

Holy week **DEVOTIONAL**



A
**SAVIOR
WHO
TRANSFORMS**



A gift for you from
RELENTLESS CHURCH

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DEDICATION

This devotion is dedicated to every member of Relentless Church who has joined our prayer forum or attended our services, becoming the fabric of our community and the hands and feet of Christ's body at work.

Your unwavering faith, dedication, and love have been the driving force behind every word written and every prayer whispered in this guide, compelling us to devote our time, treasure, and talents to create a sanctuary where God's spirit moves freely and powerfully.

You, embodying the relentless pursuit of God's heart, are the very essence of our church's name, and for that, we extend our deepest gratitude and love.

INTRODUCTION

*Welcome to “A Savior Who Transforms”
- Your Holy Week Journey*

Hello and welcome! Brace yourself for an inspiring trek through Holy Week, guided by the cherished tales from children’s literature like Winnie the Pooh, Peter Rabbit, and Alice from Wonderland. These aren’t just any stories; they’re gateways to exploring deep spiritual truths, connecting with timeless narratives that resonate with every step towards Easter.

This journey is more than just reading; it’s about immersing ourselves in the profound tales of faith, hope, and love. From the jubilant entry on Palm Sunday to the triumphant celebration of Easter, we’re weaving Jesus’ journey with these enduring classics to enlighten and transform our hearts.

And here’s how we deepen the experience: by embracing a fast from distractions like meat, sugar, excessive TV, and social media. This way, we can truly engage with the core of our reflections—prayer, scripture, and the rich insights these beloved stories offer.

Each day comes alive with a focused prayer, scripture insights, and reflections inspired by these literary treasures, designed to offer new perspectives on the Holy Week narrative. It’s our chance to carve out moments for God amidst life’s rush, finding serenity in the midst of turmoil and reconnecting with the stories that have shaped our perspectives.

Whether you’re embarking on this path solo or with loved ones, let’s transform this Holy Week into an extraordinary journey. Together, we’ll explore the profound lessons embedded in the path Jesus walked, poised to be inspired, stirred, and reshaped by the most significant story ever told. Let’s start this incredible journey!

PALM SUNDAY

A SAVIOR WHO CHOSE US

"I'm not very big...But I think I can. I think I can. I think I can."
– The Little Blue Engine

Within the simple affirmation of “I think I can, I think I can,” from “The Little Engine That Could,” lies a profound lesson on the power of perseverance, belief, and the realization of destiny. This mantra eloquently articulates the journey of transcending one’s apparent limitations—be it size, stature, or societal status—to achieve a grand purpose. The Little Engine That Could, written by Watty Piper, “...is a classic tale of the little engine that, despite her size, triumphantly pulls a train of wonderful things to the children waiting on the other side of a mountain.” Although one could argue that the engine’s tale is one about self-efficacy or positive thinking, upon deeper inspection it’s possible to see a different theme like when ordinary potential meets purpose extraordinary things occur.

The Little Engine, modest in size and untested in her capabilities, had never faced the daunting challenge of crossing a mountain. Similarly, the colt, far from the majesty of a horse, might have seemed an unlikely candidate for a role of carrying the Messiah. Yet, it was this humble creature that was chosen to carry Jesus into Jerusalem for His triumphant entry. Together, these narratives teach us that true potential and purpose are not constrained by our perceived inadequacies or limitations; indeed, they often emerge from the most unassuming beginnings.

Imagine now a humble colt, tied, unused, seemingly inconsequential in the bustling life of the city. Yet, this creature was earmarked for a purpose far beyond its

own comprehension, awaited by the Master Himself. Jesus, in need of the colt, declared in Luke 19:31, “The Master has need of it,” signifying that even the most unremarkable among us are essential to the unfolding of His divine plan.

In our eyes, we are like little engine and the colt—perhaps feeling ordinary, overlooked, or inadequate. Yet, Jesus sees beyond our self-doubt and fears, recognizing our indispensable worth and calling us by name for His greater purpose. “The Master has need of it,” he says of us, inviting us not to be mere spectators but active participants in His redemptive work, bearing the name of Christ, spreading the Message of Christ, and living a life that shines the light of Christ in a dark world.

