



## Day 1 | First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29

### Oil for our lamps

Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. — Matthew 25:1-13

**Consider** – What does it mean to be ready and to be looking? How can you be better prepared for Jesus arrival and coming into your world?

**Pray** – Ask God to help you remain vigilant and on the look out for the presence of His Son. Ask for a heart that is ready, willing, and expectant for Him this Advent season. Open my eyes again. Amen.

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**Daily Devotional | Day 2 | Monday, Nov. 30**

## **Our 'inner authority'**

*One day, as he was teaching the people in the temple and telling the good news, the chief priests and the scribes came with the elders and said to him, "Tell us, by what authority are you doing these things? Who is it who gave you this authority?" He answered them, "I will also ask you a question, and you tell me: Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" They discussed it with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' all the people will stone us; for they are convinced that John was a prophet." So they answered that they did not know where it came from. Then Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things." — Luke 20:1-8*

*For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength. — Isaiah 30:15*

**Consider** – Jesus is the ultimate authority. He has all strength and power. In what ways is He asking you to rest in His strength, trusting Him more, and giving yourself more to Him?

**Pray** – God, I want you to be my great guidance. Allow my heart to be still today so I can be more aware of you and present with you. Let me be reminded of your authority over me and my situation. You see my need. I am yours. Amen.



**Daily Devotional | Day 3 | Tuesday, Dec. 1**

### **Seeking a gracious spirit**

*How the faithful city has become a whore! She that was full of justice, righteousness lodged in her — but now murderers! Your silver has become dross, your wine is mixed with water. Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves. Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do not defend the orphan, and the widow's cause does not come before them.*

— Isaiah 1:21-23

*Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? — Romans 8:35*

**Consider** – This world is broken and hurting and also hurt. There are people around us that continue to hurt other people and commit injustices against us. What difference does it make knowing Jesus sees that? What difference does it make you to that He will one day put it all back together again?

**Pray** Loving God, I thank you for the gift of Jesus, your Son, who modeled for me the power of forgiveness as he died on the cross. Help me remember and I am also in the need of grace, and that the greatest gift I can give this season is to find ways to elevate Jesus above all else. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



**Daily Devotional | Day 4 | Wednesday, Dec. 2**

## **Mountain lessons**

*The word that Isaiah son of Amos saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.*

*Many peoples shall come and say "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. — Isaiah 2:1-4*

**Consider** – What does it mean for you to go to the mountain with God? What does it mean to meet with Him and be taught by Him? In what ways can more only come from God and nowhere else? What does He have for you today as you wait on Him?

**Pray** – Ask the God of mountaintop lessons to help you climb higher in both knowledge, trusting, and also love. Ask Him to elevate your understanding and also your belief.

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Daily Devotional | Day 5 | Thursday, Dec. 3

## Don't let distractions dim the God view

*Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage.*

*Indeed they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive." Then some of the scribes answered, "Teacher, you have spoken well." For they no longer dared to ask him another question. - Luke 20:34-40*

*The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. — Isaiah 61:1-3*

**Consider** – In what ways do distractions happen to us? How does life get in the way of experiencing God? We know that our purpose is to glorify God and for Him to be revealed in our circumstances at the One who is working all this for our good. What does it mean to give ourselves in a sacrificial way to God's redemptive work today?

**Pray** – Call on the God who knows your name and who calls you by name. Ask Him to show you His nearness, presence and power. Ask that He would remove idols, distractions and sins that are preventing you from drawing near to Him.



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**Daily Devotional | Day 6 | Friday, Dec. 4**

## **Never alone**

*Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more, to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you, so that you may behave properly toward outsiders and be dependent on no one. — 1 Thessalonians 4:9–12*

*Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. — Psalm 30:5*

**Consider** – God is present with us even when we are far from other people, physically or emotionally. Jesus displayed deep compassion on people. He wasn't just present, He cared. He brings comfort. He sees just what you are going through and what you are facing, and He cares.

**Pray** – If you are hurting or grieving or lamenting, tell God. Let Him know what He already knows – remind Him. Ask that He would bring you His comfort and to remind you that you are not alone.



**Daily Devotional | Day 7 | Saturday, Dec. 5**

## **Taking joy into the world**

*On that day the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and glory of the survivors of Israel. — Isaiah 4:2*

*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.  
— Romans 12:15*

**Consider** – Maybe you know of someone who is a survivor. That could include someone who has gone through something physically difficult this last year, or relationally difficult, or emotionally difficult. Is there someone in your life who has been through the war of 2020 that God is bringing to your mind? Pause and consider who that is, maybe it's multiple people? What is God calling you to do as a means of making a difference and ministering to them? We are told to weep with those who weep. Is God calling you to send a text, make a phone call, get together for coffee, have over to your home? He could be asking you to send a card. Ask Him how He wants to use you.

**Pray** - God, your light comforts us and guides me. As you prompt me, let me not only hear your voice but be quick to say yes, even if that means stepping into the darkest places that include the deepest pain – let you be the light through me to those you have called me to love.