



DOVER DAILY DEVOTIONS

Daily Devotionals:

On Sunday, we turned to Matthew 26:17–30 and reflected on the final meal Jesus shared with His disciples before the cross. We saw how Jesus, in sovereign control, prepared for the Passover not as a victim of circumstance but as the Lamb of God willingly embracing His mission of redemption. We also looked at Judas’s betrayal as a heartbreaking display of a hardened heart that never surrendered to His lordship. Then we turned to the bread and the cup, and we marveled at how Jesus gave these familiar elements new meaning, sealing a new covenant through His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Finally, we considered Christ’s promise not to drink of the cup again until the coming Kingdom, reminding us that communion not only looks back to the cross, but forward to the joy of resurrection life and the great banquet to come. We closed with the reminder that Jesus walked toward the cross with a song, and we too are called to meet our trials with worship, hope, and trust in the One who gave Himself for us.

Monday: A Sovereign Plan

Scripture:

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?” He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. - Matthew 26:17–19 ESV

Devotional:

Jesus did not stumble into suffering, He walked into it with purpose. On the first day of Unleavened Bread, Jesus sent His disciples to prepare the Passover, but not randomly. He had already arranged the details. His words, “My time is near,” remind us that His path to the cross was deliberate. The cross was not a detour but a divine appointment. Jesus knew what was coming and embraced it, showing us what true obedience and love look like.

When Jesus speaks of “kairos,” He means more than a point on the clock. He speaks of God’s appointed time, a sacred moment charged with eternal meaning. His willing sacrifice was not reactive but redemptive. He chose the cross because He chose us. In a world of chaos, that truth brings comfort: God is never surprised, and His sovereign hand holds us, even in uncertainty.

As you begin this week, remember this: the same God who orchestrated redemption at the cross is still at work in your life. His plan is not always clear, but it is always good. You may not see the purpose in the pain now, but Jesus shows us that even betrayal and death can be part of resurrection glory.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does Jesus’ purposeful preparation for Passover shape your understanding of God’s sovereignty?
2. Where in your life do you need to trust that God’s timing is not random but “kairos”?
3. What is one way you can walk in obedience today, even if the road is hard?

Prayer:

Father, thank You that nothing takes You by surprise. Help me trust that You are working all things together for good, even when I cannot see it. Give me faith to follow, courage to obey, and peace in Your perfect timing. Amen.

Tuesday: Betrayal and the Heart

Scripture:

When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” - Matthew 26:20–22, ESV

Devotional:

When Jesus reclined at the table with His disciples, He made a chilling declaration: “One of you will betray Me.” His words cut through the celebration like a knife. Yet what stands out isn’t just the betrayal, it’s the disciples’ response. Instead of pointing fingers, they looked inward and asked, “Is it I, Lord?” That’s the heart of true humility: a willingness to examine ourselves before accusing others.

This moment invites us into the uncomfortable but necessary work of self-examination. The disciples understood their capacity for weakness, and so must we. We are not above temptation. We need grace daily. And Jesus, knowing what Judas would do, still extended fellowship, still washed his feet, still offered a seat at the table. That is love deeper than betrayal.

God is patient, even when we hesitate. He offers space for repentance. But like Judas, we must decide who Jesus is to us, Lord or merely teacher. That small shift makes an eternal difference. Today, let’s not just reflect on Judas’s mistake, but on our own need for daily surrender.

Reflection Questions:

1. When was the last time you honestly examined your heart before the Lord?
2. What does it mean to call Jesus “Lord” rather than just “Rabbi” or teacher?
3. How does Jesus’ grace toward Judas challenge your view of love and forgiveness?

Prayer:

Jesus, You know my heart, its brokenness and its need. Give me the courage to examine myself honestly. Help me trust Your love and receive Your grace, even when I fall short. I want to follow You as Lord, not just admire You as teacher. Amen.

Wednesday: The Danger of Distance

Scripture:

He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.” - Matthew 26:23–25, ESV

Devotional:

Judas's betrayal didn't begin in the garden, it began in his heart. His question, "Is it I, Rabbi?" reveals his posture toward Jesus. While the other disciples called Jesus "Lord," Judas kept Him at arm's length, as teacher, not Savior. That subtle distinction made all the difference. You can be near Jesus and still not belong to Him.

