

Seeing the Risen Christ – A 5-Day Devotional Guide

Text: John 20:1–18

Big Idea: Jesus often meets us in ordinary, unexpected ways—but we must learn to recognize His voice, receive His life, and share His story.

Day 1 – From Darkness to Dawn

Scripture: John 20:1–2

Devotional Thought:

Mary came to the tomb “while it was still dark.” She arrived in grief and confusion—but by the end of the story, she encountered the risen Christ in the light of dawn.

And yet, even in her sorrow, she moves toward Jesus.

Before Mary fully understands, God is already drawing her. Before she sees clearly, she is being led.

We often think we need clarity before we come to God. But Scripture shows us the opposite—we come in the dark, and God meets us there.

Spiritual life often works the same way. Growth doesn’t always happen instantly. Like the slow progression of dawn, God brings increasing light into our lives over time. Even when everything feels dark, God is already at work bringing light.

God is not waiting for you to have everything figured out. He is already moving toward you—even now.

Reflection Questions:

Where do I feel like I’m still in the dark spiritually?

How has God been gradually bringing light into my life?

Practice:

Wake up early one day this week and watch the sunrise. As darkness turns to light, thank God for how He brings life out of darkness.

Prayer:

God, meet me in my darkness and lead me into Your light. Help me trust that You are working even when I cannot yet see clearly. Amen.

Day 2 – When We Don’t Recognize Him

Scripture: John 20:14–15

Devotional Thought:

Mary stood face-to-face with the risen Jesus—and didn’t recognize Him. She assumed He was the gardener. Her expectations kept her from seeing what was right in front of her.

We often do the same. We expect God to show up in dramatic ways, but He frequently meets us in ordinary moments—through conversations, interruptions, or unexpected people. Sometimes the problem isn’t that God is absent—it’s that we’re not looking for Him.

Reflection Questions:

Where might I be overlooking God in my everyday life?

How do my expectations limit what I’m able to see?

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Prayer:

Lord, open my eyes to see You in the ordinary moments of my day. Help me recognize Your presence even when it comes in unexpected ways. Amen.

Day 3 – When Jesus Calls Your Name

Scripture: John 20:16

Devotional Thought:

Everything changed when Jesus spoke one word: “Mary.”

Mary had seen the empty tomb.

She had seen angels.

She had even seen Jesus—but didn’t recognize Him.

Recognition comes not through sight—but through relationship.

In that moment, recognition came. She moved from confusion to clarity.

Jesus still calls people by name. He speaks personally, not just generally. Faith is not just about knowing facts—it’s about recognizing His voice.

The question is not whether Jesus is speaking. The question is whether we are listening.

You are not just part of a crowd. You are personally known by Christ.

Reflection Questions:

When have I sensed God speaking to me personally?

What might be distracting me from hearing His voice?

Practice:

Spend time in Scripture today listening for God’s voice. Ask: *“Lord, what are You saying to me?”*

Prayer:

Jesus, help me hear Your voice clearly. Call my name, and give me a heart that responds quickly and faithfully. Amen.

Day 4 – From Weeping to Witnessing

Scripture: John 20:18; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Devotional Thought:

Mary moved from weeping to worshiping to witnessing—all in one encounter with Jesus. She went from grief to proclamation: “I have seen the Lord!” Mary’s encounter doesn’t just comfort her—it changes her.

The resurrection doesn’t erase our story—it transforms it. What once brought sorrow becomes part of a testimony of grace. God doesn’t just forgive our past; He reshapes our present and future. This is sanctifying grace—the ongoing work of God forming Christlike character within us. Resurrection is not just something we celebrate. It is something we live.

God often uses ordinary people to share extraordinary news.

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Reflection Questions:

How has God changed my story?

Who in my life needs to hear what Jesus has done for me?

Practice:

Share a small part of your faith story with someone this week.

Prayer:

Lord, use my story to point others to You. Give me boldness and joy as I share what You have done in my life. Amen.

Day 5 – Seeing Jesus Everywhere

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 34:8

Devotional Thought:

The resurrection means new life is already breaking through. Like a garden after winter or new growth after a fire, God brings life out of places that once felt dead.

When our eyes are opened, we begin to see Jesus everywhere—in Scripture, in people, in moments of grace, and in everyday life.

Victory in Jesus is not just a future promise—it is a present reality.

Reflection Questions:

Where have I seen signs of new life recently?

How can I become more aware of God's presence daily?

Practice:

Take time today to notice three ways God is at work around you.

Prayer:

God, thank You for new life through Jesus. Open my eyes to see Your work all around me, and help me live in the victory You have given. Amen.

Blessing:

May your eyes be opened to see the risen Christ.

May your heart recognize His voice when He calls your name.

And may you live each day in the victory of His resurrection.

Amen.