

## **Devotions: April 5 to April 11**

*For daily devotions I am going to start using Grace For The Moment by Max Lucado.*

**Monday:**                      The Inspirational Study Bible

*Psalm 95:6 – come, let's worship him and bow down. Let's kneel before the Lord who made us.*

Worship. In two thousand years we have not worked out the kinks. We still struggle for the right words in prayer. We still fumble over Scripture...Worship is a daunting task. For that reason, God gave us the Psalms – a praise book for God's people....This collection of hymns and petitions are strung together by one thread - a heart hungry for God... Worship is personal. No secret formula exists. What moves you may stymie another. Each worships differently. But each should worship.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

**Tuesday:**                      In the Eye of the Storm

*John 17:13 - I pray these things while I am still in the world so that these followers can have all of my joy in them.*

Jesus prayed. We do not know what he prayed about. But I have my guesses... He prayed for the impossible to happen. Or maybe I am wrong. Maybe he did not ask for anything. Maybe he just stood quietly in the presence of Presence and basked in the Majesty. Perhaps he placed his war-weary self before the throne and rested. Maybe he lifted his head out of the confusion of earth long enough to hear the solution of heaven.

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**Wednesday:**

A Gentle Thunder

*Luke 10:19 – I have given you power...that is greater than the enemy has.*

Many players appear on the stage of Gethsemane...[But] the encounter is...between God and Satan. Satan dares to enter yet another garden, but God stands and Satan has not a prayer....Satan falls in the presence of Christ...Satan is silent in the proclamation of Christ...Satan is powerless against the protection of Christ...When Jesus says he will keep you safe, he means it...When he says he will get you home, he will get you home.

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**Thursday:**

When God Whispers Your Name

*Ephesians 6:10 - Be strong in the Lord and in his great power.*

I stand a few feet from a mirror and see the face of a man who failed...who failed his Maker. Again I promise I would not, but I did...If this were the first time, it would be different. But it is not...Your eyes look in the mirror and see a sinner, a failure, a promise-breaker. But by faith you look in the mirror and see a robed prodigal bearing the ring of grace on your finger and the kiss of your Father on your face.

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**Friday:**

The Applause of Heaven

*Ephesians 3:19 - Christ's love is greater than anyone can ever know, but I pray that you will be able to know that love.*

It is not right that spikes pierced the hands that formed the earth. And it was not right that the Son of God was forced to hear the silence of God...He sat in silence while the sins of the world were placed upon his Son. And he did nothing while a cry...echoed in the black sky: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Was it right? NO. Was it fair? No. Was it love? Yes.

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**Saturday:**

## No Wonder They Call Him the Savior

*Matthew 9:36 - When he saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them because they were hurting and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

Why did Jesus [die on the cross]? Oh, I know, I Know. I have heard the official answers. "To gratify the old law." "To fulfill prophecy."...But there is something more here...Something personal. What is it?...Could it be that his heart was broken for the hurting?...I imagine him, close to those who hurt. I imagine him listening...He who also was once alone, understands.

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**Sunday:**

## No Wonder They Call Him Savior

*John 19:30 - When Jesus tasted the vinegar, he said, "It is finished." The he bowed his head and died.*

"it is finished." Stop and listen a moment. Let the words wind through your heart...Jesus draws in a deep breath, pushes his feet down on that Roman nail, and cries, "It is finished!" What was finished? The history-long plan of redeeming man was finished. The message of God to man was finished. The works done by Jesus as a man on earth were finished...The sting of death had been removed. It was over.