You might say to yourself, “I don’t have a degree” or maybe you’re like Moses and discount yourself because you’re not eloquent in speech or you think others will despise your economic status. Be encouraged, our significance is not measured by our might or status instead by His purpose and calling. According to Philippians 4:13 we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. In His narrative, we discover our true worth. We are elevated from mere servants to friends, co-laborers in His redemptive journey, entrusted with a part in His grand story of salvation.

As we reflect on Palm Sunday and Jesus’ triumphant entry, let us also contemplate our own calling. Like

the little engine we are summoned from the periphery to play a vital role, and like the colt our role is in the Kingdom of God. It is not by our strength but by His choosing and need that we discover our value and mission.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, like the colt that You chose to carry You into Jerusalem, help us to see our own worth and calling in Your grand story. We are humble yet chosen, ordinary yet essential, because You, our Master, need us. As we step into this Holy Week,

remind us that we carry Your name, not ours, and in that name, we find everything we need. Thank You for calling us, friends, for choosing us to be part of Your redemptive plan. Amen.

Today, let us embrace our place in the heart of Jesus, recognizing that, like the little engine that believed it could, we hold a special place in the unfolding story of faith. In the grand narrative of salvation, no role is too small, no contribution insignificant, for in the eyes of our Savior, every heart He chooses is capable of greatness.

"Reflective Pauses: Daily Steps for Holy Week Transformation"

Fast from: *Meat*

Focus: *Recognizing our worth and calling in Christ*

Scripture to Read: *Mark 11:1-10*

Scripture to Meditate and Memorize: *John 15:16*

Action item: *Reflect on how you can be a vessel for Jesus this week, carrying His gospel message to your community this week.*

Prayer declaration: *"I am chosen by Christ to carry the Gospel into my community and the world."*

HOLY MONDAY

A SAVIOR WHO WELCOMES US BACK

“Peter gave himself up for lost and shed big tears”
– Peter Rabbit

“Peter gave himself up for lost and shed big tears,” marks a poignant moment in Beatrix Potter’s “The Tale of Peter Rabbit.” Here, Peter, a young rabbit who defied his mother’s warnings, finds himself in peril within Mr. McGregor’s garden. This garden, brimming with forbidden allure, becomes a landscape of both adventure and misfortune. Peter’s tears signify a character arc, a revelation of his vulnerability away from the safety and love drive his decision to return home.

This tender scene mirrors the biblical narrative of the Prodigal Son, who, after squandering his inheritance in a far-off land, faces his own moment of despair and returns to his right mind, Luke 15:17-20 says, “How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So, he got up and went to his father.” Unsure of the welcome that awaits him. Yet, what he finds is grace beyond measure—his father rushing to embrace him, not with reproach, but with joy and celebration.

Both Peter Rabbit and the parable of The Prodigal Son traverse the themes of crossing boundaries, driven by rebellion. They explore the dangers encountered when we stray from the path of wisdom and the profound lessons learned in the wilderness of disobedience.

At the heart of these stories are the universal experiences of wandering and returning. Each character’s journey away underscores the trials that come with venturing into the unknown. However, it is their decision to return that marks their narratives not as mere cautionary tales, but as powerful testimonies to repentance and forgiveness.

To those who once knew the comfort of walking with Christ but have wandered, lured by the world’s garden gates, hear this: your return is awaited with open arms. Distance and misstep, no matter how great, are not insurmountable in the face of repentance.

“Peter gave himself up for lost and shed big tears,” but he did not stop at feeling sorry for himself instead he went back home. If The Prodigal Son chose to host a pity party in the pig field, he might have ended up living like a pig instead he humbled himself and acted by returning home. The possibility of an adverse reaction to their return was not enough to hinder their journey back home. Consequently, their humility was met with the warmth of home. Like Peter Rabbit you will find warmth and like the Prodigal Son, you, too, will be greeted with love and celebration. Despite our fears of rejection, judgment, and consequences for our sins, our repentance is our return to the father. When we return to our Heavenly Father, his presence is our home, we will find love and forgiveness.

This Holy Monday, let their stories remind you that no

journey is too long, and no mistake too great, that it cannot be met with the loving forgiveness of a Savior eager for your return.

