

*The Path*



# THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

APRIL 2026



## **Mission Statement**

**Empower individuals and help people strengthen their relationship with God, especially children, youth, and families through Christ-centered programs, and resources that inspire spiritual growth, leadership, and community impact.**

## **Vision**

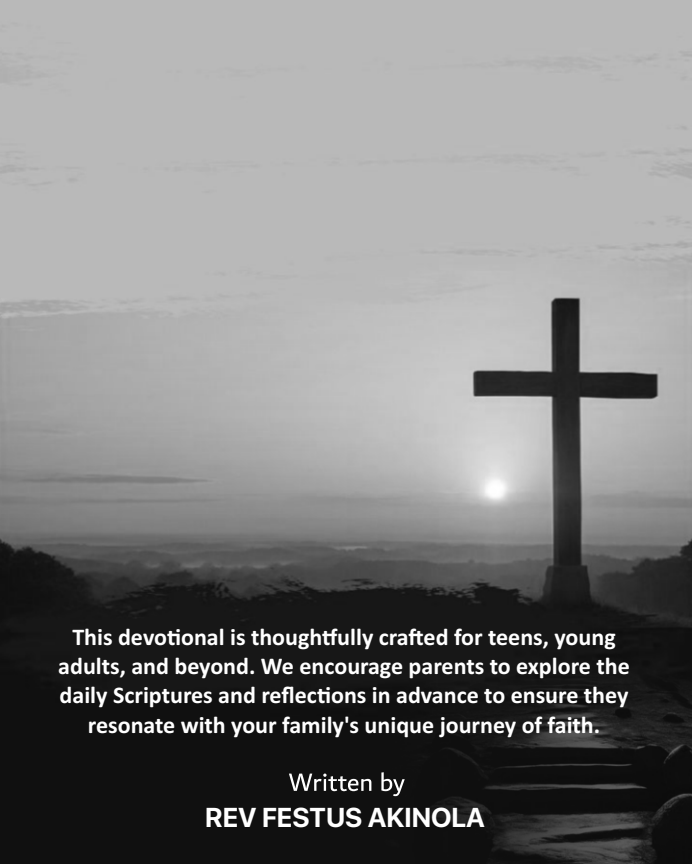
**To be a global beacon of Christian leadership, discipleship, and service, inspiring future generations to live with faith and purpose.**

### **Motto:**

**Preparing people for the second coming of Christ. / To give people knowledge of salvation**

### **Core Values:**

**Love, Truth, Culture, Service, Leadership, and Community.**



**This devotional is thoughtfully crafted for teens, young adults, and beyond. We encourage parents to explore the daily Scriptures and reflections in advance to ensure they resonate with your family's unique journey of faith.**

Written by  
**REV FESTUS AKINOLA**

**Focus:** Obedience, Sacrifice, and Purpose

**Key Idea:** Jesus chose the cross. His purpose demands the sacrifice.

**M**atthew 26:36–39 reveals the weight of the road that led Jesus to the cross. In this moment, the reality of the sacrifice before Him became deeply apparent. As He prayed in Gethsemane, the burden of what was to come was heavy.

This scene echoes the story of Abraham and his test of faith with Isaac, where we see a powerful foreshadowing of the sacrifice that Jesus Himself would soon make. Jesus, who was present from the beginning, came to fulfill God's redemptive plan, and everything had to be accomplished through Him. Feeling the weight of this moment, Jesus asked His disciples to watch and pray with Him. The burden was so great that He cried out, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me." In these words, we glimpse both His humanity and His obedience to the Father's will.

Though we can only imagine the depth of what He felt in that moment, His submission ultimately revealed the divine purpose behind the sacrifice. The message that follows this moment is clear: Christ's sacrifice calls us to a transformed life. We are to live according to His standards—boldly and without shame. Never be ashamed of what you stand for, because Christ gave His life for you. Therefore, take up your cross daily and follow Him.

APRIL 01

## THE JOURNEY BEGINS

BIBLE PASSAGE:

LUKE 9:22



MEMORY VERSE:

LUKE 9:22

**"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected... and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."**

### SUMMARY

Jesus clearly understood His destiny. He knew that suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection were all part of God's divine plan. Purpose is never accidental; it is revealed by God and embraced by those who trust Him. Interestingly, the religious leaders were at the forefront of the opposition that led to the fulfillment of Jesus' destiny. This reminds us that sometimes resistance may come from unexpected places—even from within religious circles. When criticism or opposition arises, do not immediately assume you are outside God's will. Sometimes the very challenges we face are instruments God uses to move us toward our purpose.



