5–6, Isaiah 55:8–9, Romans 8:28
Psalm 32:8**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - John 9, Psalm 27, Proverbs 3

Today's Thought: A delay under God's direction is always safer than arriving early without His presence.



DAY 3

GOD DOES NOT FORGET!

Key Scripture - Genesis 40:23-41:1 (NIV)

"The chief cupbearer; however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him. When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: he was standing by the Nile..."

DEVOTIONAL

For two years, Joseph was forgotten. We are not talking about two days here, not two weeks or even two months, but two whole years after Joseph helped Pharaoh's cupbearer. That same person forgot about him completely. That must have hurt a lot.

Before the cupbearer left prison, Joseph had made one heartfelt request: ***"But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison"*** (Genesis 40:14).

It was a simple request. Remember me. That's all. Can you imagine Joseph waking up every morning, hearing footsteps outside the prison, thinking, "Maybe today."

Every sound must have given him hope and every sunset must have ended in disappointment. If we are honest, many of us know that feeling. You submitted applications, attended interviews, you started the business with faith.

You prayed fervently for healing. You believed this would be the year you would marry, conceive, graduate, relocate or finally find peace. Yet here you are... still waiting. Sometimes, the hardest part is not always the waiting. It is watching other people moving ahead while your own life seems to be standing still.

This can be very painful. Sometimes people even ask, "Anything yet?" and you are forced to smile because you don't know how to explain that you've been praying with all your heart. But there is a beautiful truth hidden in Joseph's story.

The Bible never said God forgot Joseph. It said the cupbearer forgot him. There is a world of difference in this. People forget. Employers forget. Friends forget and even family members sometimes.

But Isaiah 49:15–16 says, "***Can a mother forget the baby at her breast...? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.***"

Think about that. While Joseph was counting days, God was arranging destinies. While Joseph was sitting in prison, God was preparing a palace. While Joseph thought nothing was happening, heaven was quietly moving every piece into place. Then, one ordinary night, Pharaoh had a dream. By the end of the day, Joseph had gone from prisoner to prime minister. Only God can write stories like that. Hallelujah!

Ecclesiastes 3:11 reminds us that ***God makes everything beautiful in His time***, not necessarily in ours. And Romans 8:28 assures us that He is working in all things for the good of those who love Him.

So if today feels slow, don't measure God's faithfulness by your calendar. Measure it by His character. The God who remembered Noah in the flood, Hannah in her tears, and Joseph in prison has not misplaced your name. Your waiting is not proof of His absence.

It may simply be the place where He is preparing something bigger than you can presently imagine. Hold on. Keep praying. Keep serving. Keep trusting.

The God who writes the final chapter has never abandoned a story halfway through.

PRAYER

Father, when waiting becomes heavy, help me to remember that You have not forgotten me. Strengthen my heart when hope grows weak, and teach me to trust Your perfect timing above my own. Keep me faithful while You prepare what You have promised. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Dig Deeper: Genesis 37, Genesis 39, Genesis 40–41, Isaiah 49:15–16
Ecclesiastes 3:11, Romans 8:28**

**Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Genesis 40–41, Psalm 40,
Lamentations 3**

Today's Thought: People may forget your name, but God has never forgotten your purpose.



DAY 4

JESUS CALLED THE WRONG MAN

Key Scripture - Luke 19:5-10 (NIV)

"When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.' So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, 'He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.' But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'"

DEVOTIONAL

If you were choosing twelve people to help change the world, would you pick the man everybody complained about? Probably not. Yet Jesus had a habit of seeing people differently. Imagine this scene. The streets were full. Everybody wanted Jesus to notice them. Religious leaders were standing close, respectable people were waiting.

Then Jesus stopped. Looked up into a tree, and called the one man nobody expected. "Zacchaeus, come down immediately."

Excuse me? That man! The tax collector? The one people believed had become rich by cheating others? Yes! That same man. If this happened in Nigeria today, people would say, "Jesus don collect bribe! Of all the people wey dey here, nah Zacchaeus nah him choose?"

But that's exactly the point. Grace rarely goes where pride expects it to go. Grace often begins where human judgment ends. Maybe today you're reading this devotional and you're carrying a past you're ashamed of. Perhaps you've made decisions you wish you could erase. Maybe you've hurt people. Maybe people still remember you for who you used to be. You might have even convinced yourself that God is tired of hearing from you.

Can I tell you something beautiful? Jesus knew everything about Zacchaeus before He called him. Nothing surprised Him. Nothing shocked Him. And still... He called him by name.

Notice that Jesus did not wait for Zacchaeus to become perfect before visiting his house. His kindness came first and the transformation

followed.

Romans 2:4 reminds us ***that it is God's kindness that leads us to repentance.*** We don't clean ourselves up so that Jesus will love us. We encounter His love, and His love begins to change us from the inside out. That's exactly what happened to Zacchaeus. No one forced him to repay those he had cheated. No one threatened him. His heart simply changed because he had encountered Jesus.

Second Corinthians 5:17 says, ***"If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"***

Child of God, don't let your yesterday become the prison of your today. People may remember your mistakes, but God remembers His mercy. The enemy wants you to believe that your story ended with your worst decision. Jesus says your story can begin again.

So whether you're recovering from addiction, rebuilding your family, carrying secret shame, or simply wondering if God could still use someone like you, hear these words as if Jesus is speaking them personally: "I must stay at your house today."

Grace is still looking up into trees. Grace is still calling names. And grace is still changing lives.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for loving me even when I have fallen short. Help me to receive Your grace with humility and to walk each day as someone You are transforming. Let my life reflect the new beginning You have given me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Dig Deeper: Luke 19:1–10, Romans 2:1–4, Second Corinthians 5:17
Ephesians 2:1–10, Psalm 103:8–14**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Luke 19, Psalm 103, Ephesians 2

Today's Thought: Your past may explain where you've been, but it does not have permission to decide where God can take you.



DAY 5

THE PRIEST THOUGHT SHE WAS DRUNK

Key Scripture - 1Samuel 1:12-18 (NIV)

As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, 'How long are you going to stay drunk?

Put away your wine.' 'Not so, my lord,' Hannah replied. 'I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been

drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.' Eli answered, 'Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of Him.' She said, 'May your servant find favour in your eyes.' Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast."

DEVOTIONAL

Imagine going to church carrying the heaviest burden of your life... only for someone to misunderstand you.

That was Hannah. She wasn't causing trouble. She wasn't looking for attention. She wasn't making a scene. She was simply standing before God with a heart that had finally run out of words. Her lips moved, but no sound came out. The priest watched her for a while and came to the wrong conclusion. "You must be drunk."

Can you imagine how much that must have hurt? The very place where she expected compassion became the place where she was misunderstood.

Life can feel like that. People see your face but not your fight. They see you're still single, but they don't know how many nights you've prayed. They see you don't have children yet and assume they have the right to ask questions that leave fresh wounds. They see your business isn't growing, your job hasn't come, your health hasn't improved, and they quietly begin to create stories about you.

That sometimes, is the nature of humans. To assume and judge what we do not understand.

But here's what makes me praise God about Hannah. She didn't argue with everyone. She poured out her soul to God. Notice her words: "I was pouring out my soul to the Lord." What a beautiful picture of prayer. Not polished. Not rehearsed. Not perfect. Just honest.

Sometimes we think we have to impress God with beautiful grammar before He will listen. No. Our Father understands broken sentences,

silent tears and trembling faith. First Peter 5:7 says, **"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."** God never gets tired of listening. Never.

Psalm 56:8 says that **God keeps track of our tears.** Imagine that! The tears people ignore are precious to Him.

Psalm 62:8 says, **"Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge."** That is exactly what Hannah did. She poured out everything. Her disappointment. Her questions. Her shame. Her hope. And God listened.

What amazes me is that Hannah walked away before her circumstances changed. She wasn't pregnant yet. Nothing around her had improved. Yet the Bible says, "She went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast." Why? Because peace arrived before the miracle did.

Sometimes God's first answer is not a changed situation. Sometimes His first gift is a changed heart. Philippians 4:6–7 reminds us that when we bring everything to God in prayer, His peace guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. That peace doesn't always explain the waiting. It simply gives us strength to keep walking through it.

So today, don't hide your tears from God. Don't pretend to be strong when your heart is breaking. Bring Him your whole story. The words. The silence. The disappointment. The hope that still flickers inside you. The God who heard Hannah still listens to whispered prayers. He has never been embarrassed by an honest heart. And He has never ignored a child who comes to Him in faith.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I bring You my whole heart today. You already know my fears, my disappointments, and the prayers I have carried for so long. Give me the courage to keep pouring out my soul before You, fill me with fresh hope, and let Your peace guard my heart while I wait for Your perfect answer. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Dig Deeper: 1Samuel 1, Psalm 56, Psalm 62:5–8, 1Peter 5:6–7
Philippians 4:6–7**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - 1Samuel 1, Psalm 62, Philippians 4

Today's Thought: The prayers spoken through tears are just as clear to God as the prayers spoken with words.



DAY 6

JESUS COOKED BREAKFAST... FOR THE MAN WHO DENIED HIM

Key Scripture - John 21:9-17 (NIV)

"When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.'

None of the disciples dared ask Him, 'Who are You?' They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?' 'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'You know that I love You.' Jesus said, 'Feed My lambs.'"

DEVOTIONAL

If you knew someone had betrayed you... Would you cook breakfast for them? Most of us would probably avoid them. Some of us would block their number. Others would prepare a long speech about disappointment and trust. Yet, Jesus did something completely different.