Prayer:

Gracious Father, in the mischievous paths of Peter Rabbit and among the pig fields like the Prodigal Son, we find the echoes of our own journey. Thank you for welcoming us back each time we stray. Help us to seek You earnestly, to embrace the love and forgiveness You offer, and to walk steadfastly on

the path You light before us. As we navigate the complexities of life, remind us that we are never too far to come home, to be welcomed into Your loving arms. Amen.

Today, as we journey through Holy Monday, let's remember the warmth of home and the open arms of our Savior. In every wandering heart lies the potential for return, for transformation, and for a life changed not by our own merit but by the loving invitation of Jesus.

"Reflective Pauses: Daily Steps for Holy Week Transformation"

Fast from: *Sugar*

Focus: *Embracing God's forgiveness and returning to His path*

Scripture to Read: *Luke 15:11-32*

Scripture to Meditate and Memorize: *Isaiah 55:6-7*

Action item: *Identify one area of your life where you need to seek forgiveness or offer it to someone else.*

Prayer declaration: *"I repent and return to God's warm embrace."*

Prayer Hours: *6 AM (Prayer for forgiveness and grace), Noon (Meditation on God's welcoming love), 6 PM (Prayer for the strength to return to God's path).*



HOLY TUESDAY

A SAVIOR WHO TRANSFORMS US

"It's no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then,"

- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

"It's no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then," muses Alice in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. This musing is a reminder that we're constantly evolving, not just through the rabbit holes of our adventures but in the depth of our spiritual journey with Christ. The Bible declares, "When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand-new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 TLB).

Not long ago, I stood with my family at the Equator, a line that divides the world into two hemispheres. There, we witnessed a fascinating demonstration: a water swirl that changed direction merely a step across this invisible line, due to the Coriolis effect. In one hemisphere, the water swirled clockwise; a step over, and it swirled counterclockwise. It was a vivid reminder of how a small change in position can lead to a completely different outcome.

This experience at the Equator serves as a metaphor for our spiritual transformation in Christ. Just as stepping across the Equator can change the direction of water's swirl, accepting Christ into our lives spins us into a new direction. We cross over from a life of sin and death into eternal life, our entire being transformed by His grace.

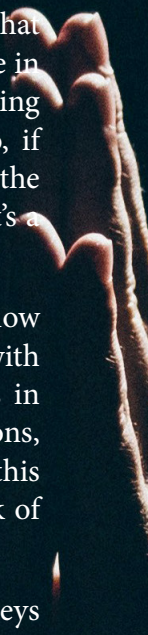
Embracing Christ doesn't exempt us from challenges; it transforms how we face them. A personal testament to this transformation is evident in my relationship

with my spouse. Following an argument, where I instinctively dredged up past mistakes to fortify my position, I was met not with retaliation but with a calm, "That was the past. I am no longer that person anymore."

This response was a living testimony to the transformative power of faith. Instead of anger, there's prayer; instead of bitterness, forgiveness. It's a clear marker of how far we've come and a reminder that we're still growing. Like Alice, if you sense a change in you embrace it. If you notice that you are outgrowing certain mindsets and behaviors, embrace it. Also, if you are beginning to sense a nudging to pivot in the way you handle people or situations, embrace it. It's a sign of the work Christ is doing in you.

For those feeling stuck or longing for change, know that transformation is within reach. It starts with repentance and unfolds as we immerse ourselves in God's Word, letting it reshape our thoughts, actions, and words. Each day is an opportunity to live out this transformation, trusting in the slow but sure work of grace.

This Holy Tuesday let's reflect on our journeys of change. Like Alice's adventures and the visible transformation in my spouse, we're reminded that our past doesn't define us. In Christ, we are made new, continually evolving and embracing the future He has for us with open arms.



Prayer:

Lord Jesus, in our daily transformations, remind us of the beauty in change. Help us to see our past as a canvas for Your work, shaping us into the image of Your Son. In every argument turned gentle word, in every trial turned testimony, show us Your hand at work. Amen.

Today, let's ponder the transformations in our lives, celebrating the growth and looking forward to the journey ahead, hand in hand with a Savior who makes all things new.