Song Suggestion

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

APRIL 02

## PURPOSE IS NOT ALWAYS POPULAR

BIBLE PASSAGE:

LUKE 9:23



MEMORY VERSE:

LUKE 9:23

**“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”**

## SUMMARY

Following Christ requires self-denial. The call to discipleship often confronts our personal desires, ambitions, and comfort zones. God’s purpose does not always align with the world’s definition of success or convenience. Every calling carries a cross—something that must be surrendered for the sake of obedience. When you choose God’s purpose, you may not always receive applause from people, but you will gain the approval of heaven.



Song Suggestion

“Wherever He Leads I’ll Go”

APRIL 03

## THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

BIBLE PASSAGE:

LUKE 9:23-24



MEMORY VERSE:

LUKE 9:24

**“For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.”**

### SUMMARY

Jesus teaches that true life is discovered when we surrender our lives to Him. The world teaches self-preservation, but the Kingdom of God teaches self-sacrifice. Alvin Slaughter once sang, “What’s that you have in your hands? I can use it if you are willing to lose it.” Just as the little boy offered his bread and fish to Jesus, what seems small in our hands can become powerful in God’s hands. But multiplication begins with surrender.



Song Suggestion

“I Give Myself Away” – William McDowell

APRIL 04

## THE GARDEN OF DECISION

BIBLE PASSAGE:

MATTHEW 26:36



MEMORY VERSE:

## PROVERBS 3:5-6

**“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths”**

## SUMMARY

Gethsemane was more than a place of prayer—it was a place of decision. It was in this garden that Jesus chose obedience over escape. Every believer will encounter moments of decision where purpose must be embraced despite fear or uncertainty. Destiny often demands difficult choices, but those decisions shape the future God has prepared for us.



Song Suggestion

“Trust and Obey

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 05

### STAY HERE AND WATCH

BIBLE PASSAGE:

MATTHEW 26:38



MEMORY VERSE:

MATTHEW 26:41

“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

### SUMMARY

Jesus invited His disciples to stay and pray with Him. This moment reveals that even the Son of God desired companionship in His hour of distress. Purpose does not eliminate emotional struggle. We all need spiritual support systems—people who stand with us in prayer during critical moments. Although the disciples failed Jesus, the Holy Spirit remained His faithful companion. God also provides divine help for us when human support fails.



Song Suggestion

“Spirit of the Living God”

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 06

### HEAVY SOULS STILL OBEY

BIBLE PASSAGE:

MATTHEW 26:38



MEMORY VERSE:

GALATIANS 6:9

**"Let us not grow weary in doing good: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."**

### SUMMARY

Jesus was overwhelmed with sorrow, yet He remained obedient to God. Feelings do not determine destiny, and emotions should never override obedience. While God sometimes speaks through our emotions, they must always be tested against His Word. When your feelings conflict with God's purpose, choose obedience.



Song Suggestion

**"Even When It Hurts (Praise Song)" – Hillsong**

APRIL 07

## FALLING ON HIS FACE

BIBLE PASSAGE:

MATTHEW 26:39



MEMORY VERSE:

JAMES 4:10

**"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up."**

## SUMMARY

Jesus fell on His face before the Father in prayer, demonstrating complete surrender. Humility is essential when facing critical moments in destiny. When we humble ourselves before God, we acknowledge that our strength alone is not enough. True victory in purpose begins with total submission to God.



Song Suggestion

"I Surrender All"

APRIL 08

## THE POWER OF PRAYER IN PURPOSE

BIBLE PASSAGE:

MATTHEW 26:39



MEMORY VERSE:

JEREMIAH 33:3

"Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things which you do not know"

### SUMMARY

Before facing the cross, Jesus prayed. Prayer strengthens the believer to carry out divine assignments. It aligns our hearts with God's will and prepares us spiritually for the challenges ahead. Many battles are won in prayer long before they appear in the physical world.



Song Suggestion

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 09

### IF IT IS POSSIBLE

BIBLE PASSAGE:

MATTHEW 26:39



MEMORY VERSE:

PSALM 37:5

**"Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass."**

### SUMMARY

Jesus expressed His human desire while still submitting to God's will. This shows that honesty in prayer is acceptable before God. You can bring your fears, questions, and struggles to Him. However, the ultimate goal of prayer is alignment with God's will rather than the fulfillment of our desires.



Song Suggestion

"Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 10

### NOT MY WILL

BIBLE PASSAGE:

MATTHEW 26:39



MEMORY VERSE:

1 SAMUEL 15:22

**"And Samuel said, Hath the LORD has great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams ."**

### SUMMARY

Jesus concluded His prayer with complete surrender: "Not my will, but yours be done." True obedience means submitting our personal preferences to God's authority. No spiritual ritual can replace obedience. Disobedience separates us from God's plan, but surrender brings us into alignment with His purpose.



