

# FIRST things FIRST...

## Daily Devotions

### Devotional Guide ~ March 9-15, 2026

Devotions are prepared for you to use in your Quiet Time with the Lord and are designed to prepare you for the sermon next Sunday.

#### Monday: March 9

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##### Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33 & John 9:1-41

The disciples saw Jesus feed thousands of people. They saw Him heal the sick. Then one night they saw Him walking on the water. But instead of recognizing Him, they were terrified. "It's a ghost" they said. Jesus was right there, plain as day, and they still got it wrong. Fear does that to us. When life feels out of control, we forget what we already know about Jesus. We panic and doubt. We question whether He cares. When storms come, we need to remember: Jesus isn't the problem. He's the One coming toward us.

**Prayer:** Jesus, when I'm afraid, help me trust You instead of doubting who You are.

#### Tuesday: March 10

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##### Scripture: Luke 24:13-35 & John 9:1-41

Two followers of Jesus were walking down the road after His death. They were sad and confused. Jesus came and walked with them. They talked even. They still didn't recognize Him. Why? Because things hadn't turned out the way they expected. They thought Jesus would save Israel in a very specific way. When that didn't happen, they couldn't see what God was actually doing. Sometimes we miss Jesus because He doesn't act the way we want Him to. We expect quick answers. But Jesus works quietly and slowly. Maybe we don't see Him because we're looking for something different.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me recognize You even when You don't do things the way I expect.

#### Wednesday: March 11

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##### Scripture: Matthew 26:69-75 & John 9:1-41

Peter loved Jesus. He promised he would never leave Him. But when people asked if he knew Jesus, Peter said no. Three times. Jesus was close enough to see him. And Peter still denied Him. Peter wasn't trying to be evil. He was scared. He didn't want to get arrested. He didn't want trouble. We do the same thing. We stay quiet when someone mocks faith. We avoid hard conversations. We act like our faith isn't that important. Sometimes denying Jesus isn't loud. It's quiet. The good news? Jesus forgave Peter and gave him another chance.

**Prayer:** Jesus, give me courage to stand with You, even when it's uncomfortable.

#### Thursday: March 12

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##### Scripture: Mark 6:1-6 & John 9:1-41

Jesus went back to His hometown. The people listened to Him teach. They saw His wisdom. But instead of believing, they said, "Isn't this just the carpenter? We know His family." They were too familiar with Him. Sometimes we grow up hearing about Jesus. We know the stories. We've heard the sermons. And because it feels familiar, we stop being amazed. We can sit in church and still miss who He really is. Knowing about Jesus isn't the same as trusting Him.

**Prayer:** Lord, keep my heart soft. Help me always to be in awe of who You are.

#### Friday: March 13

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##### Scripture: Luke 23:13-25 & John 9:1-41

Pilate stood face to face with Jesus. He said he couldn't find any reason to punish Him. But the crowd kept shouting. They wanted Jesus crucified. Pilate knew the truth. But he chose what was easier. He didn't want a riot, so he handed Jesus over. We may not shout against Jesus. But sometimes we choose what's easy over what's right. We go along with the crowd. We stay silent. We tell ourselves it's not our problem. Seeing the truth isn't the same as standing for it.

**Prayer:** Jesus, help me choose what's right, even when it costs me something.

#### Saturday: March 14

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##### Scripture: John 20:11-18 & John 9:1-41

Mary stood outside the empty tomb crying. Jesus was alive and standing near her, but she thought He was the gardener. She loved Him deeply. But her grief kept her from recognizing Him. Sometimes pain makes it hard to see clearly. When we're hurting, we assume the worst. We think hope is gone. But then Jesus said her name and she realized who He really was. Even when we don't recognize Him, He knows us. He comes close and speaks our name. We may miss Him for a moment, but He doesn't walk away. He waits until we really open our eyes.

**Prayer:** Jesus, when I'm hurting, help me hear Your voice and remember You are near.

#### Sunday, March 15, 2026

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**Title:** Questions

**Scripture:** John 9:1-41

**Worship at 10:00am**

Pastor Clint Phillips