"Reflective Pauses: Daily Steps for Holy Week Transformation"

Fast from: *Entertainment (TV, movies, etc.)*

Focus: *Personal transformation and renewal in Christ*

Scripture to Read: *Romans 12:1-2*

Scripture to Meditate and Memorize: *2 Corinthians 5:17*

Action item: *Spend extra time in prayer, asking God to reveal areas of your life that need transformation.*

Prayer declaration: *"I am being transformed by Christ, renewed daily to reflect His love and grace."*

Prayer Hours: *6 AM (Prayer for personal transformation), Noon (Reflection on growth and change), 6 PM (Prayer of commitment to spiritual renewal).*

ASH WEDNESDAY

A SAVIOR WHO REDEEMS OUR STORY

“Real isn’t how you are made,’ said the Skin Horse. ‘It’s a thing that happens to you...”
– Skin Horse, *The Velveteen Rabbit*.

In the tender narrative of *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams, a toy rabbit becomes ‘Real’ through the love of his owner. This journey of transformation, from a mere object of play to a beloved, living companion, serves as a poignant metaphor for our spiritual renewal during Lent. It echoes the scriptural truth that “...because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved” (Ephesians 2:4-5 NIV).

This Ash Wednesday beckons us to explore the depths of what constitutes our ‘realness.’ Is it defined by our earthly actions, our past, or by the immutable love Christ bestows upon us? Today ushers in a period of sacred introspection, prompting us to look beyond our mortal coil to our eternal value in God’s eyes.

The imposition of ashes reminds us, “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Yet, this is not merely an acknowledgment of our mortality but a call towards the deeper, eternal life we find in Christ, who redeems and renders us truly ‘Real.’

My own journey of becoming ‘Real’ was profoundly shaped by an encounter with a cantankerous patient. Initially, our interactions were marked by his bitterness and my frustrated attempts at kindness. For weeks, my cheerful greetings were met with silence, then growls, but I persevered, driven by a religious pride. After a few more weeks, my determination was fueled with Christ-like compassion. Over time, something miraculous

occurred—our relationship transformed. His growls turned to smiles, and he became not just a patient but a cherished individual in my care. His transformation was a testament to the power of persistent love, and surprisingly, I found myself transformed in the process. No longer was I merely practicing religion; I was living out the love of Christ. It was a poignant reminder that transformation is often a mutual journey, where in loving others, we too are made anew.

The *Velveteen Rabbit* narrative, some parts, reflect some aspects of my transformation and gracefully unfolds the essence of Ash Wednesday and our Lenten passage, reminding us that our walk with the Lord is not one of instantaneous change but of gradual transformation through the profound love of Christ.

As we enter the solemnity of Ash Wednesday, we are beckoned to traverse our spiritual terrains, pondering deeply: What constitutes our ‘realness’? Is it our actions, our past, or perhaps the immutable love Christ extends to us? Today marks the commencement of a sacred introspection, urging us to peer beyond our earthly mold to our eternal significance in the eyes of God.

“Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” we hear in Genesis 3:19. Yet, this admonition is not a final verdict but a gentle nudge towards seeking our deeper truth in Christ. He, who redeems our narratives, offers a love that transcends our mortality, crafting us into beings ‘real’ and eternal.

As the ashes are placed upon us, let them not only symbolize our finite nature but also herald the potential for rebirth through Jesus's redeeming love. In abstaining from meat and worldly indulgences, we cultivate a yearning for the spiritual sustenance only He can furnish.

Prayer:

Merciful Lord, as we stand at the threshold of Lent, we acknowledge our fragility and yearn for the transformative embrace of Your love. Like the Velveteen Rabbit, may we find authenticity in the

enduring love You bestow. Steer us through these days of reflection to discover our true selves within Your redemptive grace. Amen.

This Ash Wednesday, and through the days of Lent, let the tale of the Velveteen Rabbit remind us of our journey towards becoming real through divine love. It is not our deeds but the depth of God's love for us, a love that assures us of our worth and promises transformation in the profoundest sense.

