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5-DAY DEVOTIONAL

A Soldier's Story

A Journey Through the Passion of Christ

DAY 1

Forgiveness from the Cross

Scripture Reading: *Luke 23:32-34*

Devotional

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." These words from Jesus reveal the heart of divine love—offering grace to those inflicting pain. The centurion witnessed something unprecedented: a man praying for his executioners.

When we're wounded, our natural response is retaliation, but Christ calls us to supernatural compassion. His forgiveness wasn't conditional on their repentance; it flowed from His nature.

Today, consider who has wounded you. Can you offer them the same grace Jesus extended from the cross? True spiritual maturity isn't measured by how we act when blessed, but by our response when broken. Let Christ's example transform your pain into prayer, your wounds into worship.

Reflection: *Who has wounded you? Can you offer them the grace Jesus extended from the cross today?*

Prayer: *Take a moment to pray, bringing your pain, your questions, and your worship before God.*

Grace International Ministry Apostolic

Pastor Andrew Clarke

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DAY 2

Divine Compassion in Agony

Scripture Reading: *John 19:25-27*

Devotional

Even while suffocating on the cross, Jesus noticed His mother's pain and made provision for her care. Even as His body failed, His compassion did not. This reveals a profound truth: our circumstances don't have to dictate our character.

When empire wounds God's children through unjust systems, policies, or persecution, we have an opportunity to reveal our divine nature to the systems designed to break us. Jesus absorbed pain and returned love. He could have called legions of angels, but instead He called out in kindness.

What burden are you carrying today? In your suffering, can you still show compassion? Your response to undeserved pain can become your greatest testimony to a watching world.

Reflection: *What burden are you carrying today? In your suffering, how can you still show compassion to those around you?*

Prayer: *Take a moment to pray, bringing your pain, your questions, and your worship before God.*



DAY 3

Creation Responds to Injustice

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 27:45-54*

Devotional

When Jesus died, darkness covered the land, the earth quaked, rocks split, and the temple veil tore. Heaven and earth refused to stay silent when innocence was crucified. This reveals a powerful truth: you cannot wound God's children and expect creation to remain calm.

The chaos we witness today—natural disasters, societal upheaval, systems crumbling—may be creation crying out against injustice. Empire may cause suffering through oppressive policies, discrimination, and marginalization, but every empire that wounds God's children will eventually fall.

Take heart if you're suffering under systemic injustice. God sees, heaven responds, and justice will prevail. Your pain is not invisible to the Creator.

Reflection: *Where do you see creation or conscience crying out against injustice today? How does knowing God sees your pain bring you comfort?*

Prayer: *Take a moment to pray, bringing your pain, your questions, and your worship before God.*



DAY 4

The Living Water Flows

Scripture Reading: *John 7:37-39; 19:34*

Devotional

When the soldier pierced Jesus' side, blood and water flowed out—a medical phenomenon indicating death, but also a spiritual declaration. Jesus had called Himself "living water," and even in death, that water still lived.

What flows from you when you're pierced by life's trials? Bitterness or blessing? Cynicism or compassion? The water that flowed from Christ's side symbolizes the Holy Spirit—the source of eternal life available to all who believe. His death wasn't just an ending; it was a beginning.

Today, drink deeply from the living water. Let His Spirit flow through your brokenness, transforming your wounds into wells of life for others.

Reflection: *What flows from you when life pierces you? How can you allow the Holy Spirit to transform your wounds into wells of life for others?*

Prayer: *Take a moment to pray, bringing your pain, your questions, and your worship before God.*



DAY 5

The Empty Tomb Changes Everything

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 28:1-10*

Devotional

The centurion signed the death certificate, sealed the tomb with empire's authority, and went home with blood on his hands. But Sunday morning changed everything. The stone rolled away, the tomb stood empty, and the seal of empire proved powerless against resurrection power.

Empire may be strong enough to cause suffering, but it cannot kill what God's Spirit is in. Jesus endured the cross because He knew what came next: resurrection. As you prepare your heart for communion, remember—we don't just celebrate His death; we celebrate His victory over it.

He rose with keys to death and hell, guaranteeing your resurrection too. Whatever you're facing, it's not permanent. Sunday's coming.

Reflection: *Whatever tomb-like situation you face today—what would it look like for resurrection power to roll away your stone? How does the empty tomb change your perspective on your current suffering?*

Prayer: *Take a moment to pray, bringing your pain, your questions, and your worship before God.*



A Note of Encouragement

Thank you for walking through this 5-day devotional. Suffering is never wasted in the hands of a sovereign God. Each passage we've explored reveals that Christ did not avoid pain—He walked through it, redeemed it, and rose above it.

May these days have drawn you closer to the One who meets us in our darkest moments. He is not distant from your suffering. He is Emmanuel—God with us—even now.

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

— **Romans 8:18**