



DOVER DAILY DEVOTIONS

Daily Devotionals:

This past Sunday, we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ from Matthew 28 and reflected on why the empty tomb is the very heart of our faith. We saw how the risen Christ first revealed Himself to two faithful women, making them the first messengers of resurrection glory, and how their obedience and worship invite us to respond with the same devotion. We also explored the resistance to the resurrection, how the religious leaders tried to suppress the truth through lies and bribery, and yet, despite their efforts, the truth could not be buried. We saw how the disciples, once fearful and scattered, were transformed into bold witnesses, not because of myth, but because they encountered the risen Lord. Finally, we turned to the Great Commission, where Jesus, possessing all authority, commanded His followers to go and make disciples of all nations, and promised that He would be with us always. The call was clear: not just to celebrate the resurrection, but to live in its power.

Monday: Dawn of the New Creation

Scripture:

Matthew 28:1–4

Devotional:

The resurrection begins in darkness. Before the sun rises, before clarity arrives, two faithful women walk to the tomb. They do not come expecting joy, they come in grief, still reeling from the events of Friday. And yet, they come. Their devotion in the dark becomes the doorway to revelation. So often in our faith, obedience must precede understanding.

Then the earth quakes. Heaven cannot stay silent. An angel descends, not gently, but with thunder and radiance. The tomb is opened not so Jesus can leave, He is already risen, but so we can look in. It is a holy invitation: Come and see. The stone that once sealed death is now a seat of victory. God has interrupted the natural with the supernatural.

This moment reminds us that God is always working, even in the dark. He moves when we least expect it. He reveals His glory to the humble, the grieving, the faithful few who still come to seek Him. This is how resurrection breaks into the world: not with spectacle, but with a summons to come, see, and believe.

Reflection Questions:

1. When have you experienced God's presence in a time of darkness?
2. Why do you think God chose the women to be the first witnesses?

Prayer:

Risen Lord, thank You for meeting us in the shadows. Thank You that even when we cannot see clearly, Your power is already at work. Give us the courage to walk in faith, to show up in devotion, and to trust that You are moving behind the scenes. Help us to see the empty tomb with wonder. Amen.

Tuesday: He Is Not Here—He Has Risen

Scripture:

Matthew 28:5–7

Devotional:

The angel's words are some of the most powerful ever spoken: "He is not here, for He has risen." In that single sentence, history shifts. Death has been dethroned. Sin has been silenced. Despair has been undone. The angel doesn't offer a metaphor or a myth. He offers a fact: Jesus, who was crucified, is no longer in the tomb.

But there's more. "As He said." Jesus had promised this all along. The resurrection was not a backup plan. It was always the plan. God's Word had foretold it, and now, standing in a garden at sunrise, heaven affirms its truth. The angel does not call the women to blind belief, but to inspect, to witness, to go and tell. Faith begins by seeing the empty place where death once claimed victory.

This is the turning point of the gospel. Jesus has risen. And because He lives, everything changes. Fear is answered with peace. Sorrow is answered with joy. Death is answered with life. Our call is the same as theirs: Come and see. Go and tell.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does the resurrection confirm the trustworthiness of Jesus' words?
2. What areas of your life are still marked by fear that the resurrection speaks against?

3. Who in your life needs to hear the message of “He is risen”?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You are alive, just as You said. Let those words echo in my heart today. Silence the voice of fear in my life. Strengthen my faith, that I may both see and share the good news. Use my voice to proclaim that death has been defeated, and life has won. Let the power of Your resurrection shape every part of who I am. Amen.

Wednesday: Encountering the Risen Christ

Scripture:

Matthew 28:8–10

Devotional:

The women ran from the tomb with a mix of “fear and great joy.” Isn’t that how we often feel when God moves? We are in awe, humbled, thrilled, but overwhelmed. And then Jesus meets them. Not with flashes of glory, but with a word as ordinary as “Greetings.” How gentle. How personal. In that moment, grief gives way to worship.

They fall at His feet. They do not ask for proof. They do not analyze. They worship. Jesus then entrusts them with a mission: “Go and tell my brothers.” These are not just instructions, they are words of grace. The disciples had failed. They had fled. And yet Jesus calls them “brothers.” The resurrection brings not only victory, but restoration.

