

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 2

GOD OFTEN GIVES US THE NEXT STEP INSTEAD OF THE ENTIRE PLAN

Scripture

Read Mark 14:13-16.

Focus

Faith does not require knowing the whole journey. It requires trusting Jesus enough to obey the next instruction.

Teaching

Jesus could have given Peter and John an address. He could have told them exactly where the house was. He could have explained the entire plan.

Instead, He told them to go into the city. Once they entered the city, they were to look for a man carrying a jar of water. Once they saw him, they were to follow him. Once he entered a house, they were to speak to the owner. Once the owner responded, he would show them the room. Once they reached the room, they were to prepare the Passover.

Go. Watch. Follow. Speak. Enter. Prepare.

The disciples were not given the entire journey. They were given the next step.

This is often how God leads us.

We want the room. God gives us the man carrying the water jar.

We want the address. God says, "Go into the city."

We want to know where everything is headed. God shows us what faithfulness looks like today.

There is something deeply important happening in this passage. The disciples could not know the house until they followed the man. They could not see the room until they entered the house. They could not prepare the Passover until they reached the room. Every new piece of clarity came after obedience to the previous instruction.

Some clarity only exists on the other side of obedience.

We often pray, "God, show me everything and then I will obey." But sometimes God says, "Obey what I have already shown you, and I will reveal what comes next."

Abraham experienced this. God told him to leave his homeland and go to the land that He would show him. God did not give Abraham the entire map. He gave Abraham enough direction to begin moving.

That is faith.

Faith is not knowing where every road leads. Faith is trusting the One who tells you where to place your next step.

Many of us believe we are waiting on God when we may actually be delaying obedience. We say that we need more clarity, but what if God has already made the next step clear?

Forgive them.

Make the call.

End the compromise.

Have the conversation.

Start serving.

Confess the sin.

Open your Bible.

Pray.

Go.

Follow.

Prepare.

Perhaps you do not need the whole plan. Perhaps you need courage for the next instruction.

Going Deeper

There is a difference between guidance and control. We often tell God we want guidance, but what we really want is control. We want God to tell us what will happen so we can decide whether we are comfortable obeying Him.

We want the whole plan because we want to remove risk.

But faith cannot grow where control remains absolute.

God often gives us enough light to obey without giving us enough light to control the entire journey. His goal is not simply getting us to a destination. His goal is forming trust in us.

Sometimes God leaves tomorrow unclear so we will walk with Him today.

Reflection

What is the next thing God has already made clear to you? Are you asking God for more revelation while delaying an instruction you have already received? Where are you demanding an entire plan when God is only asking you to take the next step?

Today's Action

Write down one clear act of obedience you know God has placed in front of you. Then do it today. Do not wait for the whole plan. Take the next step.

Prayer

Father, forgive me for the times I have demanded answers when You were asking for obedience. Teach me to trust You one step at a time. Give me courage to obey what You have made clear, even when I cannot see what comes next. Help me stop trying to control the journey and start trusting the One who leads me. Amen.