Song Suggestion

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 11

### PURPOSE REQUIRES SACRIFICE

BIBLE PASSAGE:

LUKE 9:24



MEMORY VERSE:

LUKE 9:24

**"For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it."**

### SUMMARY

Jesus teaches that those who seek to preserve their lives at all costs may ultimately lose the deeper purpose God intends for them. However, those who willingly surrender their lives to Christ will discover true life and eternal meaning. The kingdom of God operates on the principle of sacrifice before reward. When believers willingly lay down their ambitions, pride, and comfort for Christ, they step into the destiny God prepared for them. Your purpose and destiny are secure in Christ when you choose to follow Him faithfully.



Song Suggestion

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 12

### DAILY CROSS, DAILY GRACE

BIBLE PASSAGE:

LUKE 9:23



MEMORY VERSE:

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

**"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."**

## SUMMARY

Jesus made it clear that carrying the cross is not a one-time spiritual experience but a daily commitment. Every day presents new opportunities to choose obedience, humility, and faithfulness. The cross represents sacrifice, discipline, and surrender. However, God never asks us to carry the cross without providing grace. Each day that we follow Christ, He supplies the strength needed for that day's challenges.



Song Suggestion

"Day by Day"

APRIL 13

### PURPOSE IS GREATER THAN PAIN

BIBLE PASSAGE:

MATTHEW 26:39



MEMORY VERSE:

ROMANS 8:18

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

### SUMMARY

The pain of the cross was overwhelming, yet Jesus endured it because He understood the eternal impact of His sacrifice. Sometimes the path to fulfilling God's purpose involves temporary suffering. However, the pain is never wasted when it serves God's greater plan. Believers must keep their eyes fixed on the eternal outcome rather than the temporary struggles they face along the way.



Song Suggestion

"Though None Go With Me (Still I Will Follow)"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 14

### OBEDIENCE WITHOUT FULL EXPLANATION

BIBLE PASSAGE:

LUKE 9:22



MEMORY VERSE:

HEBREWS 11:8

**"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going"**

## SUMMARY

Jesus fully understood His mission because of His divine nature. However, believers do not always receive full explanations about the path ahead. God often reveals His plans step by step. Faith requires trusting God even when the full picture is not clear. Obedience is an act of trust in God's wisdom and sovereignty.



Song Suggestion

"Trust and Obey"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 15

### MIDPOINT REFLECTION

BIBLE PASSAGE:

LUKE 9:25



MEMORY VERSE:

LUKE 9:25

**“What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?”**

## SUMMARY

Jesus asked a powerful question: What does it profit a person to gain the whole world but lose their soul? Success, wealth, and influence have little value if they are pursued at the expense of eternal purpose. Life must always be evaluated from an eternal perspective. When eternity becomes our focus, our priorities change.



Song Suggestion

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 16

### WHEN GOD'S WILL IS DIFFICULT

BIBLE PASSAGE:

MATTHEW 26:39



MEMORY VERSE:

ISAIAH 55:8-9

**"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are my ways higher than your thoughts."**

## SUMMARY

Following God's will is not always easy. Even Jesus experienced the difficulty of submitting to God's plan. Yet God's will is always perfect, even when it feels painful. The grace of God empowers believers to obey even when the journey is challenging.



Song Suggestion

"God Will Make a Way"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 17

### JESUS CHOSE THE CROSS

BIBLE PASSAGE:

MATTHEW 26:39



MEMORY VERSE:

JOHN 10:18

**"No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord."**

## SUMMARY

The cross was not forced upon Jesus; He willingly chose it. His decision demonstrated the depth of His love and commitment to God's redemptive plan. In the same way, fulfilling our purpose requires intentional choices. Destiny is often shaped by the decisions we make daily.



Song Suggestion

"At the Cross"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 18

### PURPOSE OVER COMFORT

BIBLE PASSAGE:

LUKE 9:23



MEMORY VERSE:

PHILIPPIANS 3:8

"I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ."

## SUMMARY

Comfort can easily become an obstacle to spiritual growth. Jesus calls believers to deny themselves, which sometimes requires leaving familiar places and comfortable routines. When purpose becomes our priority, we are willing to endure temporary discomfort for eternal reward.



Song Suggestion

"I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 19

### THE SILENT STRENGTH OF SURRENDER

BIBLE PASSAGE:

MATTHEW 26:39



MEMORY VERSE:

ROMANS 12:1

**"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of the God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service"**

## SUMMARY

Jesus surrendered Himself fully to the Father's will, knowing the suffering that lay ahead. Surrender is not weakness; it is spiritual strength. When we surrender our lives to God, we place ourselves in the safest place possible—under His perfect plan.



Song Suggestion

"I Surrender All"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 20

### WATCH AND PRAY

BIBLE PASSAGE:

MATTHEW 26:41



MEMORY VERSE:

MATTHEW 26:41

**"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."**

## SUMMARY

Jesus instructed His disciples to watch and pray so that they would not fall into temptation. Spiritual alertness is essential for maintaining obedience. A prayerful life sharpens discernment and helps believers remain focused on God's purpose.



