



FOUR ZERO WEEK SEVEN DEVOTIONS

DAY 41/46 MONDAY

WEEK SEVEN: Spirituality and Security in Work and Life

WORDS FOR THE WEEK: “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit” (Luke 23:46)

TAKE THIS PATH: From Longing to Finding

BUILD ON THIS: Daily Adding

FEAST ON THIS: Jewish mothers often pray, “Into your hands I commit my spirit,” based on Psalm 31:5, as they put their children to bed. As Jesus is about to close His own eyes in death He prays the same prayer - except He doesn’t. He changes it. He adds one word. “Father.” There you have it - Jesus adds “Father” and everything is transformed. If you want a definition of the work of Jesus in one phrase, here it is: ‘He added ‘Father’ to everything.’. Don’t be tempted to think you can do that today - you can’t - but He can. By His Spirit He can, and will, add ‘Father’ to every single second of your day. That’s how His work can transform yours.

DQ: How would the task you like the least change if Jesus added ‘Father’ to it today?

MORE FOOD: See *WTW No: 308-Daily Disciplines 8: Focus
See **JRR PP: 192-THE CARPENTER’S SOLUTION

PRAYER: Jesus, by your Spirit, would you help me be aware that you have already added ‘Father’ to everything I do? Amen.

Symbol of the Cross: +

TableTalk: Talk about what makes a great dad. If there is a father at the table, thank him for what he adds to your lives. Talk about how Jesus adds Father to everything.

QUOTE TO NOTE: Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing
Jesus of Nazareth AD 33 (approx)

FortyFact: The Monday of holy week is associated with Jesus clearing the temple of corrupt dealers. Today Monday is the first day of the working week perhaps we should ask him to clear our work each Monday?

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FOUR ZERO WEEK SEVEN DEVOTIONS

DAY 42/46 TUESDAY

WEEK SEVEN: Spirituality and Security in Work and Life

WORDS FOR THE WEEK: “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit” (Luke 23:46)

TAKE THIS PATH: From Longing to Finding

BUILD ON THIS: Daily Worship

FEAST ON THIS: Try making a mental list of seven or so tasks you will do today – or will do regularly. What would happen if you saw them as acts of worship? Would you think that this was a bit extreme or unreasonable? When Jesus adds ‘Father’ to everything then everything becomes an act of worship. Paul calls this “reasonable service” (Romans 12:1) or spiritual worship. Worship is not exclusively what you do when you sing or read your Bible or pray. It is whatever you do. If you start labeling all your tasks as acts of worship, your days will change. Remember, this can only be done by the power of the Spirit. It is not another task – it is a way of seeing and the Spirit is the one who opens your eyes. Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice, now He can empower you to be a daily living sacrifice of worship in every task that you do.

DQ: Can you label every task as an act of worship today?

MORE FOOD: See *WTW No: 127 Automatic Choice
See **JRR PP: 194 -ADDING CHANGES EVERYTHING

PRAYER: Father, I will offer to you myself as a sacrifice and my work as worship. Open my eyes to see the worship I do today. Amen.

Symbol of the Cross: †

†**TableTalk:** Can you think of a sentence with the word *worship* in it that has nothing to do with church? Think about your breathing-can you stop it and still be a human? Think about worship as something you do like breathing.

QUOTE TO NOTE: I tell you the truth; today you will be with me in paradise
Jesus of Nazareth AD 33 (approx)

FortyFact: The Tuesday of holy week was busy and packed: Jesus told 7 parables, had severe disagreements with local leaders, as well as preaching sermons-it was an exhausting day

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FOUR ZERO WEEK SEVEN DEVOTIONS

DAY 43/46 WEDNESDAY

WEEK SEVEN: Spirituality and Security in Work and Life

WORDS FOR THE WEEK: “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit” (Luke 23:46)

