

**Devotional Guide**  
**Easter 2020**  
**April 13 - 19, 2020**  
*Why Do You Seek the Living Among the Dead?*

**Monday, April 22**

Acts 4:12; Isaiah 55:7; John 15:4 - 7

Isaiah says "Seek the Lord while He may be found. . ." We must seek Jesus because salvation is found only in Him, and there is no possibly of meaningful living apart from Him.

*Think about it:* Is seeking Jesus something to which I have given priority in my life? Would those closest to me be able to say they can tell that seeking Jesus is important to me?

*Prayer:* for greater hunger for the Lord; for more discipline to seek Him.

**Tuesday, April 23**

Luke 24:1 - 12

The women came to the tomb seeking Jesus, but the Jesus they expected to find was a dead Jesus. The angel's question, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead?" contains an implicit rebuke for their lack of faith. Mary, at least, should have remembered that He said, "I am the resurrection and the life."

*Think about it:* God can do "exceeding abundantly" more than we can ask or conceive (Ephesians 3:20.) Do I believe this? Do I expect too little of God? Do I forget His promises at the very time I need them most?

*Prayer:* For grace to remember God's promises and greater faith to trust in God's ability to perform beyond my expectations.

**Wednesday, April 24**

Matthew 8:18 - 20; Ephesians 2:1

We wouldn't look for Jesus in an actual cemetery. The living one is not among the dead bodies. Neither is He among the spiritually dead. If we spend our time seeking the approval of people who reject Jesus, we will never find Him.

*Think about it:* Do I have unbelieving friends whose opinion of me is important to me? How might this be warping my attitudes and behavior? How can I be sure that the contact and even friendship with unbelievers necessary for ministry does not become a stumblingblock to my relationship with Jesus?

*Prayer:* for deeper roots in my relationship with Christ; for my relationships with unbelievers to be based on a desire to minister and share Christ, and not on a need for their approval of me.

**Thursday, April 25**

1 John 2:15 - 17; Hebrews 11:24 - 26

Jesus will not be found in the world and its passing pleasures. A 24 hour day is a zero sum proposition. If I spend 2 or 3 hours every day pursuing worldly pleasure, that is 2 or 3 hours lost to fellowship with Christ.

*Think about it:* how have I been spending my leisure time? How much of my life has been dribbled away in activities which involve "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life"?

Where is Jesus in all these empty worldly activities.

*Prayer:* repent of any empty, meaningless pursuits; commitment to spend more time with Jesus.

**Friday, April 26**

2 Timothy 3:1 -5; James 1:26; Matthew 23:1 - 18

Religious activities are not an automatic way to find Jesus. There is a kind of religion which is an empty shell, where Jesus never visits.

*Think about it:* What are some characteristics of vain religion according the Scripture passages for today? What are some contemporary examples of such vain religion? Have I ever been caught up in empty religiosity?

*Prayer:* for forgiveness if I have ever done anything religious to impress others or for temporal gain; pray that my religion may be truly spiritual and centered in Christ.

**Saturday, April 27**

Revelation 3:20; I John 1:3 - 10

We have seen that we can't find Jesus among the spiritually dead, in the world or its passing pleasures, or in vain religion. We find Him— or He finds us— when we repent and believe the Gospel, when we invite Him into our heart, and as we continue to walk in faith and obedience to Him.

*Think about it:* According to 1 John 1, how is fellowship with Jesus lost? How can I restore lost fellowship?

*Prayer:* for repentance from anything in my life that is “walking in darkness,” that I might find the living Jesus.

**Sunday, April 28**

Matthew 18:20; Matthew 25:31 - 40; Matthew 28:19 - 20

The living Jesus is found in the church, in fellowship with other believers who worship in His name. The living Jesus is found among the poor, the oppressed, and the prisoners to whom we minister in Jesus name. The living Jesus is found when we carry out His commission to preach the Gospel.

*Think about it:* At what times in my experience has Jesus been most alive in my consciousness? Do I want to know more of His living presence? What do the Scripture passages for today suggest that I need to do to in order to be with Him more?

*Prayer:* for greater awareness of the presence of Jesus in my church and in the work that I do in His name; for His blessing on me as I seek Him and seek to serve Him.