



# Good Friday Devotional 2014

By Kyle Holifield

In the scriptures below we can see three profound themes woven throughout the life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus: 1) the glory of God; 2) the salvation, reconciliation and peace of God's people; 3) the empowering and sending of God's people.

On this Good Friday, let's glorify God, be at peace in our reconciliation with God, and be God's distinct people in the midst of a world we are here to serve. If you're able, we invite you to join us in fasting from sunrise to sunset.

## Christ Was Born

"And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field keeping watch over their flocks by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and *the glory of the Lord* shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, '*Fear not*, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

*'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among those with whom he is pleased.'*

*Luke 2:8-14 (ESV)*

## Christ Was Crucified

Speaking of his impending crucifixion, Jesus says, "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' *But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.*" Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him". Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine."

*John 12:27-30 (ESV).*

## Christ Is Resurrected

"On the evening of that day, the first day of the week (Sunday), the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, '*Peace be with you.*' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, '*Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.*' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, '*Receive the Holy Spirit.*'"

*John 20:19-22 (ESV)*

"Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures and said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. *You are witnesses of these things.* And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are *clothed with power from on high.*'"

*Luke 24:44-49 (ESV)*

## Morning Devotion

Spend the morning praising God. Is there anyone who praised God better than David, whom God described as a man after his own heart? "Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright. Praise the Lord with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings. Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise." Psalm 33:1-3 (KJV). If you're like me, you don't own a harp, psaltery or ten-stringed instrument. But you can still put K-Love on the radio and sing at the top of your lungs.

Does it seem weird to do this on the day of Jesus' crucifixion? Remember, the glory of God is a primary aim of the crucifixion. Let's make that real in our own lives this morning.

## Midday Devotion

Take time out in the middle of your day to just be. This is hard for many of us. We're too busy. Since the Creation, God has been trying to teach us the importance of rest. "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation." *Genesis 2:1-3 (ESV)*. God can't get tired, and yet, he rested.

At key moments in his life, Jesus rested. When Jesus was baptized, "the heavens opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'" *Matt. 3:16-17*. What did Jesus do after this amazing debut? He went into the wilderness and fasted and prayed for 40 days. After Jesus fed the 5,000, perhaps the most witnessed miracle ever, He sent the people away and went up on the mountain to pray. *Mark 6:45-46*. In both of these situations, our impulse would be to capitalize on the moment. We would take the show on the road, hire an agent and make the most of our 15 minutes. Jesus teaches us to wait on the Lord.

Let's stop here at midday on the day of our Lord's great sacrifice, and just be. Let the peace of Jesus, the peace that passes understanding, settle in.

## Evening Devotion

Receive the Holy Spirit, be transformed and serve. Since the covenant with Abraham, God has been reclaiming his people. God's covenant people in captivity in Egypt were servants to the Egyptian people. In their service to the Egyptians and in their distinct worship of the one true God, they gained favor in the site of the Egyptians, many of whom came to fear the word of the Lord as well. See *Exodus 9:20 & 11:3*. The new covenant in Jesus's blood makes it possible for us, though we are not descendants of Abraham, to be God's people. As God's people, we are to be distinct servants in the midst of those who do not know God. Let the Holy Spirit transform your nature so that you can serve others in a way that is distinct in the world, and points the way to Jesus.