

The Gospel | Jesus Is Lord!

Day 1: The Gospel in Three Words

Reading: Luke 2:8-14

The angels did not merely announce that a baby had been born. They announced a Lord. The good news was not simply that a Savior had arrived, but that this Savior carried ultimate authority. "Jesus is Lord" is not a theological footnote -- it is the headline. Before you read another chapter, another commentary, or another devotional, sit with those three words. They are not a beginning point you graduate from. They are the foundation you return to every day. Ask yourself honestly: in what areas of your life are you still trying to be your own lord?

Day 2: The Confession That Saves

Reading: Romans 10:9-15

Paul makes clear that salvation is not a silent, private transaction. It involves the mouth and the heart working together -- ongoing declaration and ongoing trust. The Greek verbs here suggest a continuous posture, not a one-time event. You do not confess "Jesus is Lord" once and file it away. You confess it when you wake up uncertain. You confess it when temptation narrows your vision. You confess it when the day is good and gratitude rises naturally. The gospel is not a door you walk through and leave behind. It is the air you breathe. Who in your life has never heard you speak these words aloud?

Day 3: The Spirit Points One Direction

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-3 and Philippians 2:9-11

Every movement of the Holy Spirit in a human life is aimed at the same destination: the confession that Jesus is Lord. The Spirit does not lead you toward self-sufficiency. He does not affirm your desire to remain your own authority. He consistently, patiently, and persistently draws you toward surrender to the One who bears the name above every name. Philippians 2 describes a day when every knee will bow -- not reluctantly for some and joyfully for others, but universally. The question is not whether you will one day acknowledge His lordship. The question is whether you will do so now, while it still shapes how you live.

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Day 4: Standing Firm in What You Received

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11:

Paul reminds the church at Corinth that the gospel is not something they once received and moved past. It is something on which they currently stand. The resurrection appearances he lists are not decorative details -- they are evidence. Hundreds of witnesses. Named individuals. People still living who could be questioned. The resurrection is the validation of everything Jesus claimed about Himself and about His death for sin. When life becomes disorienting and the ground beneath you feels unstable, return to this: the tomb is empty. That fact does not change with your circumstances. Let the resurrection be the floor beneath your feet, not merely a belief you hold in your head.

Day 5: Interpreting Your Life Through His Story

Reading: Romans 8:18-39

Beverly Ross, walking out of a hospital having just lost her 33-year-old daughter, leaned on her husband and asked him to remind her that the tomb was empty. That is not denial. That is the gospel being used exactly as it was meant to be used -- as the lens through which suffering is interpreted rather than the lens through which suffering interprets everything else. Romans 8 does not promise an absence of pain. It promises that pain does not have the final word. The same God who raised Jesus from the dead is present in your valley. Nothing in your story -- no loss, no betrayal, no grief -- falls outside the reach of His lordship. What in your life needs to be seen through His story rather than the other way around?