"Reflective Pauses: Daily Steps for Holy Week Transformation"

Fast from: *Meat and perhaps other chosen luxuries*

Focus: *Contemplating our mortality and the hope of resurrection*

Scripture to Read: *Genesis 3:19; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18.*

Scripture to Meditate and Memorize: *Psalm 51:10*

Action item: *Begin a Lenten journal, noting daily reflections, prayers, and insights.*

Prayer declaration: *"In Christ, I am redeemed; my story is woven with threads of His grace and love."*

Prayer Hours: *6 AM (Prayer for a contrite heart), Noon (Meditation on redemption and renewal), 6 PM (Prayer for embracing our true identity in Christ).*

MAUNDY THURSDAY

A SAVIOR'S LOVE

*"The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or touched,
they are felt with the heart,"*
– The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

In the tender narrative of *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, we're introduced to a young prince on a quest for wisdom. Journeying across the stars, he learns that the essence of being, and love cannot be discerned through sight alone, but are felt deeply within the heart. This lesson, imparted by a wise fox, echoes the spiritual essence we're called to embrace each Maundy Thursday.

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, where Jesus not only shared bread and wine but also performed the profoundly humble act of washing His disciples' feet, embodying love and service. Later, His crucifixion became the ultimate testament to love that transcends all understanding—a love felt not just on the surface but deep within the soul.

Reflecting on Jesus' life and the narrative of *The Little Prince*, we see a profound parallel in the journey to understand and embody love. It's a love that speaks without words, a love that serves beyond convenience, and a love that sacrifices without expecting return.

My understanding of this love was deeply challenged and enriched by an encounter with my youngest daughter. One challenging day, after her refusal to complete schoolwork, I withheld my affection in disappointment. It was a moment of revelation when I felt the gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit, reminding me that God's love is unwavering, even in the face of our failures. This experience was a powerful lesson in the unconditional nature of love—a love that goes beyond

actions and reaches the very core of our being, just as Jesus loves us.

Have you ever missed an opportunity to communicate heartfelt love through demonstrations of affection, acts of kindness, or service? We still have an opportunity to reflect God's love in a way that can touch hearts.

The quest of the Little Prince and my own experience teach us that true love is experienced at a heart level and informs us of our worth, echoing the actions of Jesus. By washing His disciples' feet and sacrificing Himself on the cross, He demonstrated that the greatest love is one that serves, gives, and forgives without bounds.

"As we step into the humility of Christ this Maundy Thursday, let us recall the wisdom of *The Little Prince*: true vision and love come from the heart. This profound truth is lived out in Jesus' actions at the Last Supper, where He washed His disciples' feet and broke bread with them, illustrating love's tangible form through service and sacrifice.

In our own lives, this might manifest as we choose to fast from social media—a practice not of withdrawal, but of redirecting our attention towards the people right in front of us, serving and loving them without the distraction of digital validation.

Consider, as Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, how we too can perform acts of service for those in

need around us. Let this not be a quest for recognition but a silent testament to our commitment to see with our hearts and love unconditionally, as Christ loves us. This Maundy Thursday may our action item not merely be a task we check off but a reflection of our deeper yearning to embody Christ's humility and love.

Just as my personal story with my daughter reminded me that love is not contingent on perfection but is a steadfast choice, let us approach our acts of service with the same grace. Whether it is giving up our seat on a bus for someone in need or simply offering a listening ear to a friend, these are the moments where the love of Christ can shine through us, reaching beyond the visible, touching hearts in silent, profound ways.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, as we embrace the humility and service you modeled for us, help us to see with our hearts and extend Your love to those around us. May our actions this Maundy Thursday reflect the depth of Your love, inspiring us to live out the commandment to love one another in both grand gestures and quiet acts of kindness. Amen.

In doing so, we live the essence of Maundy Thursday, embodying the love that Jesus Christ has shown us—a love that is felt deep within the heart and expressed through our every act of service and kindness.

"Reflective Pauses: Daily Steps for Holy Week Transformation"

Fast from: *Social media*

Focus: *The humility of Christ and the call to serve others*

Scripture to Read: *John 13:1-17*

Scripture to Meditate and Memorize: *John 13:34*

Action item: *Perform an act of service for someone in need without seeking recognition.*

Prayer declaration: *"In serving others, I reflect Christ's humility and love, discovering my true worth in His eyes."*

GOOD FRIDAY

A SAVIOR SUFFERING IN OUR PLACE

“You have been my friend,” replied Charlotte. “That in itself is a tremendous thing.”