He made breakfast. That alone should make us pause. Only a few days earlier, Peter had denied even knowing Jesus. Not once, not twice, but three different times.

The bold disciple who promised, **"Even if all fall away on account of You, I never will"** (Matthew 26:33), could not keep that promise. Before the rooster crowed, fear had spoken louder than faith.

Can you imagine the weight Peter carried? Every time he remembered that night, he probably wished he could go back and change it. Maybe you understand that feeling. Perhaps your greatest battle isn't what someone did to you. It's what you did. A decision you regret. A home that fell apart. An individual you wish you had treated differently.

Money you wasted. A secret sin that still whispers, "God cannot use you anymore."

Child of God... shame is a heavy load. Guilt can make you feel like you're disqualified forever. But look carefully at what Jesus did. When Peter arrived on the shore, he found a charcoal fire. That detail matters. The last charcoal fire Peter had stood beside was the one where he denied Jesus (John 18:18). Now Jesus brought Peter to another charcoal fire.

Not to humiliate him. Not to reopen the wound. But to heal the memory. Our Lord has a beautiful way of returning to the places that broke us—not to shame us, but to restore us.

Then came the question. "Simon... Do you love me?" This question was asked three times,

Three opportunities to affirm the love that fear had once silenced. Jesus never pretended Peter's failure didn't happen. He simply refused to let it have the final word. That is the Gospel.

Romans 8:1 declares, ***"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."***

And First John 1:9 promises that ***if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

Notice something else. Jesus restored Peter before Peter ever preached at Pentecost. Grace came before ministry. Relationship came before responsibility. Today, perhaps you've been telling yourself, "God is finished with me." No.

If your heart still turns toward Jesus, His grace is still reaching toward you. Come back. Sit by the fire and receive His forgiveness. Then get up and keep following Him. The cross has already spoken louder than your worst mistake.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for meeting me with mercy instead of condemnation. Where shame has kept me hiding, draw me back to Your presence. Restore what guilt has broken, remind me that I am forgiven, and help me walk boldly in the new life You have given me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Dig Deeper: John 18:15–27, John 21:1–19 Romans 8:1
1John 1:5–10, Psalm 51**

**Reading Plan: Today's Reading - John 18:15–27, John 21:1–19,
Romans 8:1, 1John 1:5–10, Psalm 51**

Today's Thought: Jesus does not define you by the moment you fell. He invites you to walk with Him from the place where He restored you.



DAY 7

LEFT, NOT WRONG

Key Scripture - Judges 3:15–17, 21 (WEB)

"But when the children of Israel cried to Yahweh, Yahweh raised them up a savior, Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a left-handed man... he made him a sword which had two edges, a cubit in length; and he wore it under his clothing on his right thigh. He offered the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man... Ehud put out his left hand, and took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his body."

DEVOTIONAL

There was a man in the Bible whose people needed rescuing from a king who had gotten a little too comfortable with power.

This was fairly normal back then. Israel sins, Israel gets oppressed, Israel cries out, God sends help. Rinse and repeat. Sigh. It's basically the Old Testament's recurring plotline.

But before I turn this into a history lecture, let me introduce you to the two men at the center of this one, because both of them are still walking around today. You've probably met their modern versions. First, Ehud.

His defining feature, according to Scripture, is that he was left-handed. In a world that trusted the right hand for everything; combat, honor, business. Ehud's left hand would have been seen as an obstruction, a failure on his end. Yet, Ehud's whole rescue plan worked because nobody expected the "wrong" hand to be dangerous. He strapped his blade to the thigh nobody searched. The thing that made him different is the exact thing that got him into the room.

Maybe you've spent years quietly convinced that your version of "left-handed". Your personality, your past, your accent, your unconventional story, makes you less usable to God. Paul disagrees: **"God chose the foolish things... to shame the wise"** (1 Corinthians 1:27). Nobody's checking your résumé before deciding whether God can use you.

Now, Eglon.

Scripture doesn't hold back here, it flatly calls him "a very fat man," which, in context, isn't really about his body. It's about a king who had

gotten so soft on comfort, tribute, and self-importance that he never saw danger walking straight into his throne room. He was too relaxed in his own excess to stay alert.

That's the part that should make us squirm a little.

Excess has a way of doing that to anyone, leader or not. Comfort convinces you nothing can touch you right up until it does. "Pride goes before destruction" (Proverbs 16:18). Eglon didn't lose his kingdom to an army. He lost it in one private moment because he'd stopped paying attention.

Here's the hope in all this: God didn't wait for Ehud to feel qualified, and He didn't need Eglon's kingdom to stay intact for His plans to move forward. Whatever "wrong hand" you've been hiding, and whatever excess or comfort has made you sluggish lately, today's a good day to notice both.

"My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). Bring the hand you actually have. Stay awake in your own house.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for using exactly what I have, even the parts I've been embarrassed by. Wake me up where I've gotten too comfortable, and give me courage to move when You call — even without feeling fully ready. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Dig Deeper: Judges 3:12–30, 1Corinthians 1:26–29, Proverbs 16:18
·2Corinthians 12:7–10**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Judges 3, Proverbs 16, 1 Corinthians 1

Today's Thought: God doesn't need your strongest hand or your most comfortable season. He just needs you awake and willing.



DAY 8

WRONG SIDE OF THE WALL

*God's family tree has room for the address
you're ashamed of.*

Key Scripture - Joshua 2:1, 3-4, 15 (WEB)

Joshua the son of Nun sent two men as spies secretly... and the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, 'Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered into your house; for they have come to search out all the land.' The woman took the two men and hid them... Then she let them down by a cord through the window; for her house was on the side of the city wall, and she lived on the wall."

DEVOTIONAL

Let's start with the résumé nobody would approve of..

She ran a house built on a wall on the edge of a pagan city, made her living the oldest way a woman could, and had absolutely no religious credentials to speak of. If Jericho had a church directory, Rahab would not have been in it.

And yet, here she is, front and center in one of the most important military operations in Israel's history, hiding two Hebrew spies under stalks of flax on her roof while soldiers pounded on her door.

I don't know about you, but I would not have picked Rahab for this job. God apparently disagreed.

When the king's men came asking about the spies, Rahab lied, redirected them, and then quietly told the men the truth: **"I know that Yahweh has given you the land... for Yahweh your God, he is God in heaven above, and on earth beneath"** (Joshua 2:9, 11, WEB). That's a stronger theological statement than some of Israel's own leaders managed. It came from a woman the city had already written off.

Here's the part that should stop you mid-scroll: this same Rahab shows up centuries later in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:5). Not as a footnote. Not with an asterisk explaining her past. Just listed, plainly, but as part of the bloodline of the Messiah.

Heaven, apparently, doesn't redact your file the way you'd expect.

Maybe you've got a "side of town" you hope nobody finds out about. A season you don't bring up at church. A reputation you're still quietly outrunning. Rahab's story isn't in Scripture as a scandal to whisper

about, it's there as proof of what God does with people the world has already filed under "not usable."

Hebrews puts it plainly: ***"By faith the prostitute Rahab didn't perish with those who were disobedient"*** (Hebrews 11:31). Not "the reformed woman." Not "the former prostitute." Just Rahab, named exactly as she was, saved by faith exactly where she was.

She didn't have to fix her whole life before she helped change the course of Israel's history. She just had to act on the little faith she had, with the door already closing in on her.

That's the invitation today. You don't need a clean record to be useful to God. You need a willingness to act on what little you believe, right where you currently are, wall address and all.

"Faith without works is dead" (James 2:26). Rahab had both. So can you.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You that my past isn't the final word on my usefulness to You. Where I've been hiding a part of my story out of shame, give me the courage Rahab had — to act on faith exactly where I am. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dig Deeper: Joshua 2:1–24, Joshua 6:22–25, Matthew 1:1–6, Hebrews 11:31, James 2:25–26

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Joshua 2, Matthew 1, James 2

Today's Thought: God's family tree was never limited to people with clean records — just people willing to act on the faith they had.



DAY 9

THE BLUFF THAT WORKED

Joshua 9:3–6, 14 (WEB)

"But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, they also worked craftily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks on their donkeys, and wine skins, old and torn and mended, and old and patched shoes on their feet, and old garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry and moldy... The men sampled their provisions, and didn't ask counsel from Yahweh's mouth."

DEVOTIONAL

There was a group of people so terrified of losing a war they hadn't even started fighting yet, that they came up with one of the most elaborate cosplay operations in the Old Testament.

The Gibeonites heard what happened to Jericho and Ai, two powerful cities leveled by the children of God, and decided the smartest move wasn't to fight Israel. It was to trick them into a peace treaty. So they got creative. Moldy bread. Cracked wine skins. Patched-up shoes. Worn-out clothes. They basically showed up dressed like they'd been walking for a month, when really they lived just down the road.

And it worked. Completely.

Joshua and Israel's leaders looked at the "evidence," made their own judgment call, and signed a treaty, all without asking God a single question about it. Verse fourteen says it plainly: ***they sampled the bread, but they didn't consult Yahweh.***

That line should make you wince a little. Not because moldy bread is the end of the world, but because it's such a normal mistake to make. We do this constantly. We look at the evidence in front of us, feel confident we've got it figured out, and skip the step where we actually ask God what He thinks.

You'd think this story ends in disaster. It doesn't, not exactly. When Israel discovers the trick three days later, they're furious, but they kept the treaty anyway, because they'd made an oath in God's name. ***"We have sworn to them by Yahweh, the God of Israel: now therefore we may not touch them"*** (Joshua 9:19). Their word, once given before God, still mattered, even though it was given carelessly.