TAKE THIS PATH: From Longing to Finding

BUILD ON THIS: Daily Presencing

FEAST ON THIS: You don't need to ask God to be with you today, that is a superfluous prayer; He is already there and will never leave you. What may help you is to ask God to enable you to stay aware of His presence. This was called *practicing the presence of God* by a monk called Brother Lawrence. Peter called it being conscious of God (1 Peter 2:19). Here are some tips to help you: choose to pray for the conversation when you dial a phone number; choose to pray for the conversation when your phone rings. Remember your forgiveness when you press the delete button. Pray for wisdom whenever you go through a door. Become conscious of breathing in the Spirit when you breathe and are tense. These practices connect what you already do with your awareness of the Father and will transform your days - every day - if you presence Him in your actions.

DQ: What ordinary action that you do today can be used to remind you of God?

MORE FOOD: See *WTW No: 309 Dally Disciplines- Secrecy -see the daily disciplines series
See **JRR PP: 198- PETER'S PRINCIPLE

PRAYER: Thank you, Jesus, that you are remembered in bread and wine. Help me to find ways to remember you in my work today. Amen.

Symbol of the Cross: †

†able†alk: Gather a few objects from the room and put them on the table. Talk about how each one of them could teach you something about God; e.g. a light or lamp.

QUOTE TO NOTE: Dear woman, here is your son - here is your mother
Jesus of Nazareth AD 33 (approx)

FortyFact: The Wednesday of holy week is sometimes called silent Wednesday -Jesus may have rested with friends on this day preparing himself for what was to come.

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FOUR ZERO WEEK SEVEN DEVOTIONS

DAY 44/46 THURSDAY

WEEK SEVEN: Spirituality and Security in Work and Life

WORDS FOR THE WEEK: “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit” (Luke 23:46)

TAKE THIS PATH: From Longing to Finding

BUILD ON THIS: Daily Hiding

FEAST ON THIS: When Jesus was at work, under pressure, He prayed and brought out of His heart words that had been hidden in there for such times. The fourth saying from the cross is a quote from the Bible, so is the fifth and the seventh. Jesus saw this habit of hiding in hearts in His own mother who did it all the time. (Luke 2:19). Here is a tip for you. Hide David’s Psalm 23 in your heart. That’s not the whole tip. Here’s the rest of it. See how David took his job titles of shepherd and soldier and applied them to his Lord. Now do the same and come up with your Psalm 23. Starting with your job title and then exploring what you do for others, you can now apply your job titles to the Lord. Your Psalm will now read, “The Lord is my (your job title),” and you can explore how seeing your Lord in this way will help you work today. Hide that in your heart and bring it out when you need it. Right now you can hide the Lord’s prayer in your heart or a saying of the cross and bring it out when you need it. Maybe just one phrase such as, “Give me today what I need for today” is already hidden in your heart and you can bring it out right now. This is what Jesus did on the cross.

DQ: What is already hidden in your heart that you can bring out today when you need it?

MORE FOOD: See* WTW No: 45 Psalm 23 (see the whole series on Psalm 23)
See **JRR PP: 198-201- PETER’S PRINCIPLE

PRAYER: Father, help me to find your words in my soul so that my heart becomes a storehouse for difficult times. Amen.

Symbol of the Cross: †

TableTalk: Why do you think squirrels hide nuts in the ground? Have you ever hidden something that you are saving for when you need it? This day is about hiding God’s words in your heart –can you remember some of Gods words right now that might have helped you yesterday?

QUOTE TO NOTE: My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

Jesus of Nazareth AD 33 (approx)

FortyFact: The Thursday of holy week is the day Jesus washed his disciples’ feet. Today it is sometimes called Maundy Thursday. The Latin word ‘mandatum’ speaks of the new mandate to love one another, It is also connected to the Latin verb mendicare which means to beg. Others theorize that the English name “Maundy Thursday” arose from “maundsor baskets” or “maundy purses” of gifts which the king or Queen of England distributed to the poor on that day.