Jesus offered Judas space to repent, but Judas had already chosen a different path. The mystery of divine sovereignty and human responsibility plays out here. God's plan was unfolding, yet Judas was fully responsible for his choices. That tension reminds us: proximity to Jesus is not the same as surrender to Him.

Don't let familiarity breed complacency. It's possible to serve, attend church, even take communion, and still have a heart far from Christ. The call today is to full surrender. Not "Rabbi," but "Lord." Not near Him, but belonging to Him. Judas teaches us what happens when the heart stays hard.

Reflection Questions:

1. Is there a place in your life where you're keeping Jesus at a distance?
2. How does your view of Jesus influence your obedience?
3. What's one step you can take today to fully surrender to His Lordship?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I don't want to just walk beside You, I want to belong to You. Expose any part of my heart that's distant or hard. I choose You today, not just as teacher, but as my Savior and King. Amen.

Thursday: Bread and the Broken Savior

Scripture:

"Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.'" - Matthew 26:26, ESV

Devotional:

As Jesus broke the bread and gave it to His disciples, He declared, "This is my body." These familiar words take on deeper meaning when we realize Jesus was pointing to His own

suffering. The bread wasn't just tradition, it was a picture of His body, broken for us. And yet, before breaking it, He gave thanks.

What kind of Savior gives thanks before suffering? Only one who is fully surrendered. Jesus teaches us that gratitude and sacrifice can coexist. His thanksgiving in the face of agony reminds us that God's purposes are never wasted. Even in brokenness, there is meaning. Even in suffering, there is grace.

When we take the bread, we don't just remember, we receive. Christ meets us in our weakness, and His brokenness becomes our healing. Communion is not about what we bring, it's about what Christ gave. Today, give thanks, even in trial, because the broken bread reminds us: we are not alone.

Reflection Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus gave thanks before breaking the bread?
2. How can you practice gratitude in the midst of hardship?
3. What does Jesus' broken body mean for your broken places today?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for giving Yourself for me. In Your brokenness, I find wholeness. Teach me to give thanks in all circumstances, knowing Your presence is enough. May this bread remind me daily of Your nearness and grace. Amen.

Friday: The Blood of the Covenant

Scripture:

"And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." - Matthew 26:27-28, ESV

Devotional:

Jesus took the cup and said, "This is my blood of the covenant, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." These words are the heart of the gospel. His blood was not spilled in tragedy, it was poured in purpose. The cup is more than a symbol; it's a declaration of mercy, forgiveness, and eternal promise.

This cup echoes the covenant Moses made in Exodus and the promise of Jeremiah that God would forgive our sins and remember them no more. It points to Isaiah's suffering servant

who bore the sin of many. The cross was the fulfillment of it all. And in this cup, we find a fountain of grace that still flows.

When you drink from the cup, know this: you are drinking from a covenant that cannot be broken. His blood speaks a better word over your past, your present, and your future. Today, rest in the truth that you are fully forgiven, not because of what you've done, but because of what Christ has done for you.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does the imagery of covenant deepen your understanding of communion?
2. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus' blood was poured for you?
3. Do you live like you are forgiven? If not, what holds you back?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for the blood that was poured out for me. Let me never take for granted the cost of my forgiveness. Help me to live in the freedom and grace You purchased with Your sacrifice. Amen.

Saturday: A Kingdom Promise

Scripture:

I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. - Matthew 26:29-30, ESV

Devotional:

Jesus ended the meal with a promise: "I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." Even with the cross looming, He spoke of the Kingdom to come. He looked beyond betrayal and suffering to reunion, restoration, and resurrection.

Jesus is the Lamb, but He is also the Host of the great wedding feast to come. The meal we share now is a foretaste. Every piece of bread, every sip of the cup, points forward to the celebration still to come. In the shadow of suffering, Jesus sang a hymn of hope, a song of trust in God's plan.

As we prepare for Easter, let's not just look back to the cross, but forward to the crown. Jesus walked toward the cross with a song. We walk through our trials with that same hope. One

day, we will feast with Him, face to face. Until then, we sing and we wait with hope.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does the promise of the Kingdom shape how you live today?
2. What does it mean that Jesus sang before walking to the cross?
3. How can worship prepare your heart for trials?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for the promise of the Kingdom. As I remember Your sacrifice, help me look forward with hope. Teach me to sing in the darkness, to trust in the waiting, and to live for the joy set before me. Amen.