Here's what I find strangely comforting about that: God didn't erase the consequences of Israel's bad discernment, but He also didn't let the whole thing collapse into chaos. The Gibeonites ended up serving in the tabernacle, woven into Israel's ongoing story instead of being destroyed by it (Joshua 9:27).

Maybe you've made an agreement, a commitment, or a decision you didn't fully pray through. Maybe someone presented you with "evidence", dressed up, convincing, well-rehearsed and you didn't ask God about it before you said yes. That's a real, common way to end up somewhere you didn't plan for.

This story isn't permission to skip discernment. If anything, it's the opposite, a reminder that consulting God isn't a formality, it's protection. ***"Trust in Yahweh with all your heart, and don't lean on your own understanding"*** (Proverbs 3:5).

But if you're currently living with the fallout of a decision you rushed, take heart. God is still able to work faithfully inside the deal you already made, even the one you wish you'd prayed about first.

PRAYER

Lord, forgive me for the times I've decided things without asking You first. Where I'm currently living with a decision I rushed into, meet me there with Your wisdom and Your faithfulness. Teach me to consult You before I sign onto anything else. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dig Deeper: Joshua 9:1–27, Proverbs 3:5–6, James 1:5, Psalm 25:4–5

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Joshua 9, Proverbs 3, Psalm 25

Today's Thought: God's covenant can survive our rushed decisions — but asking Him first will always spare you the moldy bread.



DAY 10

THE WET FLEECE TEST

Judges 6:36–40 (WEB)

"Gideon said to God, 'If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have spoken, behold, I will put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have spoken.' It was so... And

Gideon said to God, 'Don't let your anger be kindled against me, and I will speak but this once. Please let me test, I pray you, but this once with the fleece.'"

DEVOTIONAL

Here's a man God had already called, already commissioned, already promised victory to, and he still needed convincing. Twice.

Gideon wasn't some random guy grasping for a sign out of nowhere. An angel had already sat under his tree and called him a "mighty man of valor" (Judges 6:12). God had already told him plainly, **"Surely I will be with you"** (Judges 6:16). And Gideon's response to that clear, direct promise was, essentially, "Prove it. With wool. On the ground. Overnight."

I find that oddly relatable.

We like to imagine that real faith means never asking God to confirm anything, that doubt is something spiritually mature people have outgrown. But Gideon, a man scripture later lists among the heroes of faith (Hebrews 11:32), asked for a sign, got it, and then immediately asked for the opposite sign, just to be sure the first one wasn't a coincidence.

And God didn't scold him for it.

He didn't say, "You already had your answer, figure it out yourself." He simply did it again. Wet fleece, dry ground. Then dry fleece, wet ground. Two nights, two confirmations, zero lectures.

That should tell you something about how God actually handles our hesitation. He's patient with the process of you working up to obedience. Not indifferent to it, Gideon does open his second request by practically apologizing, aware he's pushing it, but God still meets him there anyway.

Maybe you're standing exactly where Gideon stood. You know what God has told you to do. You've heard it in prayer, in Scripture, maybe from someone else confirming it independently. And you're still hesitating, still asking for one more sign before you'll actually move. That's not necessarily unbelief. Sometimes it's just fear wearing the costume of caution.

Here's the part worth sitting with, though: God answered the fleece twice, but He didn't answer it forever. At some point, Gideon had to get up, gather the men, and walk toward the battle he'd already been promised he would win. The confirmation wasn't the finish line. It was fuel to actually go.

"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). You've likely already heard what you need to hear. The fleece test isn't wrong to want. It's just not meant to replace walking.

If you need one more confirmation today, ask for it. God can handle that conversation. But when the answer comes back clear, again, be ready to actually move.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for being patient with my hesitation instead of shaming it. Where You've already spoken clearly, give me courage to move instead of asking for one more sign. Strengthen the faith I already have. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dig Deeper: ·Judges 6:11–40, Hebrews 11:32–34,
Romans 10:17, Mark 9:24

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Judges 6, Hebrews 11, Romans 10

***Today's Thought: God isn't offended by your need for confirmation.
He's just waiting for you to move once you have it.***



DAY 11

THREE HUNDRED FOXES AND ONE TERRIBLE PLAN

Judges 15:4–5 (WEB)

“Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took torches, and turned tail to tail, and put a torch in the middle between every two tails. When he had set the torches on fire, he let them go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks and the standing grain, and also the olive groves.”

DEVOTIONAL

My people, I need you to picture this scene properly before we continue.

Samson. Three hundred foxes. Torches tied tail-to-tail. In broad daylight, or maybe by night, either way, somebody had to catch each fox one at a time, right? Not one, not two. Three hundred. If you've ever tried to catch even one confused chicken in your compound, you understand the level of chaos we're talking about here.

And after all that stress, what did Samson do with the foxes? He didn't sell them. He didn't cook pepper soup. He tied torches to them and sent them running through the Philistines' farmland, burning up their grain, their vineyards, their olive groves...everything.

Nah so Samson dey solve problem.

This man had strength. God-given, supernatural, undeniable strength. But strength and wisdom are not the same currency, and this whole chapter is proof. Samson's story keeps going like this: something offends him, he retaliates in the most dramatic, over-engineered way possible, and the cycle of revenge just keeps growing bigger.

Sound familiar?

Maybe not with foxes. But you know that one message you typed at 1am in the morning, finger shaking with anger, ready to press send and destroy a relationship in one paragraph? That's Samson energy. You know that decision you made, quit the job without a plan, cut off the whole family over one comment, burn a bridge you'll need later, just because your emotions were louder than your discernment at that

moment? Also Samson energy.

Proverbs warns us plainly: **"A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back"** (Proverbs 29:11). Samson had the anointing. He didn't always have restraint.

Here's the part that should really slow you down, though. Samson's foxes started a fire he couldn't control. It burned the Philistines' crops, yes but it also triggered more retaliation, more death, more destruction, spiraling far past what Samson probably intended when he first got angry. That's what unwise strength does. It rarely stays contained to the size of the original offense.

I'm not writing this to condemn anger. Anger itself isn't a sin. Ephesians even allows for it: **"Be angry, and don't sin"** (Ephesians 4:26). But there's a wide gap between righteous anger and Samson's fox-and-torch method of handling every offense.

The good news buried in all this mess? God still used Samson. Flawed, impulsive, reactive Samson still shows up in Hebrews 11 among the heroes of faith. God's ability to use you was never fully cancelled by your worst decision, but that doesn't mean the fire you start won't still burn something down first.

Before you tie the next torch, ask yourself: am I about to solve this, or am I about to burn a field I'll need next season?

PRAYER

Lord, forgive me for the times I've let anger design my next move instead of You. Give me strength that comes with wisdom, and help me put the torch down before I light something I can't undo. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Dig Deeper: Judges 15:1–8, Proverbs 29:11, Ephesians 4:26–27
Hebrews 11:32**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Judges 15, Proverbs 29, Ephesians 4

Today's Thought: Strength will always draw a crowd. Wisdom is what keeps it from burning the wrong field.



DAY 12

THE WOMAN WHO WON A WAR WITH A TENT PEG

Judges 4:18, 21 (WEB)

"Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, 'Turn in, my lord, turn in to me. Don't be afraid.' He came into her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug... Then Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent peg, and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him, and struck the pin into his temples, and pierced through into the ground; for he was in a deep sleep; so he fainted and died."

DEVOTIONAL

Let me set the scene, because this one deserves proper attention.

Sisera was the commander of an army that had oppressed Israel for twenty years, cruelly, with nine hundred iron chariots. This was not a small threat. This was the general everybody feared. And when his own army finally collapsed in battle, he ran, on foot, straight into the tent of a woman named Jael.

Now, ordinarily, this should have been safe territory for him. Jael's household had a peace treaty with his people (Judges 4:17). He walked in expecting shelter. She gave him milk instead of water, covered him with a blanket like a mother tucking in a tired child, and told him not to be afraid.

Then, while he slept, she picked up a tent peg and a hammer, and finished the war herself.

Chai.

I want you to notice something before we move any further: nobody sent Jael to do this. No prophet anointed her. No army commander gave her orders. She wasn't even on Israel's side by blood, she was a Kenite, a separate people entirely. She simply saw the opportunity God had placed directly in her tent, and she didn't waste it being intimidated by the size of the man or the weight of his reputation.

This is where the story stops being just history and starts being personal.

How many of us have had "Sisera" walk right into our territory? An opportunity, an opening, a moment where God clearly set something in

front of us, and we hesitated because the assignment felt too big for someone like us? We say, "God, surely You don't mean me. I don't even have the right qualifications for this."

Jael didn't have a sword. She had tools she already owned, a peg and a hammer, items sitting in her tent for entirely ordinary reasons. God didn't wait for her to acquire better weapons. He used what was already in her hand.

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). That's exactly what Jael did. No dramatic buildup, no waiting for permission, just decisive action with what she already had.

Deborah later sings about this moment, declaring Jael **"most blessed of women"** (Judges 5:24) A title given not to a soldier, not to a prophetess, but to a woman who simply refused to let fear or lack of qualification stop her when the moment arrived.

Maybe today, something is sleeping in your tent that God has already handed you the tools to deal with. Stop waiting for a bigger weapon. Pick up what's already in your hand.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for placing opportunities in my path, even when I feel unqualified for them. Help me stop waiting for better tools and start using what's already in my hand. Give me Jael's courage when the moment finally comes. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Dig Deeper: Judges 4:1–24, Judges 5:24–27, Ecclesiastes 9:10
1 Samuel 17:45–50**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Judges 4, Judges 5, Ecclesiastes 9

Today's Thought: God doesn't always send reinforcements. Sometimes He just points you to the hammer already in your hand.