– Charlotte’s Web by E.B. White

In Charlotte’s Web, a story cherished for its themes of friendship, sacrifice, and redemption, we meet Charlotte, a wise and caring spider who forms an unlikely bond with Wilbur, a young pig. Facing the threat of slaughter, Wilbur finds a friend in Charlotte, who weaves words into her web to save his life. Her efforts, though exhausting, signify the depth of her love and commitment. Her efforts are physically draining for her, as creating the webs and coming up with plans requires a significant amount of her energy and resources.

Charlotte’s life cycle is also coming to an end, as spiders of her kind (a barn spider) live for about a year. She spends her last days at the fair, where she creates her final masterpiece in her web to save Wilbur. After completing her last web, which plays a crucial role in ensuring Wilbur’s safety, Charlotte becomes very weak and explains to Wilbur that she won’t be returning to the barn with him. She dies at the fairground, alone but at peace knowing that her friend Wilbur will live.

Ultimately, Charlotte act of love illustrates the essence of self-giving love. Upon close inspection we see a poignant narrative reflects the core message of Good Friday.

Today, we commemorate the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who, like Charlotte, laid down His life out of profound love for His friends, for us. Through His crucifixion, a narrative of pain and betrayal transforms into a story of unparalleled love and sacrifice. The

selfless act of Charlotte to save Wilbur echoes the sacrificial love Jesus demonstrated on the cross—a love so vast it encompasses all humanity.

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13). The actions of Jesus on Good Friday embody this profound love, showing us that true friendship and genuine love are about giving wholly of oneself for the sake of others.

As we journey through this solemn day, let us meditate on the weight of Christ’s sacrifice. The cross, a symbol of suffering and shame, becomes our beacon of hope and salvation, revealing the boundless depth of God’s love for us.

Our fasting today takes on a somber tone as we remember the body of Christ, broken for us. Let this physical hunger deepen our appreciation for the spiritual nourishment His sacrifice provides, sustaining us in every trial.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, on this Good Friday, we stand in awe of Your Son’s sacrifice. Help us grasp the depth of His love and the magnitude of His suffering, acknowledging the price He paid for our freedom. May our hearts be filled with gratitude for the salvation won through His cross. Amen.

This Good Friday, let the story of Charlotte’s Web remind us of the powerful acts of love and friendship

that can alter history. May the narratives of Charlotte's devotion and Christ's passion intertwine, guiding our reflections on the transformative power of sacrificial love that defines our faith and our lives.

"Reflective Pauses: Daily Steps for Holy Week Transformation"

Fast from: *All solid food (if medically advisable) or choose another significant fast*

Focus: *Reflecting on the sacrifice of Christ and His immense love*

Scripture to Read: *John 19:1-42*

Scripture to Meditate and Memorize: *Isaiah 53:5*

Action item: *Attend a Good Friday service or spend a dedicated time in solemn reflection on the Passion of Christ.*

Prayer declaration: *"Christ's sacrifice on the cross embraces my suffering, granting me peace and salvation."*

Prayer Hours: *6 AM (Prayer of gratitude for Christ's sacrifice), Noon (Meditation on the Cross and its meaning), 6 PM (Prayer for embracing the hope found in Christ's sacrifice).*

HOLY SATURDAY

A SAVIOR CULTIVATES IN SILENCE

"When the door was shut and locked, Mary wondered what was going to happen."

- The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

In *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, we are introduced to Mary Lennox, a young, initially sour girl sent to live with her uncle in a large, lonely house on the moors. There, Mary discovers a locked, neglected garden. With the help of new friends, she begins to tend to the forgotten space. 'And the secret garden bloomed and bloomed, and every morning revealed new miracles.' The garden's transformation, from a desolate plot to a vibrant haven, becomes a powerful metaphor for healing, growth, and rebirth. This miraculous transformation mirrors the silent, mysterious work of Holy Saturday.

