



## Devotional Guide for April 19-25, 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, April 19<sup>TH</sup> “Commit your way to the Lord”**

**Scripture: Psalm 37:3-7a** NIV

When we learn to commit ourselves to the Lord and find our delight in our obedience to Him, the desires that grow in our hearts are usually the ones that He plants, for they bring to us lasting peace and satisfaction... not the things we think we want or strive to achieve apart from God. The promise of “your righteous reward” (v.6) reveals the prosperity and well-being that God longs to bestow, in accordance with “your” faithful reliance on Him. The word ‘reward’ in Hebrew translates best as ‘vindication’ and is linked with ‘deliverance.’

*Question: Does your heart desire to commit your life to the Lord?*

### **Tuesday, April 20<sup>TH</sup> “Keep His covenant, obey His precepts”**

**Scripture: Psalm 103:8-18** NIV

We are called to fully commit our lives to the Lord, but there are times when we fail to do so. Yet, God is known to be “compassionate and gracious” (v.8). God’s love outlasts anyone’s little time in this life. This love of God that is described as being “from everlasting to everlasting” will also be known by “their children’s children” (v.17). The everlasting love of God is worth any surrender we should give with our lives!

*Question: How do you surrender yourself to the Lord?*

### **Wednesday, April 21<sup>ST</sup> “Remain true to the Lord with all your heart”**

**Scripture: Acts 11:19-30** NIV

As persecution broke out against the early church, God’s people were scattered beyond Jerusalem into the outlying regions. Though this was not an experience they welcomed into their lives, God still was able to use this time to have them witness to their faith and to grow the church. They were not alone, for “the Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord” (v.21). Barnabas found Saul (later Paul) and saw God’s grace in action in his life. Barnabas encouraged the believers at Antioch.

*Question: Do you encourage those you love in their faith?*

### **Thursday, April 22<sup>ND</sup> “Finish the race, complete the task”**

**Scripture: Acts 20:22-31** NIV

Paul did not go to Jerusalem against God’s guidance, but rather, he was led by the Spirit to go there, no matter what might happen. Paul encouraged the church to “keep watch over yourselves” (v.28), to become shepherds for the believers. Paul used imagery of being chained or tied up like a prisoner, when he wrote that he was “compelled by the Spirit” (v.22). This is the same word that Paul would use to describe being bound in actual chains and taken into Roman custody in Jerusalem. This metaphor reveals to us Paul’s own conviction that he is under a divine imperative to somehow get to Jerusalem.

*Question: Do you see your journey of faith like a race? Do you feel you are running more like a sprinter (trying to get there quickly) or more like a marathoner (pacing yourself for the long road)?*

### **Friday, April 23<sup>RD</sup> “It is more blessed to give than to receive”**

**Scripture: Acts 20:32-38** NIV

This second part of our Scripture lesson has Paul quoting Jesus, using the phrase often shared with the church to introduce a quote from Jesus, “remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said” (v.35). This is a rare instance of a genuine saying of Jesus not found in the Bible. The quote from Jesus, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (v.35) is not found in any of the four gospels. Paul uses a quote only found in the oral tradition of the early church. This reveals a principle known in the Greco-Roman culture of that time that one must give in equal measure to what one has received. Paul’s challenge strikes out at this idea, and encourages believers to give to those who cannot give in return. And Paul lived out what he preached, traveling without knowing where he may end up, due to those who wanted him arrested or killed for his faith. Yet, Paul had made a commitment to surrender his all to the Lord.

*Question: Have you made a wholehearted commitment to the Lord?*

*If not, are you ready for such a commitment?*

**Sunday, April 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**Worship @8:30 & 10:45 am/Sanctuary**

**Online @10:45 a.m. via Livestream**

**Psalm 103:8-18** NIV

**Acts 20:22-38** NIV

**Pastor’s message:**

**“Am I Ready for a Commitment?”**

*Worship theme:*

**“UNLEASHED—Stories of Surrender”**

