

Daily Reflection on Scripture
Week of April 7
Born to Serve Week 5
Born with Purpose



Sunday April 7

Scripture: Mark 1:40-41 A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean," he said. Moved with compassion Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!"

Prayer for an opportunity to serve today: **God, help me to pay attention to where the hurt of others intersects with my own personal pain. May I find Your wisdom to transform my pain into compassion for those whom my heart aches.**

Morning Prayer: God, today I read the scripture of how Jesus was moved with compassion. I read the news and I am moved by how much the world needs more compassion. Like the man with leprosy the world is disfigured by so much pain and anger. Like the broken man I too am broken and so I kneel before you asking for my own inner healing so that I can be more effective in helping to bring healing to others. May I feel the touch of Jesus' hand and hear his voice saying to me, "I am willing, be healed." May I receive Your healing compassion so that I can be more compassionate and healing to those I meet today. May it be so.

Noon Text: Compassion is one thing we all need. Compassion for others begins with being compassionate with yourself. Receive and give God's compassion; we all need it.

Evening Text: God, as the day draws to a close I take a moment to be silent and open my heart to Your compassion. I kneel before You asking for a night of healing rest.

Monday April 8

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10 God has given each of you a gift from God's great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

Prayer for an opportunity to serve today: **God, help me to pay attention to where the hurt of others intersects with my own personal pain. May I find Your wisdom to transform my pain into compassion for those whom my heart aches.**

Morning Prayer: God, I am thankful that you have made me a unique individual in a wonderful creation filled with unique individuals. Each one of us brings all the gifts we have been given to every new day of our lives. Help me to bring the best of who I am to every task set before me today. Help me offer the best of who I am to everyone I encounter today. Help me to remember that every creature on our lovely planet meets me with an equally amazing variety of spiritual gifts as well. May we honor each other in every thought, word and action. May it be so.

Noon Text: How are you using your unique spiritual gifts today? Are you sharing them freely and joyfully? How are you honoring the gifts of everyone you encounter today?

Evening Text: God, I end this day grateful for the amazing variety of spiritual gifts I have experienced in others today. Help me to use my God given gifts wisely and well.

Tuesday April 9

Scripture: Acts 20:35 In everything I have shown you that, by working hard, we must help the weak. In this way we remember the Lord Jesus' words: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Prayer for an opportunity to serve today: **God, help me to pay attention to where the hurt of others intersects with my own personal pain. May I find Your wisdom to transform my pain into compassion for those whom my heart aches.**

Morning Prayer: God, sadly I don't have to look far to encounter someone on the margins, who struggles to get by for one reason or another. But I do need to open my eyes to look. Sometimes I find myself not looking, or at least not seeing. Maybe I am too busy; maybe it is too painful; maybe it is because I think 'what can I do'. God, my prayer this morning is that I allow myself to embrace the holy discontent I feel within me, and to not sit by but to act on it. Let me educate myself on the issues and take the first step of response. Help me to fuel that discontent until not taking action is not an option. I remember that every time I bless someone by giving of my time and efforts I receive blessings as well. May it be so.

Noon Text: What have you seen or experienced today that has stirred holy discontent within you? How have you responded? What is keeping you from action?

Evening Text: God, I reflect on all that I have seen and experienced today and thank you for planting a seed of discontent within me. I rest so tomorrow I might act.

Wednesday April 10

Scripture: Romans 12:6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.

Prayer for an opportunity to serve today: **God, help me to pay attention to where the hurt of others intersects with my own personal pain. May I find Your wisdom to transform my pain into compassion for those whom my heart aches.**

Morning Prayer: Good Morning God! Today is going to be a good day. You helped me rest last night to be ready for the new day. I ask that You guide my words and actions with those I come across throughout my day. Many will have needs and You have equipped me with gifts that allow me to assist in the most meaningful manner. Be it words or actions, help me to impact those in my path with Your love to help ease their burdens and provide guidance so they see You in me. I know how impactful this can be when I see You in others who do the same for me. I need You to guide me today and everyday. May it be so

Noon text: Today and everyday, those in your path need to see God's love with skin on. You are equipped to both show and be God's love. Be who you were created to be.

Evening Text: God, help me to rest and be ready for tomorrow. I want to be ready to help with words, deeds or whatever is required. What is required of me now is rest.

Thursday April 11

Scripture: Philippians 2:13 God is the one who enables you both to want and to actually live out God's good purposes.

Prayer for an opportunity to serve today: **God, help me to pay attention to where the hurt of others intersects with my own personal pain. May I find Your wisdom to transform my pain into compassion for those whom my heart aches.**

Morning Prayer: God, this morning's scripture is so true for me. I desperately want to live my life full of purpose. I want my life to be about so much more than just getting up every morning to do a job and coming home tired, and then going to bed to get up tomorrow and repeat the process all over again. The scripture says this passion for more comes from You. So I need Your help. Help me today to observe those moments when I feel most alive. Help me to be aware of those times when something catches my eyes and they fill with tears. Enable me to not only want, but actually live into the good purposes that You have placed within me from birth and living in me until death. May it be a day of discovery and joy. May it be so.

Noon Text: What is catching your attention? Listen carefully to it; it just might be the thing that is pointing you to learning the deepest reason you were born.

Evening Text: God, thank you for today. Even with its many challenges I am still thankful to be alive, and now I am thankful for a time of rest. I rest assured of Your love.

Friday April 12

Scripture: I John 3:18 Little children, let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth.

Prayer for an opportunity to serve today: **God, help me to pay attention to where the hurt of others intersects with my own personal pain. May I find Your wisdom to transform my pain into compassion for those whom my heart aches.**

Morning Prayer: God, I pause this morning to consider what is weighing on my heart today. Sometimes I feel like I put on blinders and focus only on my own day to day activities, and give little heed to so much of what is going on around me, because sometimes it can be overwhelming, especially in these challenging times with news coming at me from all sides. Help me to strip away the blinders, listen to my heart, listen to Your still, small voice encouraging me to act instead of being silent, especially to the injustices I witness or hear about every day. Give me the courage to speak truth to injustice wherever I may encounter it. Help me put words into actions to follow my heart. May it be so.

Noon Text: In the busyness of your day, pause, reflect on what stirs your soul into action. Be bold with the assurance that God is with you. Let your actions speak love.

Evening Text: Thank you God for opening my heart to what is stirring within. I rest knowing that You are with me and give me strength to respond to the stirrings within.

Saturday April 13

Scripture: Romans 15:1 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Prayer for an opportunity to serve today: **God, help me to pay attention to where the hurt of others intersects with my own personal pain. May I find Your wisdom to transform my pain into compassion for those whom my heart aches.**

Morning Prayer: God, I confess that I don't always feel strong. Like everyone else I feel the burdens of everyday life and feel helpless, very weak. Too easily I focus on what I don't have before celebrating what I do have. That leads me to feeling sorry for myself. In my self-pitying I become weak. Help me to refocus. Help me to remember that I have everything I need for the moment. I have

Your unconditional love. I have Your compassion. I have Your wisdom. I have Your presence with me always. In all of that and more, You give me enough strength to face the challenges of the day. May it be so.

Noon Text: Pause and be thankful for this day. Instead of thinking about what you don't have or how your needs haven't been met, remember what you do have and be thankful.

Evening Text: God, the week is now coming to a close. A new one begins with this night of rest. I close out the week and prepare for a new one by resting in Your love.