Beneath the soil of Mary's secret garden, seeds undergo a profound change in the dark, unseen by human eyes. This process of germination—a seed's transformation into a plant—is a quiet yet powerful force of nature. It begins in the obscurity of the earth, where warmth and moisture awaken the life within the seed, initiating growth that stretches toward the light, unseen until it breaks through the soil into visibility.

Similarly, Holy Saturday occupies a sacred space of waiting and unseen transformation. It's the day that follows the sorrow of Christ's crucifixion, a period where the world waits in hushed anticipation for the joy of Resurrection Sunday. Like the seed in the darkness, it's a time when it seems as though nothing is happening, yet deep within, God is at work. The silent, hidden growth that occurs in the depths of the earth parallels the spiritual growth happening within us,

even when it's not immediately apparent.

Holy Saturday invites us to contemplate this silent, unseen work of God. Just as a seed germinates in the darkness, preparing to burst forth into new life, so too are we being prepared for our spiritual renewal. This day of quiet reflection reminds us that God's transformative work in our lives often occurs below the surface, in the depths of our being, before it ever becomes visible to us or to the world.

Prayer:

Lord God, on this Holy Saturday, as we dwell in the quietude of Your waiting world, grant us the faith to trust in the silent work You are doing within us. Help us to remember that, like the seeds in a garden awaiting the warmth of spring, we too are being prepared for the glorious bloom of resurrection life. May we embrace the hidden growth of this day, looking forward with hope and anticipation to the new life You promise. Amen.

As we reflect on the silent transformation beneath the earth in *The Secret Garden*, let us also consider the transformative power of this Holy Saturday. May we allow God's silent work in the depths of our souls to prepare us for the beauty and joy of Easter morning.

"Reflective Pauses: Daily Steps for Holy Week Transformation"

Fast from: *Unnecessary noise (creating spaces of silence)*

Focus: *Waiting on God and trusting in His unseen work*

Scripture to Read: *Matthew 27:57-66*

Scripture to Meditate and Memorize: *Psalm 46:10*

Action item: *Spend time in nature or in a quiet space, reflecting on the silent work of God in your life.*

Prayer declaration: *"In the silence, God is at work within me, preparing me for His divine purpose."*

Prayer Hours: *6 AM (Prayer for trust in God's silent work), Noon (Silent reflection on our own spiritual growth), 6 PM (Evening prayer for the revelation of God's love at Easter).*



RESURRECTION SUNDAY

A SAVIOR ESTABLISHES KINGDOM

"Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight, At the sound of his roar, sorrows will be no more, When he bares his teeth, winter meets its death, And when he shakes his mane, we shall have spring again."
– The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

In C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, we are transported to the fictional land of Narnia, ensnared in perpetual winter by the White Witch's curse. The arrival of four children from our world coincides with the return of Aslan, the true king and a noble lion, whose presence heralds the demise of the witch's reign and the return of spring. Aslan's voluntary sacrifice to save Edmund, one of the children who betrayed him, and his subsequent resurrection, breathe new life into Narnia, freeing it from tyranny and despair.

The prophecy, "Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight," speaks to the transformative power of Aslan's return. It suggests that the injustices, suffering, and moral disorder imposed by the White Witch's rule will be corrected with Aslan's intervention. This line is deeply allegorical, with Aslan representing Christ. Just as Aslan's coming heralds justice, peace, and the restoration of Narnia, Christ's presence and sacrifice offer redemption, reconcile wrongs, and bring about the ultimate restoration in the lives of believers and the world at large, symbolizing the Christian belief in the rectification of injustices and the healing of all creation through Christ's redemptive work.

This narrative mirrors the triumphant essence of Easter Sunday, where we celebrate not just the return of spring but the resurrection of Jesus, the true King who conquers death and ushers in eternal life. In Narnia, as the grip of the White Witch's winter melts away with Aslan's return, symbolizing the transformative power

of Christ's resurrection, we too awaken to new life, to the reality of Jesus' victory over the grave.

"He is not here; for He has risen, just as He said" (Matthew 28:6). Today, the stone is rolled away, the tomb is empty, and the world is forever changed. Jesus' resurrection is the cornerstone of our faith, the definitive sign that life triumphs over death, love conquers hate, and hope is eternal.