DAY 13

HE CRIED ANYWAY

John 11:32–35 (WEB)

"Therefore when Mary came to where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying to him, 'Lord, if you would have been here, my brother wouldn't have died.'

When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews weeping who came with her; he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, and said, 'Where have you laid him?' They told him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept."

DEVOTIONAL

Two verses before this, Jesus had already said the plan out loud: **"This sickness is not to death, but for the glory of God"** (John 11:4). He knew Lazarus would walk out of that tomb. He knew the ending before anybody else in the story did.

And He still cried.

That detail alone should stop us. Jesus wasn't confused about what was about to happen. He wasn't grieving out of uncertainty, the way we do when we don't know how a situation will end. He had the full script in His hands, and He still let Himself feel the weight of the moment in front of Him.

We don't usually give ourselves that permission.

How many times *una don* hear, or say: "But you're a Christian now, why are you still crying like this? Where's your faith?" As if trusting God's outcome means you're not allowed to feel anything on the way there. As if maturity in Christ equals a straight face at every funeral, every diagnosis, every disappointment.

Jesus just quietly dismantled that idea two thousand years ago, standing outside a tomb He was about to empty.

He groaned in His spirit. He was troubled. Then He wept. The shortest verse in most English Bibles, and one of the most loaded. Not despite knowing the resurrection was seconds away. Right in the middle of knowing it.

This tells me something important about how God relates to our pain. He doesn't rush us past grief just because He's already planned the

comeback. Mary and Martha were both hurting, and Jesus didn't respond with a lecture about faith or a reminder of the miracle to come. He stood with them in it first. He let the loss be real before He did anything about it.

"He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3) but notice the order. He heals the brokenhearted. He doesn't skip the broken part to get to the healing.

Maybe you're holding something right now where you already know or believe God is going to move. You've prayed, you've gotten the promise, you're standing on the Word. And you still feel like crying today. That's not a lack of faith. That's just being human in front of something painful, exactly like Jesus was.

You're allowed to weep at the tomb even when you know the stone is about to move.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for showing me that grief and faith can exist in the same breath. Where I've been holding back tears because I thought they meant I didn't trust You, give me permission to feel what's real. Meet me in the waiting, the way You met Mary and Martha. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Dig Deeper: John 11:1–44, Psalm 147:3, Psalm 34:18
Romans 12:15**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading -John 11, Psalm 147, Romans 12

Today's Thought: Jesus didn't need to cry to fix anything. He cried because the moment deserved it. So do yours.



DAY 14

PLEASE SIR, FIND MY AXE HEAD

2 Kings 6:5–6 (WEB)

"But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water. Then he cried, and said, 'Alas, my master! For it was borrowed.' The man of God said, 'Where did it fall?' He showed him the place. He cut down a stick, threw it in there, and made the iron float."

DEVOTIONAL

Small small problem, but big big panic. That's basically this whole story.

One of the young prophets was out cutting wood with the others, minding his business, when the axe head, just the metal part, flew off the handle and dropped straight into the river. Gone. And immediately he's shouting, "Alas, my master! It was borrowed!"

I laugh every time I read this, because the man's first concern wasn't even the axe. It was the shame of losing something that wasn't his. Anyone who has ever borrowed a charger, car, a friend's good pot for a party, and returned it damaged or worse, didn't return it at all, understands this man's panic completely. Some things you can afford to lose. Somebody else's property is not one of them.

But look at what Elisha does. He doesn't dismiss the problem as too small for a prophet's attention. He doesn't say, "Ah-ah, it's just an axe head, go and buy another one." He asks one simple question. **"Where did it fall?"** proceeded to cut a stick, throw it in the water, and the iron floated back up to the surface.

Iron doesn't float. That's not a metaphor, that's basic physics, and Scripture is fully aware of that fact. Which is exactly the point. God isn't limited by what naturally sinks in your life.

Here's what gets me about this miracle: it's not dramatic. Nobody's nation is being delivered. No king is being confronted. It's one poor man's borrowed tool, in a river, and God cared enough to reverse the laws of nature over it.

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them falls to

the ground apart from your Father's will" (Matthew 10:29). If God tracks sparrows and floats axe heads, then whatever "small" loss you're carrying today, the thing you feel embarrassed to even pray about because it seems too minor compared to "real" problems, is not too small for Him either.

Maybe it's not an axe head for you. Maybe it's a relationship you borrowed too much trust in and mishandled. A responsibility you were given that slipped out of your hands faster than you expected. A reputation, a job, an opportunity, something you feel you've lost that wasn't fully yours to lose in the first place, and now you're standing at the riverbank saying, "Alas, it was borrowed."

Show God where it fell. He's not too big to bend down for what looks small to everyone else.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You that nothing I'm carrying is too small for Your attention. Where I've lost something I feel ashamed about — borrowed or not — help me bring it honestly to You instead of hiding by the riverbank. Make the impossible float again. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Dig Deeper: 2 Kings 6:1–7, Matthew 10:29–31, Philippians 4:6–7
Psalm 37:5**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - 2 Kings 6, Matthew 10, Philippians 4

Today's Thought: God bends down for the "small" things too. Nothing borrowed is beneath His notice.



DAY 15

TOO SIMPLE TO BELIEVE

2 Kings 5:10, 12–13 (WEB)

Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall come again to you, and you shall be clean.' But Naaman was angry, and went away, and said, 'Behold, I said, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of Yahweh his God!...

Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel?... His servants... said, 'My father, if the prophet had asked you to do some great thing, wouldn't you have done it?' "It in there, and made the iron float."

DEVOTIONAL

Naaman was not a small man. He was commander of Syria's army, a war hero, somebody with real influence, the kind of person used to being received properly wherever he goes. So when he shows up at Elisha's house expecting a whole production of hand-waving, dramatic prayers, maybe a small fire from heaven and Elisha doesn't even come outside, just sends a servant with instructions to go and bathe in the Jordan seven times, Naaman was offended. Genuinely insulted.

I laugh, because I understand him. If you told me my breakthrough was hiding behind something this ordinary, I for vex small.

Here's what's really happening under his anger, though: Naaman wanted his healing to match his status. He wanted a miracle worthy of a general. Something with ceremony, something impressive to tell people about later. Instead, God offered him the most unglamorous prescription imaginable: dip in a river seven times. No fanfare. No spectacle.

His own servants are the ones who talked sense into him: ***"If the prophet had asked you to do some great thing, wouldn't you have done it? How much more, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"*** (2 Kings 5:13). Sometimes the people closest to you, not the prophets, not the platform voices are the ones who'll tell you the truth plainly: your pride is the only obstacle left.

Naaman eventually went down, dipped seven times exactly as instructed, and came out with skin like a child's. The miracle was always

available. Obedience was the only missing ingredient.

How many of us are still standing at our own Jordan, arms folded, waiting for God's instruction to feel more spiritual, more dramatic, more befitting of our situation? We want the fasting, the prophecy, the elaborate testimony, when sometimes what God's asking is embarrassingly plain: apologize first. Rest. Show up to the small group. Have the conversation you're avoiding. Go to the doctor. Wash, seven times, in the ordinary river you didn't expect.

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:6). Naaman's healing was never about the river being special. It was about him being willing to lower himself into something that felt beneath him.

Whatever "small" instruction you've been resisting because it doesn't feel important enough for your situation that might be exactly where your miracle is waiting.

PRAYER

Lord, forgive me for wanting my breakthrough to look impressive instead of simply obeying You. Help me trust Your instructions even when they feel too plain for what I'm facing. Teach me to wash when You say wash. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Dig Deeper: 2 Kings 5:1–19, 1 Peter 5:5–7
Proverbs 3:5–7, James 4:6–10**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - 2 Kings 5, 1 Peter 5, Proverbs 3

Today's Thought: Your miracle might not need a stage. Sometimes it just needs your obedience.



DAY 16

FED BY THE SAME BIRDS THAT STEAL YOUR FOOD

1Kings 17:2–4, 6 (WEB)

"Yahweh's word came to him, saying, 'Go from here, turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith... You shall drink of the brook. I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.'... The ravens brought him bread and meat in the

morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank of the brook."

DEVOTIONAL

Ravens are not known for their generosity. Ask anyone whose backyard, market stall, or leftover food has ever been raided by one. These are scavenger birds, opportunistic, greedy, the last creature you'd trust to bring you a meal instead of stealing it.

And these are exactly the animals God chose to feed His prophet during a famine.

Elijah had just delivered a bold, public prophecy that would shut down rain across the land (1 Kings 17:1). Then God immediately tells him to go hide by a brook, alone, with no visible means of survival and sends birds known for taking food to instead bring it. Twice a day. Bread and meat, morning and evening, delivered by creatures with zero natural reason to share.

This is the part of the story I want us to actually notice: God's provision arrived through a source that had no business being reliable. If Elijah had judged his supply line by its reputation, he would have starved waiting for a "better" method. Instead, he drank from the brook and ate what the ravens brought, without demanding an explanation for how or why it worked.

Sometimes God's provision for you will look exactly like this coming from a person, a job, a relationship, or a situation you wouldn't have chosen, that doesn't seem trustworthy or generous by nature, and yet somehow feeds you anyway. You don't have to fully understand the delivery system to receive what's actually being provided.

"My God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). Notice the verse doesn't specify the

method. God's supply doesn't always travel through channels that make sense on paper.

