

# **Bible Study Guide: Returning to God – Living the Journey of Holy Week**

 Source Transcript:

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## **Big Idea**

**Holy Week is a call to surrender—moving away from the world and returning fully to God through repentance, transformation, and resurrection living.**

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## **Theme**

**From Palm Sunday to Easter, Jesus invites us to choose between the world and God, allowing Him to transform our hearts and lead us into new life.**

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## **Core Scriptures**

### **Matthew 4:1–11**

Jesus resists temptation in the wilderness.

### **John 13:34**

“Love one another as I have loved you.”

## **Luke 22:42**

“Not my will, but Yours be done.”

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### **Introduction: The Purpose of the Lenten Journey**

Lent is not about ritual—it is about **returning to God**.

#### **Key Insight:**

“The Lenten journey brings you back into a real walk with Christ.”

#### **The Daily Choice**

Every day we choose:

- The world
- Or God

This tension shapes:

- Our decisions
  - Our relationships
  - Our spiritual direction
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### **Main Point 1: The Battle Between the World and God**

#### **Explanation**

We live in constant tension:

- Worldly desires (power, money, status)
- God's calling (surrender, humility, obedience)

Jesus modeled this in the wilderness:

- Tempted with power
- Tempted with control
- Tempted with comfort

Yet He chose:

- God's will every time

“Either we surrender to the world or to the Lord.”

### **Application**

- What influences my decisions most—God or the world?
- Where am I being tempted right now?

### **Sticky Quote:**

“You cannot follow the world and follow Jesus at the same time.”

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## **Main Point 2: Jesus Calls Us to Radical Surrender**

### **Explanation**

Jesus' invitation:

- "Follow Me"
- "Take up your cross"

This requires:

- Letting go of control
- Letting go of comfort
- Letting go of self

### **Biblical Example**

The rich young ruler:

- Could not surrender his wealth
- Walked away from Jesus

"Some people follow—some walk away."

### **Application**

- What is hardest for me to surrender?
- What is keeping me from fully following Christ?

### **Sticky Quote:**

"Surrender is the doorway to transformation."

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## **Main Point 3: Jesus May Not Meet Our Expectations**

### **Explanation**

On Palm Sunday:

- Jesus is praised as King

Days later:

- He is rejected

Why?

- He didn't meet expectations

“They praised Him until He didn't do what they wanted.”

### **Spiritual Insight**

We often:

- Want Jesus to fix things
- Instead of transform us

### **Application**

- Do I follow Jesus for what He can do for me?
- Am I open to being changed by Him?

### **Sticky Quote:**

“Jesus is not your fixer—He is your transformer.”

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**Main Point 4: The Cleansing of the Temple – A Picture of the Heart**

## **Explanation**

Jesus drives out:

- Corruption
- Greed
- False worship

## **Spiritual Meaning**

The temple represents:

- Our hearts

“Before God uses you publicly, He cleans you privately.”

## **Spiritual Challenge**

What needs to be removed?

- Pride
- Anger
- Jealousy
- Greed

## **Application**

- What “tables” need to be overturned in my life?
- Am I allowing Jesus to cleanse my heart?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“What Jesus cleanses, don’t reset.”

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## **Main Point 5: Maundy Thursday – The Mandate to Love**

### **Explanation**

Jesus simplifies everything:

- Not rules
- Not rituals

But one command:

“Love one another as I have loved you.”

### **Spiritual Truth**

This love is:

- Sacrificial
- Unconditional
- Costly

“Love is not defined by you—it is defined by Christ.”

### **Application**

- Who is God calling me to love?
- Am I loving like Jesus—or like the world?

### **Sticky Quote:**

“Real love stretches beyond comfort.”

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## **Main Point 6: Gethsemane – The Daily Prayer**

### **Explanation**

Jesus prays:

- “Let this cup pass...”
- “Yet not my will...”

### **Spiritual Insight**

We relate to:

- Wanting escape

But struggle with:

- Surrender

“We’re good at resisting—but bad at saying ‘Your will be done.’”

### **Application**

- Where am I resisting God’s will?
- Can I pray “Your will be done” sincerely?

### **Sticky Quote:**

“Surrender begins where control ends.”

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## **Main Point 7: The Cross Reveals True Love**

### **Explanation**

On the cross:

- Jesus is betrayed
- Beaten
- Crucified

Yet He says:

“Father, forgive them...”

### **Spiritual Truth**

Love is:

- Forgiving
- Sacrificial
- Unconditional

“He would do it again for you.”

### **Application**

- Who do I need to forgive?
- How can I reflect this kind of love?

### **Sticky Quote:**

“True love forgives even in pain.”

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## **Main Point 8: The Resurrection Brings New Life**

### **Explanation**

Easter declares:

- Death is defeated
- Life is renewed

### **Spiritual Truth**

Resurrection is:

- Not just future hope
- Present reality

“Easter is available to you right now.”

### **Application**

- Where do I need new life?
- Am I living in resurrection power?

### **Sticky Quote:**

“Resurrection is not just an event—it’s a lifestyle.”

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## **Main Point 9: Faith Is Believing Without Seeing**

### **Explanation**

Jesus says:

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

## **Spiritual Truth**

Faith requires:

- Trust
- Obedience
- Surrender

## **Application**

- Where is God asking me to trust Him?
- What step of faith can I take?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Faith walks before it sees.”

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## **Main Point 10: Living Easter Every Day**

### **Explanation**

Every act of love:

- Reflects Christ
- Declares resurrection

“Every time we love, we proclaim Easter.”

## **Spiritual Truth**

We are called to:

- Live transformed
- Help others
- Share hope

## **Application**

- How can I live out Easter this week?
- Who needs to experience Christ through me?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Living love is living resurrection.”

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## **Discussion Questions**

1. Where do you see the tension between the world and God in your life?
  2. What is hardest for you to surrender to Christ?
  3. What “tables” need to be overturned in your heart?
  4. Who is God calling you to love differently?
  5. How can you live out the resurrection daily?
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## **Practical Application Steps**

### **1. Choose God Daily**

- Begin each day in surrender

## **2. Allow Heart Transformation**

- Invite Jesus to cleanse your life

## **3. Practice Radical Love**

- Love beyond comfort and convenience

## **4. Pray “Your Will Be Done”**

- Surrender control daily

## **5. Live Resurrection Life**

- Reflect Christ in actions and attitudes
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## **Closing Prayer**

Father,  
Thank You for calling us back to You.  
Help us to surrender the world  
and choose You daily.

Cleanse our hearts,  
teach us to love deeply,  
and give us the courage to live transformed lives.

Let us walk in the power of the resurrection  
and reflect Your love to the world.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## **Final Takeaway**

**Holy Week is not just something to observe—it is an invitation to surrender, be transformed, and live the resurrection every single day.**