

[Begin Bible Reading Plan and Devotional]

****Day 1: The Affirmative Response****

Bible Reading: Matthew 21:1-3

"As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.'"

Devotional:

Today, let's reflect on the simple act of obedience. The disciples were asked to do something unusual, yet they responded with a 'yes'. Think about the times when you've been asked to step out in faith or to serve in an unexpected way. How did you respond? Saying 'yes' to God often requires trust and a willingness to follow without seeing the entire picture.

Question for Reflection:

When was the last time you felt called to say 'yes' to a divine request, and how did it impact your journey of faith?

****Day 2: The Lord's Need and Our Surrender****

Bible Reading: Mark 11:4-6

"They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, 'What are you doing, untying that colt?' They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go."

Devotional:

Consider the concept of the Lord having need of something. It's a paradoxical thought that the all-sufficient God would request anything from us. Yet, in our surrender and willingness to let go, we participate in His divine plan. As you meditate on this passage, ponder the areas of your life that God may be asking you to release to Him.

Question for Reflection:

What might God be nudging you to make available for His purposes, and how can you practice releasing control to Him?

****Day 3: Fulfilling Prophecy Through Affirmation****

Bible Reading: Zechariah 9:9

"Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Devotional:

The disciples 'yes' not only showed obedience but also played a part in fulfilling ancient prophecy. God's promises are often realized through the affirmative actions of His people. As you read this prophecy from Zechariah, think about how your 'yes' could be a part of God's larger story unfolding in the world around you.

Question for Reflection:

How does understanding the role of prophecy in the Bible shape the way you view your personal acts of affirmation to God's guidance?

****Day 4: The Significance of a Donkey****

Bible Reading: 1 Kings 1:33-34

"[David said,] 'Take your lord's servants with you and have Solomon my son mount my own mule and take him down to Gihon. There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, 'Long live King Solomon!'"

Devotional:

In ancient times, a king riding a donkey symbolized peace. Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey signified His peaceful reign. As we explore this symbolism, let's contemplate the peaceful reign of Christ in our hearts and how we can extend His peace to others through our affirmations and actions.

Question for Reflection:

In what ways can your 'yes' to God's leading promote peace in your own life and in your community?

****Day 5: The Ripple Effects of Saying 'Yes'****

Bible Reading: Luke 19:37-38

"When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!' 'Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!'"

Devotional:

The sermon we've been considering speaks to the transformative power of saying 'yes' and how it can lead us to our divine purpose. Reflect on the crowd's joyful affirmation of Jesus as King and the ripple effect it had on those around them. Let's aim to cause such positive ripples in our world by our own affirmations of God's call in our lives.

Question for Reflection:

How can your positive responses to God's invitations create a lasting impact in your circle of influence and beyond?

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