There's a second layer here too; the brook itself eventually dried up (1 Kings 17:7). Even Elijah's reliable source had a season, an expiry date, a limit. Provision from God is not always meant to last forever in the same form; sometimes it's meant to carry you to the next instruction, which for Elijah meant an entirely different provision through a widow with almost nothing left to give.

If your current source of help feels unlikely, or strange, or beneath what you expected that's not necessarily a sign something's wrong. It might just be ravens doing exactly what God commanded them to do.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You that Your provision doesn't need to make sense to me for it to be real. Help me receive what You send, even through unlikely sources, without demanding an explanation first. Teach me to trust You for the next brook when this one runs dry. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Dig Deeper: 1Kings 17:1–16, Philippians 4:19
Matthew 6:26, Psalm 37:25**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - 1Kings 17, Philippians 4, Matthew 6

*Today's Thought: God doesn't always send provision that looks trustworthy.
He sends provision that's obedient to Him.*



DAY 17

POUR UNTIL YOU RUN OUT OF POTS

2Kings 4:2–4, 6 (WEB)

"Elisha said to her, 'What shall I do for you? Tell me: what do you have in the house?' She said, 'Your handmaid has nothing in the house, except a pot of oil.' Then he said, 'Go, borrow containers from all your neighbors, even empty containers. Don't borrow just a few... you shall pour out into all those vessels... When the vessels were full... she said to her son, Bring me another vessel.' He said to her, 'There isn't another vessel.' Then the oil stopped flowing."

DEVOTIONAL

This woman was two children away from watching them sold into slavery to cover her dead husband's debt. That's the level of desperation we're stepping into here. And when Elisha asks what she has, her answer is basically, "Nothing except one small pot of oil." Which, honestly, sounds like a polite way of saying "nothing" twice.

Elisha's instruction is usual: go and borrow empty containers, as many as you can get, not just a few. This is someone who has a small pot of oil left. She was in debt and did not know how to fix her situation. Yet, she does something remarkable. She listened to the instruction of the prophet. . Her sons kept bringing jars, pots, anything they could find from the neighbors, and she kept pouring from that one small supply of oil, and it kept flowing, jar after jar, without running dry.

Until one thing happened: the containers finished. Not the oil. The containers.

Verse six says it plainly, the oil only stopped when there was nothing left to pour it into. Meaning the actual limit on her miracle was never God's supply. It was how many empty vessels she was willing to go collect.

I want you to sit with that for a second, because it quietly reframes a lot of the disappointment we carry. We often assume our breakthrough is delayed because God is holding back. Sometimes, the truth is closer to this widow's story: the oil was always ready to keep flowing. We just stopped bringing containers.

How many "empty vessels" have you refused to go ask for, out of pride, exhaustion, or fear of appearing needy? The opportunity you didn't

apply for. The conversation you didn't have. The relationship you didn't repair. The help you didn't ask a neighbor for, because you didn't want people to know your pot was almost empty.

"You do not have, because you do not ask" (James 4:2). It's a hard verse, but this widow's story proves it gently instead of harshly. She asked, she borrowed, she gathered as much capacity as she could, and God filled every bit of it.

She then sells the oil, pays off the debt, and lives on what's left with her sons (2 Kings 4:7) A provision that didn't just rescue her, but sustained her afterward too.

Whatever season you're in, don't stop at the first empty jar. Keep borrowing containers. The oil isn't finished. You might just be.

PRAYER

Lord, forgive me for the times I've stopped asking, stopped gathering, stopped believing there was more available. Give me the courage to keep bringing empty vessels, trusting You to keep filling them. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Dig Deeper: 2Kings 4:1–7, James 4:2–3
Matthew 7:7–8, Philippians 4:19**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - 2Kings 4, James 4, Matthew 7

Today's Thought: God's supply rarely runs out before your willingness to ask does.



DAY 18

OBEDIENCE WITHOUT DIGNITY

Isaiah 20:2-3 (WEB)

"At that time Yahweh spoke by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, 'Go, and loosen the sackcloth from off your waist, and take your shoes from off your feet.' He did so, walking naked and barefoot. Yahweh said, 'As my servant Isaiah has walked naked and barefoot three years for a sign and a wonder concerning Egypt and concerning Ethiopia.'"

DEVOTIONAL

This is one of those Bible chapters people skip past quickly, mostly because it's uncomfortable and doesn't get preached often. But it's there, plainly, for three whole years: God asked Isaiah to walk around without his outer garments and sandals, as a living, breathing prophecy against relying on Egypt and Ethiopia for security instead of God.

Three years. Not three minutes of embarrassment. Three years of being the man everyone whispered about.

I want to be honest this isn't a comfortable devotional to write, and it probably wasn't a comfortable assignment to receive. Isaiah was a respected prophet, a man with dignity and standing, and God's instruction stripped that away publicly, deliberately, as a warning sign to an entire nation who would rather trust foreign alliances than trust Yahweh.

Here's what strikes me most: Isaiah didn't get to explain himself constantly. He couldn't walk around saying, "Please understand, this is symbolic, I have a message from God." He simply had to live out the obedience and let people draw their own conclusions, right or wrong, for three years straight.

That's a specific kind of obedience most of us never get asked for, the kind where you lose control of your own image for the sake of what God is doing through you, and you don't get to correct the narrative while it's happening.

Maybe your assignment hasn't cost you your literal dignity, but it's cost

you something adjacent to your reputation with people who don't understand your choices. Your comfort, walking away from something secure because God said so. Your image, when people assume things about you that aren't true, and God hasn't cleared you to explain yet.

"We are fools for Christ's sake" (1 Corinthians 4:10) Paul wasn't being dramatic. Some obedience genuinely looks foolish from the outside, right up until its purpose is revealed.

Isaiah's discomfort had a point: an entire warning about misplaced trust, embodied so vividly that Egypt and Ethiopia's fate couldn't be ignored (Isaiah 20:4–6). His obedience wasn't random suffering, it was a message people could see even when they wouldn't listen to words.

If your current obedience feels undignified, unexplainable, or embarrassing to people watching, you're in stranger company than you think. Isaiah walked that road for three years before anyone understood why.

PRAYER

Lord, give me the courage to obey You even when it costs me my image or my comfort. Help me trust that what looks foolish to others may be exactly what You're using for a greater purpose. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dig Deeper: Isaiah 20:1–6, 1Corinthians 4:9–13, 1Corinthians 1:27, 2 Corinthians 4:8–10

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Isaiah 20, 1Corinthians 4, 2Corinthians 4

Today's Thought: God's supply rarely runs out before your willingness to ask does.



DAY 19

THE PROPHET WHO RAN THE WRONG WAY

*Running from your calling doesn't cancel it.
It just makes the road longer.*

Jonah 1:3, 17 (WEB)

"But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of Yahweh. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship... and paid its fare, and went down into it... Yahweh prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights."

DEVOTIONAL

God said Nineveh. Jonah bought a ticket for Tarshish. If you're checking a map, that's not a small detour. Tarshish was in the completely opposite direction, the furthest place he could reasonably run in that era. Jonah didn't hesitate about the assignment. He hesitated about obeying it, packed a bag, and left immediately just toward the wrong city entirely.

Somebody, somewhere, is currently doing exactly this. Not openly rebelling against God, just quietly booking the opposite ticket. Avoiding the conversation. Ignoring the call to ministry. Staying in the relationship they know they should leave, or leaving the one they know they should fight for. Running isn't always dramatic sometimes it just looks like really committed avoidance.

Then the storm comes. The sailors are panicking, throwing cargo overboard, praying to whatever gods they know, while Jonah, the actual cause of the chaos, is asleep in the bottom of the boat (Jonah 1:5). There's something almost comedic and deeply familiar about that image: running from God can put you into a deep, exhausted sleep in the middle of other people's storms, storms you helped cause without even realizing it.

Eventually they throw him overboard, and instead of drowning, he gets swallowed by a great fish. Three days in there no sunlight, no comfort, no explanation and it's inside that fish, of all places, that Jonah finally prays. Not before the storm. Not during the panic. In the belly of the very consequence he was trying to avoid.

"When my soul fainted within me I remembered Yahweh" (Jonah 2:7). Sometimes it takes the belly of something uncomfortable to remember who you were running from in the first place.

Here's the mercy in this story that we skip past too quickly: God didn't abandon Jonah in the sea when he ran. He didn't let the storm finish him. He prepared a fish not as punishment only, but as rescue disguised as consequence. The fish that swallowed Jonah was also the thing that saved him from drowning.

After three days, the fish vomits him onto dry land (Jonah 2:10), and God repeats the original instruction, word for word: go to Nineveh. The assignment hadn't changed. God just waited for Jonah to stop running toward Tarshish.

Whatever you've been avoiding, running from, or dodging take the story as encouragement rather than shame. The call is still there. God isn't in a hurry to replace you. He's just waiting for the belly of your current situation to turn you back around to Him.

PRAYER

Lord, forgive me for the times I've run instead of obeyed. Thank You for using even my detours as rescue instead of abandonment. Turn me back toward what You originally called me to do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dig Deeper: Jonah 1:1–17, Jonah 2:1–10, Jonah 3:1–3, Psalm 139:7–10

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Jonah 1, Jonah 2, Psalm 139

Today's Thought: You can run from the assignment. You can't run from the God who gave it to you.



DAY 20

HE SLEPT FINE WITH THE LIONS

Daniel 6:10, 22 (WEB)

"When Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house... and he kneeled on his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did before... My God has sent his angel, and has shut the lions' mouths, and they have not hurt me; because as before him innocence was found in me."

