

Daily Scripture Readings

April 9—April 15

Monday, April 9

1 John 3:5

You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

Prayer: Father, help me remember today that your perfect son, Jesus, willingly gave his life for his family, his friends, total strangers, and even those of us living thousands of years later. He did not die on the cross to free himself from sin, but to free everyone else.

For Today: Jesus - a man totally free from sin - was sent to us to take away our sins. In today's world, that's something like a Quaker, someone who abhors all violence, picking up a gun to defend people he/she doesn't even know...going to war for strangers. What an unbelievable act of love and kindness and selflessness that is.

Tuesday, April 10

Luke 24:36-37

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

Prayer: Father, help me continue to be strong in my faith. Help me find ways to help the doubters around me come to believe in Jesus, in his life and death and resurrection.

For Today: No wonder it's hard for so many people today to not believe in Jesus and his resurrection. His disciples had been there, had seen Jesus die on the cross and were themselves frightened when he appeared among them, alive, in just a few days. We must constantly work to maintain our own faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, this many years removed from the actual event.

Wednesday, April 11

Luke 24:39

"Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

Prayer: Father, even though I wasn't there to touch his hands and feet, help me know in my heart that Jesus did come back as a human being. Help me find ways to share this nearly unbelievable story with others.

For Today: Jesus knew that his disciples were stunned by his appearance before them after his death on the cross. He gave them the opportunity to know for themselves that he was, indeed, alive. In doing this, he gave them something that they could share with others...something tangible that people would understand.

Thursday, April 12

Luke 24:41-43

While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Prayer: Father, continue to remind me that Jesus was - and is - alive...that not even the cross could remove him from our lives.

For Today: Jesus continued to do things to prove to his disciples that he was alive just as they were. He kept at it so that they would be assured it was true.

Friday, April 13

Luke 24:45-48

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

Prayer: Father, help me be a witness to the life of Jesus, to the "why" of his existence, death, and resurrection.

For Today: Jesus reminded the disciples of all they'd heard and read before. He reminded them that he had fulfilled all those things written about him, and that they had witnessed this fulfilling.

Saturday, April 14

Psalm 4:7

You have put gladness in my heart
more than when their grain and wine abound.

Prayer: Father, help me be thankful today not just for the things I have...my possessions, my family and friends...but for the unbelievable gift you gave me when you sent your son, Jesus, to save me from my sins.

For Today: We all have so much these days...more than we need. We have many things that make us happy. But to believers, Jesus puts more happiness in our heart than any worldly things we may have or do.

Sunday, April 15

Psalm 4:8

I will both lie down and sleep in peace;
for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

Prayer: Father, no matter what may happen to me, help me lie down every night secure in the knowledge of your love. Help me rise up everyday rested, knowing that you are on my side and will help me through anything.

For Today: We all have days when we don't feel good, when we're disappointed in something or someone, when things don't go as we wish they would go. But we should remember that no matter what, we have our Lord who is watching over us. We need to remember that our lives are in his hands and that we should trust in him.