

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 4

OUR OBEDIENCE OFTEN DISCOVERS WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY PREPARED

Scripture

Read Mark 14:15-16.

Focus

God is often working ahead of us, preparing provision that obedience eventually leads us into.

Teaching

Jesus tells the disciples that they will be shown a large upper room that is furnished and ready.

This is one of the most beautiful details in the passage.

Before the disciples arrive, the room is already there. It is already large enough. It is already furnished. It is already ready.

The disciples did not build the house. They did not create the room. They did not arrange the encounter with the man. They did not prepare the heart of the homeowner.

An enormous amount had already happened before they arrived.

They simply obeyed Jesus and walked into something that had already been prepared.

This leads us to a powerful truth: their obedience did not create the provision. Their obedience discovered the provision.

This happens throughout Scripture.

Abraham walks toward the mountain and discovers that God has provided a ram.

Elijah goes to Zarephath and discovers that God has already been working through a widow.

Peter is sent to Cornelius while God is simultaneously preparing Cornelius.

Paul goes to Macedonia and finds that God is already opening Lydia's heart.

The servant of God is moving, but God is also moving at the destination.

You are not the only one moving.

While you are obeying God here, He may already be preparing something there.

A person.

A conversation.

An opportunity.

A provision.

An open door.

A heart.

A room.

The disciples could not see the room while standing outside the city, but that did not mean the room was not ready.

Just because you cannot see what God has prepared does not mean nothing has been prepared.

But notice something else. The room was furnished and ready, yet Jesus still told them to prepare.

The room was ready, but the disciples still had work to do.

This is where God's sovereignty and our obedience meet.

God prepares, and we prepare.

God provides, and we steward.

God opens, and we enter.

God goes ahead, and we follow.

The biblical life is not passive. We do not say, "If God wants it to happen, He will do everything." Neither do we live as though everything depends entirely on us.

We live with confidence that God is already at work while faithfully doing everything He places in our hands.

Going Deeper

Sometimes we pray for provision that God has already placed on the other side of obedience.

We stand outside the city asking God to show us the room.

God says, "Go."

We say, "Show me the provision first."

God says, "Follow Me."

This does not mean God owes us comfort, success, money, opportunity, or an easy life every time we obey. But it does mean we can trust that God is never sending us somewhere He has forgotten to go Himself.

The God who calls us is already present in the place He calls us to enter.

Reflection

Where may God be asking you to move before you can see the provision? What has God already given you that you are not faithfully stewarding? Are you waiting on God to do something when He may be waiting on you to obey?

Today's Action

Identify one area where God has already provided something for you to steward. It may be a relationship, an opportunity, a gift, a resource, or a responsibility. Prepare it well today. Set the table.

Prayer

Father, thank You that You are already at work in places I cannot see. Give me faith to follow You before I see the provision. Keep me from passivity and teach me to faithfully prepare what You have placed in my hands. Help me trust that wherever You lead me, You are already there. Amen.