DEVOTIONAL

Here's a man with enemies powerful enough to convince a king to sign a law specifically designed to trap him. Not a general law, a personal one. They knew Daniel's only "weakness" was his faithfulness to God, so they engineered a decree around exactly that, betting his integrity would be the very thing that would finally destroy him.

They were half right. His integrity is exactly what got him thrown into the den. It's also exactly what got him out of it alive.

What gets me about this story is verse ten when Daniel hears about the new law, one specifically written to catch him praying, he doesn't panic, negotiate, or quietly adjust his habits until the danger passes. He goes home and prays "as he did before." The same window opened toward Jerusalem. Same three times a day. Same posture. No performance for the moment, no sudden new caution, just consistency, even knowing exactly what it would cost him.

That's worth sitting with. A lot of our faith is loud when it's safe and quiet when it's costly. Daniel's was the same size in both seasons.

Then comes the den. And somehow, in a pit full of hungry lions, in total darkness, Daniel sleeps well enough that the king has to come shouting for him first thing in the morning (Daniel 6:19–20). That detail alone tells you something about the kind of peace that comes from a clean conscience. He wasn't calm because the lions looked friendly. He was calm because he knew exactly where he stood with God going into that pit.

"My God has sent his angel, and has shut the lions' mouths" notice Daniel doesn't take credit for surviving. He doesn't say, "I stayed brave" or "I fought them off." He says God intervened, specifically because his innocence had already been established before he ever hit the ground.

Maybe you're currently facing a "den" that was custom-built around your convictions. A workplace pressuring you to compromise, a relationship testing your boundaries, a decision where doing right will clearly cost you something. Daniel's story isn't a promise that obedience always feels safe. It's proof that God shows up specifically in the danger integrity creates.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee" (Isaiah 26:3, KJV). Keep praying toward the window. Even if they build the den around you and the God that shuts the mouths of lions will see you out, and you will have cause to celebrate in Jesus' name.

PRAYER

Lord, give me the courage to stay consistent in my faith even when it's costly or dangerous. Help me trust that You are present in the dens I didn't choose, and that my integrity is never wasted, even when it feels like it's working against me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Dig Deeper: Daniel 6:1–23, Isaiah 26:3, Psalm 34:19,
Hebrews 11:32–34**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Daniel 6, Isaiah 26, Psalm 34

Today's Thought: God doesn't always keep you out of the den. He shows up to shut the mouths waiting for you inside it.



DAY 21

THE FOURTH MAN NOBODY INVITED

Daniel 3:24–25 (WEB)

"Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste: he spoke and said to his counselors, 'Didn't we cast three men bound into the middle of the fire?' They answered the king, 'True, O king.' He answered, 'Look, I see four men loose, walking in the middle of the fire, and they have no harm; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.'"

DEVOTIONAL

Three men refused to bow to an idol, in a land where they were strangers. The options were to bow to the statue, or face the furnace. We also have one king determined to make an example of anybody who wouldn't fall in line. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't negotiate, they didn't ask for a compromise, didn't even seem nervous about the consequences when they answered the king plainly: **"Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us... but if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods"** (Daniel 3:17–18).

"But if not." That phrase alone deserves its own devotion. Their confidence in God wasn't dependent on the outcome going their way.

The king, furious, heats the furnace seven times hotter than normal, hot enough that the soldiers throwing them in are killed instantly by the heat (Daniel 3:22). And then something happens that nobody in that court expected. The king looks into the fire and counts four men walking around, unbound, unharmed, in the middle of flames that had just killed his own soldiers standing outside it.

Nobody invited the fourth man. He simply showed up exactly where the fire was hottest.

I think about this every time life throws someone into a furnace they didn't choose a diagnosis, a betrayal, a financial collapse, a season so hard people wonder how you're still standing upright in the middle of it. The testimony was never really about the three men refusing to burn. It was about who walked in there with them.

God didn't stop the furnace from being lit. He didn't spare them the walk into it. He met them inside it instead.

"When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle on you" (Isaiah 43:2). That promise was never about avoiding fire altogether. It was about not walking through it alone.

Here's what should encourage you today: the three men came out of that furnace without even the smell of smoke on their clothes (Daniel 3:27). Whatever you're currently walking through, though heated seven times hotter than you expected, hotter than seems survivable you were never actually meant to walk it by yourself. The same God who showed up in Babylon's furnace will show up in yours too.

You may not get to choose whether the fire comes. You do get to know who's standing in it with you.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for walking with me through fires I didn't choose. Give me the same confidence Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had trusting You fully, even when the outcome isn't guaranteed. Remind me I was never meant to walk through this alone. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dig Deeper: Daniel 3:1–30, Isaiah 43:1–3, Psalm 23:4, Hebrews 13:5–6

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Daniel 3, Isaiah 43, Psalm 23

Today's Thought: The fire doesn't always disappear. But you're never actually walking through it by yourself.



DAY 22

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Esther 4:14, 16 (WEB)

"For if you remain silent now, then relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another place... Who knows if you haven't come to the kingdom for such a time as this?... I will go in to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish."

DEVOTIONAL

There was a specific rule in the Persian palace: nobody, not even the queen, walks into the king's inner court uninvited. Do it, and the automatic penalty is death unless the king personally extends his scepter as mercy. Esther knew this rule intimately. It's the exact reason she hesitated when Mordecai first told her to intervene on behalf of her people.

And her cousin's response doesn't comfort her. It confronts her: deliverance is coming for the Jews one way or another, with or without you, but if you stay silent now, you and your family won't be part of the outcome. Then, the line that's followed people around for centuries since: "Who knows if you haven't come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

I want you to notice Esther doesn't get a burning bush, an angel, or a direct audible voice from God confirming any of this. The whole book of Esther, in fact, never mentions God's name directly, a detail scholars have puzzled over for years. And yet His fingerprints are all over the timing: her rise to queen, right before this crisis, "coincidentally," with exactly the access needed to intervene.

Sometimes God's clearest confirmation isn't a voice. It's the position you're already standing in when the crisis arrives.

Esther's decision to go isn't reckless bravery. She prepares first. She calls for fasting, three days, gathering her community's prayers before she ever approaches the throne (Esther 4:16). Courage, in her story, isn't the absence of fear or preparation. It's moving forward anyway, fully

aware of the risk: ***"If I perish, I perish."***

Maybe you're currently sitting in a position. A job, a relationship, a platform, an opportunity that doesn't feel spiritual or obviously "assigned" by God, and you've never once considered that it might be exactly why you're there. Your seat at that table isn't random. Your access to that room isn't accidental.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand" (Ephesians 2:10). Esther didn't ask to be queen during a genocide plot. But she was there. And she used it.

Whatever room you have access to that others don't, that might be exactly the room you were positioned for.

PRAYER

Lord, help me recognize the rooms and positions You've already placed me in for a purpose greater than my own comfort. Give me Esther's courage to act, even when the outcome isn't guaranteed. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dig Deeper: Esther 4:1–17, Ephesians 2:10, Proverbs 31:8–9, Philippians 2:3–4

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Esther 4, Ephesians 2, Proverbs 31

Today's Thought: You may not have asked for the position you're in. God may have placed you there anyway.



DAY 23

THE FOREIGNER WHO GLEANED HER WAY INTO A LEGACY

*Faithfulness in small, unnoticed fields eventually
gets noticed by the right person.*

Ruth 2:2–3, 10 (WEB)

"Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, 'Let me now go to the field, and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I find favor.'... She happened to come to the portion of the field belonging to Boaz... Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said to him, 'Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?'"

DEVOTIONAL

Gleaning was not a glamorous job. It was the ancient equivalent of picking up whatever scraps the harvesters left behind bent over, in the dust, collecting leftover grain stalk by stalk, reserved specifically for widows, foreigners, and the poor. Ruth, a Moabite widow with a dead husband, a foreign accent, and zero social standing in Bethlehem, had exactly this option available to her. Nothing more.

She didn't complain about the assignment. She didn't wait for a better opportunity to present itself. She went out, worked the field all day, and "happened" to end up in the one section belonging to Boaz, a relative of her late husband, though she didn't know that yet.

Scripture calls it happenstance. I don't believe that for a second, and honestly, neither did the writer of Ruth, who structures this entire book around God's quiet, behind-the-scenes providence. Nobody in the story hears a voice from heaven. Nobody gets a prophecy. Things just kept "happening" to line up Ruth's field, Boaz's kindness, the exact timing of the harvest, until an entire family line reshaped itself around one foreign widow's willingness to show up and work with what she had.

Boaz notices her before she notices him being important. He's already heard about her loyalty to Naomi, her decision to leave her own people and gods behind (Ruth 2:11–12) Ruth's reputation travelled ahead of her, built from consistency nobody was watching closely at the time.

That's the part worth sitting with. Ruth's faithfulness in an unglamorous

field, when she assumed nobody significant was paying attention, is exactly what positioned her for a redemption story bigger than she could have planned. She wasn't gleaning to impress Boaz. She didn't even know who he was yet. She was just doing the humble thing in front of her, day after day.

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men" (Colossians 3:23). Ruth's field wasn't her destiny. It was just today's obedience. The destiny came later, attached quietly to the obedience nobody had applauded yet.

She later becomes King David's great-grandmother, and further down that same line, Jesus Himself (Matthew 1:5). Nobody watching her glean that day could have guessed that.

Whatever "field" you're currently working in unnoticed, unglamorous, beneath what you hoped for, keep showing up faithfully in it. You don't always get to see which field is the one that changes everything.

