

# **First Things First** *Daily Devotionals*

## Devotional Guide for January 11-17, 2021

These devotions are prepared for you each week by Pastor Kevin to use for your own personal devotions with the Lord, and are designed to prepare you for the message next weekend.

### Monday, Jan. 11<sup>TH</sup> “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”

**Scripture: Romans 5:1-11** NIV

The apostle Paul explains the implications of justification by grace through faith. The transition from wrath to grace transforms both the status and the experience of the believer. Instead of feelings of estrangement, there is now peace; in place of falling short of God’s glory through sin, there is the hope of glory; instead of suffering as judgment, there is joy in tribulation because of what God produces through it; instead of fearful uncertainty, there is the assurance of God’s love. New Testament hope is the assurance of something not yet fully experienced, and is quite different from uncertain, wishful thinking. That this hope will not be frustrated is guaranteed, here and now, by the love of God that the Holy Spirit pours into our hearts.

*Question: How has your heart grasped the full meaning of verse 8?*

### Tuesday, Jan. 12<sup>TH</sup> “Jesus: Will you give Me a drink?”

**Scripture: John 4:1-15** NIV

A little historical background: there was profound contempt between the Jews and the Samaritans. When traveling between Galilee and Judea, many Jews would cross the Jordan twice rather than pass through Samaria. But note verse 4: “Now He (meaning Jesus) **had** to go through Samaria.” This trip was intentional, for He knew that He would encounter the woman at the well of Jacob. The woman was shocked that Jesus would ask her for a drink, as Jews would not eat or drink anything that had been touched by a Samaritan. She had no idea yet what it was that Jesus could offer her instead.

*Question: How does this “living water” quench your spiritual thirst?*

### Wednesday, Jan. 13<sup>TH</sup> “I, the one speaking to you—I am He”

**Scripture: John 4:16-26** NIV

Jesus now turns the conversation a bit more personal, asking the woman to call her husband. When she says she has none, Jesus shares prophetic knowledge that indeed she has had five husbands and that the man she was currently living with was not her husband.

Their discussion then turns to worship, as the woman inquires of Jesus where is the proper location for worship. Jesus explains that true worship is contrasted with regulated worship bound by the law. Worship “in spirit” is worship in the Holy Spirit. This is the only occasion before His trial where Jesus is recorded designating Himself as the Messiah.

*Question: How would you react if Jesus were right here talking with you now, telling you everything you had ever done?*

### Thursday, Jan. 14<sup>TH</sup> “Why are You talking with her?!”

**Scripture: John 4:27-38** NIV

As the disciples return, their attitude reflects both the contempt of the Jews for the Samaritans, and the male chauvinism that regarded giving instructions to a woman as a waste of time. But note this: the woman’s witness to the townspeople was more effective than the visit of the twelve apostles. Jesus makes it clear that His disciples have a responsibility distinct from His own. They will harvest what Jesus has sowed. This saying may deliberately anticipate what Jesus would say later in John 12:23-24. <sup>23</sup> *Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”*

*Question: With whom in your world today would it surprise you to find Jesus carrying on a conversation?*

### Friday, Jan. 15<sup>TH</sup> “Many more became believers”

**Scripture: John 4:39-42** NIV

At the beginning of this story, the Samaritan woman had a soiled reputation—which is probably why she went to draw water during the hottest time of the day, when nobody else should be there. Then, after her encounter with Jesus, she leaves her water jar behind, runs into town to tell anyone and everyone who would listen—no longer caring about her reputation, but longing to tell about the man she had met who knew “everything I ever did!” (v.29) Her soul had been downtrodden for so long because of her sin, but after meeting Jesus and embracing His grace, her soul was on fire with faith!

*Question: Today, is it well with your soul?*

**Sunday, January 17<sup>TH</sup>**

Worship @8:30 and 10:45 am/Sanctuary

Online @10:45 am via Livestream

Romans 5:1-11 NIV, John 4:1-42 NIV

The message: “**IS It Well with Your Soul?**”

*Worship theme: **Skeletons in the Closet—**  
Don’t let your past get in the way of your future!*



**“IS it Well with Your Soul?”**