

## Devotional Guide: "The Beauty of the Cross"

### Day 1: Remembering His Sacrifice

Scripture: Luke 22:19

"And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'"

Communion begins with remembrance. When we receive the bread and cup, we pause to remember Jesus—His broken body, His shed blood, and His great love for us. This is not a routine religious act; it is a sacred invitation to reflect on the cross. Jesus gave Himself willingly so that we could be forgiven, restored, and brought near to God.

In a busy world, it is easy to forget the weight and wonder of His sacrifice. Communion calls us back to the center of our faith: Jesus gave everything for us. As you prepare your heart today, think deeply about what His sacrifice means personally. He suffered for your sin, your shame, your healing, and your redemption.

Reflection:

What does Jesus' sacrifice mean to me personally today?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for giving Your body and blood for me. Help me never to treat Your sacrifice lightly. As I receive communion, fill my heart with gratitude and awe. Amen.

### Day 2: Examining the Heart

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:28

Communion is also a time of honest self-examination. Paul teaches us to come thoughtfully, not casually. This doesn't mean we must be perfect before coming to the Lord's Table. Rather, it means we come humbly, allowing the Holy Spirit to search our hearts.

Are there sins you have ignored, attitudes that dishonor God, or wounds that have hardened your heart? Communion is a moment to confess, repent, and receive God's mercy. The table is not for those who have it all together; it is for those who know they need grace.

God does not reveal our hearts to shame us, but to restore us. As you examine your life, remember that forgiveness is available through Christ. Come honestly, and trust Him to cleanse you.

Reflection:

Is there anything in my heart I need to confess and surrender to God?

Prayer:

Father, search my heart and reveal anything that is not pleasing to You. I confess my sins and ask for Your cleansing. Prepare me to receive communion with sincerity and repentance. Amen.

### **Day 3: Receiving Grace Again**

Scripture: Ephesians 1:7

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."

Communion is a visible reminder that grace is not earned—it is received. The cup reminds us that Jesus' blood was enough. His sacrifice paid the price for our sins once and for all. We do not come to communion trying to prove our worthiness; we come because Christ is worthy, and He welcomes us by grace.

Sometimes believers carry guilt long after God has offered forgiveness. We remember our failures more than we remember His mercy. But communion invites us to receive grace afresh. The blood of Jesus speaks a better word than condemnation. It declares pardon, freedom, and peace with God.

Today, let communion become more than a ritual. Let it be a moment where you truly receive what Christ has provided—forgiveness, mercy, and a renewed awareness of His love.

Reflection:

Am I living in the freedom of God's grace, or am I still carrying guilt Jesus already paid for?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You that Your blood purchased my forgiveness. Help me receive Your grace fully and walk in the freedom You have given me. Let communion remind me that I am redeemed by Your love. Amen.

### **Day 4: Walking in Unity**

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:16–17

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

Communion is deeply personal, but it is never private. When we come to the Lord's Table, we come as members of one body. The bread and cup remind us not only of our union with Christ, but also of our unity with one another. We are brothers and sisters joined by the same Savior.

This means communion should also move us toward reconciliation. If we are harboring bitterness, division, or unforgiveness, we must ask God to help us walk in love. The table calls us to humility and peace. We cannot fully honor Christ's sacrifice while refusing to love those He also died to save.

As you reflect today, consider your relationships. Is there someone you need to forgive, encourage, or pursue in peace? Communion is a reminder that we belong to one another in Christ.

Reflection:

Is there any relationship in my life that needs healing, forgiveness, or reconciliation?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for making me part of Your body. Help me to walk in unity, love, and forgiveness with others. Remove bitterness from my heart and teach me to pursue peace. Amen.

## **Day 5: Proclaiming His Return**

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:26

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Communion not only looks back at the cross; it also looks forward with hope. Every time we receive the bread and cup, we proclaim that Jesus died, rose again, and is coming back. The Lord's Table carries both remembrance and expectation.

This hope matters. In the middle of suffering, waiting, and uncertainty, communion reminds us that the story is not over. Christ will return. He will make all things new. What we now experience in part, we will one day see in fullness. The One who gave His life for us will come again in glory.

As you receive communion, let hope rise in your heart. Jesus is alive. He is present with you now, and He is coming again. The table is a promise that redemption is secure and the future is in His hands.

Reflection:

How does the promise of Christ's return strengthen my faith today?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You that You are coming again. Fill me with hope as I remember Your sacrifice and look forward to Your return. Help me live with faith, joy, and expectation. Amen.