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FOUR ZERO WEEK SEVEN DEVOTIONS

DAY 45/46 FRIDAY

WEEK SEVEN: Spirituality and Security in Work and Life

WORDS FOR THE WEEK: “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” (Luke 23:46)

TAKE THIS PATH: From Longing to Finding

BUILD ON THIS: Daily Sleeping

FEAST ON THIS: Jesus is showing you a consciousness of the Father from the first second of the crucifixion (“Father forgive...”) to the last (“Father, into your hands...”). He was always conscious of the Father, offering Himself as a living and daily sacrifice. His work was a prayer. His actions were all worship. Now He will close His eyes. Here’s a question: Can you stay conscious of God when your eyes are closed? Each night you close your eyes. If you live to be 70 years old, 23.5 of those years you will be asleep. How about committing your spirit into His hands when you sleep? Perhaps your week will be transformed if you become conscious of the Father while you sleep. Jesus could sleep in a storm. (Mark 4:38). Perhaps He had learned how to trust His Father so deeply He could let go of consciousness and trust Himself into His Father’s hands. Have a look at Psalm 4 if you want some help with your sleep. Have a look at the cross if you want to see an example of trust.

DQ: Can you become conscious of the Father tonight as you sleep?

MORE FOOD: See *WTW No: 359 In Between Times 17.2: Between Sleep and Awake: The Gerar King (see the sleep and awake series)

See **JRR PP: 203-SLEEPING SPIRITUALLY

PRAYER: Father, give me the gift of sleep tonight and allow me to become aware of your presence this night and every night. Amen.

Symbol of the Cross: †

TableTalk: Who is the best sleeper round the table? Who is the worst? What helps you sleep? What keeps you awake? Talk about what kind of prayer would be good to pray to help you sleep well.

QUOTE TO NOTE: I am thirsty

Jesus of Nazareth AD 33 (approx)

FortyFact: Good Friday is quite simply the most important day in history when Jesus died. He was tried 6 times before the execution began.

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FOUR ZERO WEEK SEVEN DEVOTIONS

DAY 46/46 SATURDAY

WEEK SEVEN: Spirituality and Security in Work and Life

WORDS FOR THE WEEK: “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit” (Luke 23:46)

TAKE THIS PATH: From Longing to Finding

BUILD ON THIS: Daily Receiving

FEAST ON THIS: Spirituality can be hard to define. Spirituality at work may be even harder to describe. Watch a child with a new gift. She will gaze about it. Hold onto it. Talk about it. Keep going back to it and take it with her everywhere. She may even take it to bed with her. Spirituality is defined by what holds your attention. Watch young children running out of school. They scatter, each seeking the hand of the parent. Spirituality is defined by whose hands you trust. Watch a baby lies back on a man’s chest knowing that there is no safer place to be. Spirituality is defined by whose strength you lean upon. When my daughter was born, for a while, she lay in my arms and our eyes locked. She has no other father, she does not need one. She is now a doctor but she knows who her father is and how to hold his gaze. Spirituality at work, as anywhere, is defined by which father holds your gaze.

When Jesus prays, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit” He defines spirituality and security for you, and invites you to receive, from the same hands, what you need - every day from today until there are no more days.

DQ: What will hold your gaze today?

MORE FOOD: See*WTW No: 413-What Do You Want 16: Spirit or Not? Part of the *what do you want?* series

See **JRR PP: 204-THE GIFT

PRAYER: Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. Amen.

Symbol of the Cross: †

TableTalk: Tell the others what the greatest present is that you have been given. How much time did you spend looking at it holding it and thinking about it. Now think a little about what this can teach you about giving your attention to God.

QUOTE TO NOTE: It is finished

Jesus of Nazareth AD 33 (approx)

FortyFact: The bible seems to tell us nothing about what happened on the Saturday of holy week although some think that Jesus was busy taking good news to others (1 Peter 3:18).

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These devotions are dedicated to my daughter Suzy who, by being herself, taught me about being a father