

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 3

DISCERNMENT IS NOT KNOWING EVERYTHING

Scripture

Read Mark 14:13.

Focus

We do not need to understand everything around us. We need to remain focused on what God has made clear.

Teaching

Jesus told the disciples to go into the city and look for a man carrying a jar of water.

Imagine Jerusalem during Passover. The city was crowded. People were everywhere. Noise was everywhere. Movement was everywhere.

The disciples did not need to understand everything happening in the city. They needed to recognize one thing.

The man carrying the jar.

Jesus gave them something specific to watch for.

They did not need to know everyone. They did not need to understand every movement. They did not need to solve the whole city. They simply needed to recognize what Jesus had told them to notice.

This gives us a powerful picture of discernment.

Discernment is not the ability to know everything. Discernment is the ability to recognize what matters.

Many of us become spiritually exhausted because we are trying to understand everything.

What does everyone think?

What does every circumstance mean?

What is God doing in every area?

What is going to happen next year?

What are all the possible outcomes?

We become overwhelmed by everything we do not know.

But perhaps the more important question is this: What has God made clear?

The disciples did not need to know the whole city. They needed to look for the man.

There may be enormous confusion around you right now, but what is the clear thing God has placed in front of you? What Scripture keeps returning to your heart? What conviction has

the Holy Spirit made unmistakable? What responsibility has God already given you? What truth do you know even while many other things remain unclear?

One of the greatest dangers of confusion is allowing what we do not know to make us disobedient to what we do know.

You may not know what will happen next, but you know you should pray.

You may not know how the situation will resolve, but you know you should walk in integrity.

You may not know what another person will do, but you know you should forgive.

You may not know every detail of God's will, but you know you should obey the Word in front of you.

Confusion becomes dangerous when we use it as an excuse to ignore clarity.

Going Deeper

The world is loud. Our minds are crowded. Opinions are endless. Fear is loud. Social media is loud. People are loud.

But the spiritually mature person learns to ask, “What has Jesus told me to pay attention to?”

Not everything deserves your focus. Not every voice deserves your attention. Not every opinion deserves a response. Not every possibility deserves your anxiety.

Sometimes discernment means ignoring a thousand distracting things so you can remain faithful to the one thing God has made clear.

Reflection

What noise has been distracting you from what God has clearly shown you? What is one thing you know God is asking you to pay attention to in this season? Have you allowed what you do not know to make you disobedient to what you do know?

Today's Action

Turn off one source of unnecessary noise today. Spend at least fifteen quiet minutes with God and ask, “Lord, what have You already made clear that I need to remain focused on?” Write down what comes to mind and test it against Scripture.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, give me discernment. Quiet the noise that competes for my attention. Help me recognize what matters. Keep me from becoming so overwhelmed by everything I do not know that I miss what You have already made clear. Teach me to watch, listen, and faithfully follow. Amen.