PRAYER

Lord, help me stay faithful in the small, unnoticed places, trusting that You see what others overlook. Use my quiet obedience today for something bigger than I can currently imagine. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Dig Deeper: Ruth 2:1–23, Colossians 3:23–24,
Matthew 1:5–6, Galatians 6:9**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Ruth 2, Colossians 3, Matthew 1

***Today's Thought: Nobody applauds you in the field.
That doesn't mean nobody's watching.***



DAY 24

DEAD BONES STILL HAD POWER

2Kings 13:20–21 (WEB)

"Elisha died, and they buried him... As they were burying a man, behold, they saw a band of raiders; and they cast the man into the tomb of Elisha. As soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet."

DEVOTIONAL

Elisha is already dead and buried by this point. Not sick, not dying buried. Finished, as far as anyone watching would assume. And then, completely unrelated to him, some men are in the middle of burying a different dead man when raiders suddenly show up, forcing them to panic and quickly toss the body into the nearest available tomb which happens to be Elisha's.

The moment the dead man's body touches Elisha's bones, he comes back to life and stands up.

Read that again. This wasn't a miracle Elisha performed. He wasn't even alive to pray, speak, or lay hands on anyone. His bones did this. Whatever anointing, whatever measure of God's power had rested on this man throughout his ministry, apparently didn't expire the moment his heart stopped.

I find this story strangely comforting for reasons that have nothing to do with literal bones.

Sometimes we assume our usefulness, our impact, our purpose has an expiration date attached to visible activity that once a season ends, once a ministry closes, once a relationship or a job or a chapter of life is "buried," whatever good came from it is finished too. This story quietly disagrees. Elisha's influence outlived Elisha.

Think about what you've poured into people, situations, or seasons that look completely over now. A ministry you're no longer part of. A person you mentored years ago who you've lost touch with. An investment of time, love, or teaching that felt buried along with

whatever ended it. This story suggests something you may not have considered: what God did through you in that season doesn't necessarily stop working just because it's no longer visible or active.

"He who began a good work in you will complete it" (Philippians 1:6). That promise wasn't only about you receiving something, sometimes it's about what God started through you continuing to move, quietly, in ways you'll never fully witness.

This story also carries a simpler, more personal comfort: your current season, however "dead" or finished it feels, isn't necessarily the last word on what God can still do with it. If dry bones and buried prophets weren't beyond God's reach, your stalled dream, paused calling, or ended chapter isn't either.

Something of what God placed in you doesn't stop mattering just because it's no longer center stage.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You that what You've done through me doesn't expire when a season ends. Remind me that even buried, finished chapters can still carry Your power forward. Give me hope for what feels dead right now. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Dig Deeper: 2 Kings 13:14–21, Philippians 1:6,
Ezekiel 37:1–14, Romans 11:29**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - 2 Kings 13, Philippians 1, Ezekiel 37

Today's Thought: Some things God placed in you don't stop working just because the season looks over.



DAY 25

PARADISE, PROMISED WITH NO TIME LEFT

Luke 23:39–40, 42–43 (WEB)

"One of the criminals who was hanged railed at him... But the other answered, and rebuking him said, 'Don't you even fear God?'... He said to Jesus, 'Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.' Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'"

DEVOTIONAL

Two criminals, both being executed for crimes serious enough to earn them a Roman cross, both hanging within arm's reach of Jesus, both facing the exact same number of hours left to live. One spends his final moments mocking. The other, somehow, in the middle of unbearable pain, has a moment of clarity nobody around him is having: this man beside me isn't a criminal. This man is a King.

There's no time for this thief to fix his life. No opportunity for good works, church attendance, restitution, or a changed lifestyle to prove his sincerity. He can't even get down off the cross to demonstrate anything. All he has left is a sentence: "Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

And Jesus doesn't hesitate, doesn't add conditions, doesn't say "we'll discuss this once you've shown genuine change." He simply answers: "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

Today. Not eventually, not after some probationary period in the afterlife, not once his sins had been sufficiently reviewed. Today.

I think this story exists partly to shut down one of the most persistent lies people believe about salvation: that you need to have your life together first, that you need enough good deeds stacked up, or enough years of faithful living, before God will actually receive you. The thief on the cross had none of that. He had regret, honesty, and a right assessment of who Jesus was, expressed in a single dying sentence.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith... not of works, that no one would boast" (Ephesians 2:8–9). This story is that verse in

narrative form.

Maybe you've believed, somewhere along the way, that you've disqualified yourself too thoroughly, too late, too far gone for God to still want you. Maybe you're carrying the quiet fear that your life has too much wreckage for grace to actually reach you at this point. This thief's story exists specifically for people who feel that way.

He didn't get time to become a better man. He simply turned his face toward Jesus in his very last hour, and that was enough.

Whatever hour you think you're in, however late, however wasted, however close to what feels like the end, turning toward Jesus is never too late to matter.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You that Your grace doesn't require me to earn my way to You first. Wherever I feel disqualified or too far gone, meet me there the way You met the thief on the cross. Today, I turn my face toward You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dig Deeper: Luke 23:32–43, Ephesians 2:8–9, Romans 10:9–13, 2 Corinthians 5:17

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Luke 23, Ephesians 2, Romans 10

Today's Thought: You don't need time to clean up. You just need to turn your face toward Him.



DAY 26

HEALED BY A SHADOW

Acts 5:15–16 (WEB)

"They even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mattresses, so that as Peter came by, at the least his shadow might overshadow some of them.

Multitudes also came together from the cities around Jerusalem, bringing sick people, and those who were tormented by unclean spirits: and they were all healed."

DEVOTIONAL

Picture this scene properly. People are so desperate, so convinced something real is happening through Peter, that they start carrying sick relatives out into the street just to position them where his shadow might pass over them. Not his hands. Not even his voice. His shadow.

I laugh a little imagining the coordination that required someone timing Peter's walk, someone else adjusting a mattress three inches to the left, hoping to catch the angle just right. But underneath the almost-comedy of it is something genuinely serious: these people weren't chasing Peter. They were chasing whatever Peter was carrying.

That distinction matters more than it seems.

Peter, by his own testimony earlier in Acts, was a plain, uneducated fisherman (Acts 4:13) not a polished orator, not a trained rabbi, nothing about his résumé screaming "healer." What people were actually drawn to wasn't Peter's charisma. It was the evident presence of God on an ordinary man who'd simply spent real time with Jesus.

This should reframe how we think about our own influence. You don't need a title, a stage, or perfect words to carry something real. Sometimes your consistency, your presence, your quiet walk with God is doing more than your speeches ever could. People notice who's actually been with Jesus long before they can explain how they know.

"They took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13, KJV). That's the whole engine behind the shadow story. Peter didn't manufacture power. He simply carried what he'd received, and it

overflowed onto whoever got close enough.

Maybe you've been waiting to feel qualified before you believe God can use your presence in someone's life waiting for more Bible knowledge, more confidence, a better testimony to tell. This story suggests something simpler: proximity to God tends to leak out, whether you're eloquent about it or not.

Who around you needs your shadow today — not your sermon, not your advice, just your presence, faithfully positioned near them? Sometimes showing up consistently does more than we give it credit for.

PRAYER

Lord, let my life carry Your presence so clearly that people notice it without me having to explain it. Use my ordinary presence for something greater than I can engineer myself. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Dig Deeper: Acts 5:12–16, Acts 4:13, 2 Corinthians 3:2–3,
Matthew 5:14–16**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Acts 5, Acts 4, Matthew 5

Today's Thought: You don't always need the right words. Sometimes your presence has already been doing the preaching.



DAY 27

HE DIED IN CHURCH... FROM SLEEPING

God's grace covers even your most embarrassing moment.

Acts 20:9, 10, 12 (WEB)

"A certain young man named Eutychus sat in the window, weighed down with deep sleep. As Paul spoke still longer, being weighed down by his sleep, he fell down from the third story, and was taken up dead. Paul went down, and fell upon him, and embracing him said, 'Don't be troubled, for his life is in him.'... They brought the boy in alive, and were greatly comforted."

DEVOTIONAL

Somebody, please, tell me how you explain this one to your pastor after service.

Paul is preaching and not briefly, verse seven tells us he went on until midnight and a young man named Eutychus, sitting in a windowsill, loses the battle against sleep. Full sermon, full church, and this man just... drops off, falls three stories down, and dies on impact. In front of everybody. During church.

If this happened today, ah, the man for don become meme material forever. "The boy wey sleep die for Paul sermon meeting." People would never let him live it down except, in this story, they literally get to. Paul goes down, wraps himself around the boy, and declares his life is still in him. And it's true Eutychus comes back up alive, and the text says everyone was "greatly comforted." Not embarrassed for him. Comforted.

Here's what I actually love about this story once you get past the initial shock: nobody in the text blames Eutychus for falling asleep. Nobody records Paul lecturing him about attention span or respect. The moment is treated exactly as what it was. An accident, redeemed by grace, without a residual shadow of shame attached to the boy afterward.

We are not usually this generous with each other's embarrassing moments. We replay our worst public failures on loop, the thing we said, the mistake we made in front of everyone, the time we fell

(literally or otherwise) in a moment we'll never fully live down in our own minds. Grace, in this story, does something different. It doesn't just fix the crisis. It removes the shame attached to it.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1, KJV). Eutychus's story is basically that verse acted out in real time dead from an embarrassing accident, alive again, comforted rather than condemned.

Maybe your most embarrassing moment still plays in your head louder than it should. This story suggests something kinder: God's grace is fully capable of raising you back up from whatever fell without keeping score of how it happened.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You that Your grace doesn't just fix my mistakes, it removes the shame attached to them. Where I've been replaying an embarrassing moment on loop, help me receive comfort instead of condemnation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dig Deeper: Acts 20:7–12, Romans 8:1, Psalm 103:8–12, Isaiah 43:25

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Acts 20, Romans 8, Psalm 103

Today's Thought: Grace doesn't just raise you back up. It refuses to keep count of how you fell.