We all carry failure. We all know the sting of regret. But Jesus’ resurrection meets us with mercy. His first act as the risen King is not to judge, but to gather. Not to punish, but to forgive. His grace calls us “brother,” “sister,” “beloved.” Come to His feet today, and worship the One who still says, “Do not be afraid.”

Reflection Questions:

1. Why is it significant that Jesus appears first to the women?
2. How does Jesus’ greeting and commission speak to His heart toward the broken?
3. How can you worship Christ more fully today?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for meeting us where we are. Thank You that Your first words are peace, not condemnation. Thank You for calling us brothers and sisters, even when we’ve failed. Let my heart cling to You in worship today. Fill me with courage to go and tell of Your mercy and love. Amen.

Thursday: The Resistance to Resurrection

Scripture:

Matthew 28:11–15

Devotional:

Not everyone celebrates the resurrection. Even as the women run to tell the disciples, another message begins to spread, a lie. The guards, terrified by the angel, report what they saw. The religious leaders do not deny it. Instead, they cover it up. The truth is too threatening to their power. They would rather silence heaven than surrender.

This is the world we live in. Lies often wear the robe of credibility. Truth is costly, and many would rather preserve their position than confess their need for grace. But no bribe can roll the stone back into place. No scheme can bury the Savior again. The resurrection happened. The tomb is still empty. And truth, once risen, does not lie down.

So what is our role? To be people of light in a world of spin. To tell the truth with love. To resist the pressure to remain silent. The world may resist the resurrection, but the Church must not. Let our lives be living proof that Jesus lives; bold, unashamed, radiant with hope.

Reflection Questions:

1. Why do you think the resurrection is still so resisted today?
2. Where are you tempted to stay silent about the truth of Jesus?
3. How can you reflect the power of the risen Christ in your daily life?

Prayer:

God of truth, give me courage to speak and live boldly. Strengthen me when I face resistance. Help me to trust that no scheme of man can undo Your victory. Let my life be a living witness that Jesus lives and that His love is stronger than the grave. Amen.

Friday: The Doubt That Meets Worship

Scripture:

Matthew 28:16–17

Devotional:

This verse is a gift to every believer who has ever wrestled with questions. The disciples saw Jesus. Risen. Glorious. And they worshiped, but some doubted. That's not the doubt of rebellion, it's the doubt of wonder. The kind that trembles in the presence of glory. The kind that says, "This is too much to take in."

What does Jesus do? He doesn't send them away. He doesn't scold them. He commissions them. Jesus entrusts the Great Commission to people who worship and doubt at the same time. Faith is not having it all figured out. Faith is holding on to Christ even when your heart is overwhelmed.

So if you find yourself in that tension of believing yet wrestling with faith, you are not alone. You are not disqualified. Jesus uses people like you. He sends people like us. Our questions do not cancel our calling. They can become the soil where deeper worship grows.

Reflection Questions:

1. When have you felt the tension between faith and doubt?
2. What does this passage teach you about Jesus' patience?
3. How can doubt become a doorway to deeper discipleship?

Prayer:

Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief. Thank You for meeting me in my hesitation. Thank You that You don't cast me out for questioning, but call me closer. Deepen my worship. Strengthen my heart. Let me follow You even when I don't fully understand. Amen.

Saturday: The Mission and the Presence

Scripture:

Matthew 28:18–20

Devotional:

Jesus' final words in Matthew are not simply commands, they are a commissioning. He declares His authority over heaven and earth, and then He sends His people out. The gospel is not a private treasure. It is a world-changing call. We are not saved to sit still. We are saved to go, to make disciples, to teach, to baptize, to proclaim.

But Jesus does not send us alone. His promise is as great as His command: "I am with you always, to the end of the age." This is Emmanuel, God with us, walking beside us every step of the journey. We do not bear witness in our own strength, but in His. We do not make disciples by our own wisdom, but by His Word and presence.

This is resurrection life: bold mission and constant communion. We walk into a broken world with the good news that Christ is risen. And we walk with Christ Himself. So live today with confidence. The tomb is empty. The world needs to know. And Jesus goes with you.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does Jesus' authority give you confidence in your mission?
2. What does it mean to you that He is "with you always"?
3. Who in your life needs to be disciplined or encouraged?

Prayer:

King Jesus, You have all authority, and yet You choose to be with me. Send me into the world with courage and compassion. Help me to teach, to disciple, and to love like You. Let Your presence be my strength and Your promise my anchor. May I live and speak as one who knows that You are risen and reigning forever. Amen.