As we celebrate Easter, let us also embrace the new life that Jesus offers us. The resurrection is not just an event to be remembered; it's a reality to be lived. In Christ, we are invited to experience a rebirth, a renewal of our hearts and minds, emerging from the winters of our discontent into the glorious spring of His saving love.

Prayer:

Risen Lord, on this glorious Easter Sunday, we rejoice in Your victory over death and the new life You grant us. Like Narnia's winter turned to spring by Aslan's roar, may our lives be transformed by the power of Your resurrection. Help us to live out this new life daily, embodying the hope and joy of Your victory in every word and deed. Amen.

This Easter, let the story of Aslan in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* inspire us to see the resurrection of Jesus as the ultimate triumph, a promise of new life and hope that forever alters the landscape of our faith and our lives.

"Reflective Pauses: Daily Steps for Holy Week Transformation"

Fast from: *Fasting ends – celebrate and feast!*

Focus: *The joy of Resurrection and the promise of new life in Christ*

Scripture to Read: *John 20:1-18*

Scripture to Meditate and Memorize: *1 Corinthians 15:55-57*

Action item: *Celebrate the resurrection with community worship, share the joy of Easter with family, friends, or neighbors through hospitality or acts of kindness.*

Prayer declaration: *"In Jesus' resurrection, I am given new life, filled with joy, hope, and the promise of eternal salvation."*

Prayer Hours: *6 AM (Prayer of joy for the Resurrection), Noon (Celebration of new life in Christ with family/community), 6 PM (Thanksgiving for the transformative power of the Resurrection).*

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY WITH @RELENTLESSC ON YOUTUBE

As we close this sacred journey of Holy Week, we hope your heart has been touched and transformed by the profound lessons and spiritual reflections we've shared. But the journey doesn't end here. To continue exploring deep, inspiring content and to stay connected with our vibrant community, we invite you to subscribe to our YouTube channel: @RelentlessC.

On @RelentlessC, you'll find a treasure trove of spiritual nourishment: uplifting sermons, powerful prayers, engaging Bible studies, and so much more, all designed to fuel your faith journey and keep you anchored in God's word. By subscribing, you'll be the first to access our latest videos, series, and live events, ensuring you never miss out on the encouragement and wisdom our community has to offer.

Don't let the journey stop at the last page. Let's continue to walk in faith, grow in understanding, and live out the transformation we've embraced this Holy Week. Click subscribe, join our @RelentlessC family, and let's keep moving forward, relentless in our pursuit of God's transforming love.

Thank you for being part of this special Holy Week experience. May your path be ever guided by His light, and may our shared journey on @RelentlessC bring you ever closer to the heart of God.



SUPPORT OUR MISSION

As we journey together in faith and fellowship, the impact of our collective efforts at Relentless Church is fueled by the generous support of our community. Your giving not only sustains our ministry but also enables us to reach further, touching more lives with the love and message of Christ.

Why Give?

Giving is an act of worship and a demonstration of faith, reflecting our trust in God's provision and our commitment to His work. It allows us to be active participants in God's kingdom, contributing to a legacy of love, service, and transformation.

Your Impact

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. Your contributions help fund our various ministries, outreach programs, and community support initiatives, allowing us to be a beacon of hope and a source of healing in a world in need.

Our Commitment

At Relentless Church, we pledge to use your gifts wisely and effectively, ensuring they have the maximum impact on our shared mission to spread the Gospel and serve our community.

Thank You for Your Generosity!

Your giving is a powerful expression of faith and love, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership in this journey. Together, we can continue to make a difference, advancing God's kingdom on earth and changing lives for the better.

For more information on giving and to make your donation, please visit our website or contact our finance office. Thank you for considering supporting Relentless Church in these tangible, transformative ways.

WAYS TO GIVE TO RELENTLESS CHURCH

Online Giving

Convenient and secure, online donations can be made through our website: www.relentlessC.org/GIVE

Mail to Give

You can mail your checks to our church office. 5223 Cleveland Street, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462

Text to Give

Text "RELGIVE" to: 77977 (This is for people in USA and CANADA).

Legacy Giving

Consider making a lasting impact by including Relentless Church in your will or estate plans.



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