.....

Acts 28:3–6 (WEB)

"When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said one to another, 'No doubt

this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped from the sea, yet Justice has not allowed to live.' However he shook off the creature into the fire, and wasn't harmed... they changed their minds, and said that he was a god."

DEVOTIONAL

Let's start with the context, because it matters: Paul didn't do anything wrong to end up here. He was already shipwrecked, already stranded on an unfamiliar island called Malta, already at the mercy of a storm nobody controlled. He's simply gathering firewood to help everyone stay warm an act of basic service when a viper, hiding in the branches, sinks its fangs into his hand.

The islanders, watching this, immediately assume the worst about him. "This man must be a murderer. He survived the sea, but justice is finally catching up with him now." People do this constantly the moment they see disaster attach itself to you, they assume you must have deserved it.

Paul doesn't defend himself, doesn't explain his innocence, doesn't argue theology with strangers about karma versus grace. He simply shakes the snake into the fire and keeps living. No swelling, no collapse, nothing. The islanders wait for him to drop dead, and when he doesn't, they swing completely to the opposite conclusion now he must be a god.

Neither reaction was accurate. He wasn't a murderer being punished, and he wasn't a deity either. He was just a man under God's protection, in the middle of a mess he didn't create.

This story matters for anyone who's been shipwrecked by something outside their control: a layoff, an illness, a betrayal, a circumstance you didn't cause and can't fully explain while people around you quietly draw conclusions about what you must have done to deserve it. You

don't always owe people that explanation. Sometimes you just need to shake off what's attached itself to you and keep moving.

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper" (Isaiah 54:17, KJV). The snake was real, the bite was real, and God's protection was still greater than both.

Whatever venom life has attached to you lately, an unfair assumption, a painful season, a bite you didn't provoke you're allowed to shake it into the fire and keep serving, keep living, keep gathering the next bundle of sticks. Survival isn't proof of guilt or greatness. It's proof of whose hand you're actually in.

PRAYER

Lord, protect me in the disasters I didn't cause, and give me the strength to shake off what tries to attach itself to me unfairly. Let my survival point people to You, not to me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Dig Deeper: Acts 28:1–10, Isaiah 54:17, Psalm 91:9–13,
2 Timothy 4:17–18**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Acts 28, Isaiah 54, Psalm 91

Today's Thought: Not every disaster attached to you says something true about you. Some things you just shake off and keep going.



DAY 29

FORGIVEN, BEFORE ANYONE SAID SORRY

Grace doesn't wait for an apology to start working.

Luke 23:33–34 (WEB)

"When they came to the place that is called 'The Skull,' they crucified him there with the criminals... Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.'"

DEVOTIONAL

This is not a prayer Jesus offers after the pain. He said it while the nails are still being driven in present tense, mid-crucifixion, surrounded by the very people responsible for what's happening to Him. Nobody involved in this moment has apologized. Nobody has asked for mercy. The soldiers are simply doing their job, dividing His clothing by casting lots a few verses later, entirely indifferent to what they're actually taking part in.

And Jesus looks at all of it and says, "Father, forgive them."

Not "Father, forgive them once they realize what they've done." Not "Father, forgive them after they repent." Just forgive them, now, in the middle of the offense, before the apology that may never even come.

This should recalibrate something in how we think about forgiveness generally. We tend to treat forgiveness as a reward we release once someone has sufficiently earned it back through apology, through visible remorse, through enough time passing. Jesus models something almost uncomfortable by comparison: forgiveness offered while the wound is still actively being made.

"For they don't know what they are doing" isn't Jesus excusing their actions. It's Him naming the reality that people often cause deep damage while being fully unaware of its weight soldiers doing routine duty, a crowd swept up in mob energy, religious leaders convinced they were protecting truth. Ignorance doesn't erase the harm. But Jesus chooses mercy over resentment anyway, before He even has clarity on whether they'll ever understand what they did.

"Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32). Paul isn't asking us to forgive easy people who've already apologized well. He's pointing back to exactly this moment forgiveness modeled at its hardest, most undeserved, least reciprocated point.

Maybe you're holding onto something right now, waiting for an apology that hasn't come and might never come from a parent, an ex, a friend who hurt you and moved on like nothing happened. Jesus isn't asking you to pretend it didn't hurt. He's showing you that forgiveness was never actually meant to depend on their apology.

You're allowed to release it before they ever ask you to.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for forgiving me before I ever fully understood what I needed forgiveness for. Help me release the people who've hurt me, even without an apology, the way You released those who crucified You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dig Deeper: Luke 23:32–43, Ephesians 4:31–32, Colossians 3:13, Matthew 6:14–15

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Luke 23, Ephesians 4, Colossians 3

Today's Thought: Forgiveness was never meant to wait for someone else's sorry.



DAY 30

HE LEFT... BUT HE'S COMING BACK

Acts 1:9, 11 (WEB)

"When he had said these things, as they were looking, he was taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight... who also said, 'You men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who was received up from you into the sky, will come back in the same way as you saw him going into the sky.'"

DEVOTIONAL

Thirty days ago, we started with mud on a blind man's eyes. An unimpressive, strange method for an extraordinary miracle. It feels right to end here, with the disciples standing on a hillside, necks craned upward, watching Jesus disappear into a cloud with absolutely no idea what happens next.

I imagine that was a strange, disorienting moment. Not a sad ending exactly because He'd already conquered death, already appeared to them multiple times, already commissioned them for what was coming (Acts 1:8). But still: He was right there, and then He wasn't. Just gone, upward, out of sight, leaving eleven men staring at an empty sky.

And two messengers show up with a question worth sitting with: "Why are you standing here looking up?" Not a rebuke exactly, more like a gentle redirect. The point was never to stay frozen, staring at where He used to be. The point was to go do what He'd just told them to do, trusting He'd return exactly as He left.

That's the position we're all actually standing in right now, all these centuries later. Still looking up, in a sense. Still waiting for the same promise those eleven men were given directly: this same Jesus is coming back, the same way He left.

Over these thirty days, we've walked through mud and miracles, talking donkeys and tent pegs, borrowed axe heads and fiery furnaces, a thief's last-minute salvation and a snake bite that couldn't kill Paul. Different centuries, different characters, wildly different circumstances, but one consistent thread running underneath every single story: God shows up

in the specific, unlikely, sometimes embarrassing details of ordinary lives, and He is never finished writing the story just because a chapter looks over.

If you've read this far, here's the real invitation underneath all thirty days: the same grace that met Rahab in her past, met the thief in his last hour, met Jonah in the belly of his own rebellion, that grace is available to you today, however your story reads right now. ***"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"*** (Romans 10:9). This isn't a formula. It's an open door.

He left. But He's coming back. Until then, you're not meant to stand looking at the sky. You're meant to go live like someone who knows how the story ends. Live as someone who knows that Jesus died for them and when He comes back, there is a secured place for them at His side.

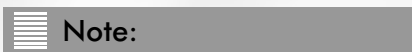
PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for meeting me in every ordinary, unlikely corner of my life the way You met people throughout Scripture. I believe in You, I receive Your grace, and I choose to live today like someone who knows You're coming back. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Dig Deeper: Acts 1:1–11, Romans 10:9–13, Revelation 22:12–13,
John 14:1–3**

Reading Plan: Today's Reading - Acts 1, Romans 10, Revelation 22

Today's Thought: The story isn't over. He's coming back — and until then, you're part of writing what happens next.



Note:

[illegible]



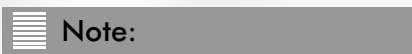
 **Note:**

[illegible]



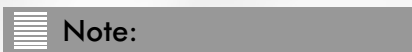
 **Note:**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



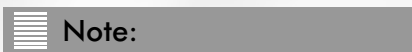
Note:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Note:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Note:

[illegible]

MARGARET NWAKAEGO USIO MINISTRIES

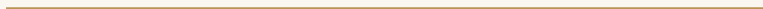
EVERY MORNING

September 2026 — Free Digital Edition

Begin each day with Scripture, reflection and prayer, and carry
God's Word with you throughout the day.

margaretusioministries.com

contact@margaretusioministries.com





ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Margaret Nwakaego Usio is a Christian author, Bible teacher, and the founder of Christ Family Fellowship, a ministry devoted to helping people develop a genuine, life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ through the teaching of God's

Word.

She is also the founder of the Margaret Nwakaego Usio Foundation, a nonprofit organization committed to demonstrating God's love through practical acts of compassion and community support.

Margaret believes that God still speaks through His Word and that every believer can grow in faith by spending intentional time with Him each day. This conviction inspired the writing of *Every Morning*—a devotional designed to help readers begin each day with hope, biblical wisdom, practical encouragement, and a deeper awareness of God's presence.

In addition to *Every Morning*, she is the author of *Anchored*, a Christian book available on Amazon, and *The First 30 Days*, a prayer guide created to help believers seek God intentionally at the beginning of each new year. She is also writing several Christ-centred books and inspirational novels that communicate timeless biblical truths through compelling stories.

Margaret is passionate about discipleship, prayer, and equipping believers to live out their faith with confidence, purpose, and unwavering trust in God. Through her writing, teaching, and digital ministry, her desire is simple: to help people encounter Jesus, grow in His Word, and experience the transforming power of His love.

“May every morning become another opportunity to know Christ more deeply.”