

James Series Going Deeper

Week 14

5- Day Devotional “Discerning God’s Will In Daily Life”

The Foundation is James 4:13-17 but a deep look at Mark 14:13-16 reveals to disciples of Jesus how to follow and discern the will of God in daily life. This 5-Day Devotional breaks down those amazing truths.

Week 14 5-Day Devotional Summary

WHEN EVERYTHING LOOKS OUT OF CONTROL

A Five-Day Devotional Through Mark 14:13–16

Key Passage

“And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, ‘Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, “The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?” And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.’ And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.” — Mark 14:13–16

This five-day devotional will walk through five powerful truths hidden inside this seemingly simple passage. First, when everything appears to be falling apart, Jesus is still completely in control. Second, God often gives us the next step instead of the entire plan. Third, discernment is not knowing everything but recognizing what God has told us to pay attention to. Fourth, our obedience often discovers what God has already prepared. Fifth, we can be participating in something far greater than we understand.

Week 14, DAY 1

WHEN EVERYTHING APPEARS TO BE FALLING APART, JESUS IS STILL COMPLETELY IN CONTROL

Scripture

Read Mark 14:10–16.

Focus

Chaos around us never means Jesus has lost control of the story.

Teaching

The placement of Mark 14:13–16 matters. Immediately before Jesus sends the disciples to prepare the Passover, Judas has gone to the chief priests and agreed to betray Him. Everything appears to be moving against Jesus. The religious leaders are plotting. Judas is plotting. The cross is approaching. Darkness is closing in.

Yet right in the middle of it all, Jesus calmly tells two of His disciples to go into the city. He tells them that a man carrying a jar of water will meet them. He tells them to follow him. He tells them which house the man will enter, what to say to the owner, and what kind of room the owner will show them. Then the disciples go, and Mark says that they “found it just as he had told them.”

That one sentence carries enormous weight.

Jesus knew where the man would be. He knew what the man would be carrying. He knew where the man would go. He knew which house he would enter. He knew how the homeowner would respond. He knew what kind of room would be waiting for them. Everything happened exactly as Jesus said.

At the precise moment when the disciples were about to enter the darkest and most confusing hours of their lives, Jesus gave them a quiet demonstration of His complete knowledge and authority. The message was simple: nothing was out of control.

Judas had a plan. The chief priests had a plan. Satan was moving. Evil was active. But none of them were ultimately controlling the story. Their actions were real, and their responsibility was real, but their plans were not the highest plan.

This is one of the greatest truths we can carry into confusing seasons. The presence of chaos does not mean the absence of God.

There will be moments when circumstances make absolutely no sense. A door closes. A relationship changes. A plan falls apart. Something you believed was moving in one direction suddenly turns another way. You pray, but you still do not understand.

In those moments, fear begins to interpret the story. Fear says, “Everything is falling apart.” Faith asks, “What does Jesus know that I do not know?”

The disciples saw Judas moving toward betrayal. Jesus saw the cross. The disciples would soon see the cross and believe everything had been lost. Jesus already saw the resurrection.

That is the difference between our perspective and His. We see the moment. He sees the whole story. We see what has happened. He knows what is coming. We see what has been lost. He knows what He is preparing.

The same Jesus who knew where the man carrying the water jar would be also knew what would happen in Gethsemane. He knew Peter would deny Him. He knew the disciples would scatter. He knew He would be crucified. And He knew He would rise.

None of it surprised Him. None of it overpowered Him. None of it removed Him from the throne.

The disciples were about to watch everything appear to fall apart, but before the darkness came, Jesus gave them a small lesson they would later understand. The man was there. The house was there. The room was there. Everything happened just as He said.

Going Deeper

Sometimes the greatest expression of faith is not believing that everything will immediately get easier. It is believing that Jesus still knows exactly what He is doing when life becomes difficult.

Faith says, "I do not understand the story, but I trust the Author. I cannot see what comes next, but Jesus can. I may be surprised, but He is not. I may feel overwhelmed, but He has not lost control."

Just because evil is moving does not mean evil is winning. Just because life feels chaotic does not mean heaven is panicking. Just because you cannot see the plan does not mean there is no plan.

Reflection

Where in your life do you currently feel that things are out of control? Have you allowed fear to convince you that because you do not understand what is happening, God must not be at work? What changes when you remember that Jesus sees the whole story while you can only see the present moment?

Today's Action

Identify one situation you have been trying to control. Open your hands before God and surrender it to Him. Pray, "Jesus, I do not understand everything happening in this situation, but I believe You have not lost control. Give me faith to trust You with the part of the story I cannot see."

Prayer

Jesus, when everything around me feels uncertain, remind me that You are not uncertain. When I am surprised, remind me that You are not surprised. When I cannot see what comes

next, help me trust the One who already knows. Keep fear from interpreting my story. Teach me to believe that You are still Lord even when life feels out of control. Amen.