Song Suggestion

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 21

### THE LONELINESS OF PURPOSE

BIBLE PASSAGE:

MATTHEW 26:40



MEMORY VERSE:

DEUTERONOMY 31:6

**"The Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."**

## SUMMARY

There are moments in life when even those closest to us may not fully understand our journey. Jesus experienced this when His disciples fell asleep during His moment of need. Yet He remained committed to His purpose. When others cannot walk with you, God Himself will remain your constant companion.



Song Suggestion

"Never Alone"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 22

### PURPOSE IS NOT ESCAPE

BIBLE PASSAGE:

LUKE 9:24



MEMORY VERSE:

ROMANS 8:28

**"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."**

## SUMMARY

Jesus did not avoid suffering; He transformed it into the pathway for salvation. Likewise, believers are not called to escape challenges but to trust God to work through them. Through obedience, prayer, and reliance on the Holy Spirit, difficult situations can become testimonies of God's grace.



Song Suggestion

"He Works All Things for My Good"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 23

### OBEDIENCE LEADS TO IMPACT

BIBLE PASSAGE:

LUKE 9:22



MEMORY VERSE:

JOHN 14:15

"If you love me, keep my commands."

## SUMMARY

Jesus' obedience to the Father's will brought salvation to the world. In the same way, our obedience can become a blessing to others. God often uses the faithfulness of one person to impact many lives. Never underestimate the power of simple obedience.



Song Suggestion

"Use Me, Lord"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 24

### TRUSTING GOD'S PLAN

BIBLE PASSAGE:

MATTHEW 26:39



MEMORY VERSE:

JEREMIAH 29:11

**"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."**

## SUMMARY

God's plan may involve seasons of difficulty before the breakthrough comes. Yet His plans are always good and filled with hope. Trusting God means believing that He sees the end from the beginning and that His purpose for our lives is always for our ultimate good.



Song Suggestion

"Way Maker"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 25

### PURPOSE DEMANDS COURAGE

BIBLE PASSAGE:

LUKE 9:23



MEMORY VERSE:

JOSHUA 1:9

"Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God will be with you."

## SUMMARY

Following Jesus requires courage. Denying oneself and carrying the cross often involves standing firm in the face of pressure or opposition. Courage grows when we trust God's presence and rely on His strength rather than our own.



Song Suggestion

"Be Bold, Be Strong"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 26

### THE CROSS AND THE CROWN

BIBLE PASSAGE:

LUKE 9:24



MEMORY VERSE:

2 TIMOTHY 2:12

"If we endure, we will also reign with him."

## SUMMARY

Throughout Scripture, sacrifice often precedes glory. Jesus endured the cross before receiving the crown of victory through resurrection. Believers must also understand that the road to honor in God's kingdom often passes through seasons of sacrifice.



Song Suggestion

"Victory in Jesus"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 27

### DYING TO LIVE

BIBLE PASSAGE:

LUKE 9:24



MEMORY VERSE:

GALATIANS 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

## SUMMARY

True spiritual life begins when self-centered living ends. When believers surrender selfish ambitions and allow Christ to take control, they experience a deeper and more meaningful life. Dying to self allows Christ to live through us.



Song Suggestion

"Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 28

### PURPOSE SHAPES CHARACTER

BIBLE PASSAGE:

MATTHEW 26:39



MEMORY VERSE:

ROMANS 5:3-4

"Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."

## SUMMARY

Jesus' obedience in Gethsemane revealed the depth of His character. Our response to God's will also reveals our spiritual maturity. Obedience refines the heart, builds discipline, and shapes us to become more like Christ.



Song Suggestion

"Refiner's Fire"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 29

### NO TURNING BACK

BIBLE PASSAGE:

LUKE 9:62



MEMORY VERSE:

LUKE 9:62

**"No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."**

## SUMMARY

Jesus taught that those who put their hand to the plow and look back are not fit for the kingdom of God. Purpose demands unwavering commitment. Once we choose to follow Christ, we must remain steadfast and focused, refusing to retreat from the path He has called us to walk.



Song Suggestion

"No Turning Back"

## THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 9:22-25

APRIL 30

### FROM THE CROSS TO DESTINY

BIBLE PASSAGE:

LUKE 9:23-25



MEMORY VERSE:

PHILIPPIANS 2:8-9

**"He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"**

## SUMMARY

The road to the cross ultimately leads to resurrection and fulfillment. Jesus' sacrifice brought redemption, hope, and eternal life to humanity. As believers walk the path of obedience and sacrifice, they discover the destiny God has prepared for them. The cross is not the end—it is the gateway to victory.



Song Suggestion

"Because He Lives"