

NEW CITY DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WEEK OF 4/27/2020-5/1/2020

The following content is based on the message on 4/26/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

MONDAY // QUARANTINE: 40 DAYS OF SOLITUDE

Everyone is experiencing this time of quarantine differently. Some have experienced rest, while others have experienced loss, and others are exhausted from family. These differences in experience are consistent with the experiences of people in Scripture. Throughout all of Scripture, God's people experienced types of quarantine. The word "quarantine" comes from a word that means "forty." It means 40 days of silence. God uses these times in different ways for different people.

Read 1 Kings 19:8-13. During his 40 days, the prophet Elijah expected to hear from God in a big way. He expected to hear God in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire. But to Elijah's surprise, God actually spoke in a small whisper after—in the stillness. God wants our full attention because He wants to speak to us in stillness, even in the middle of this chaos.

God wants to speak to you in the quiet, not the chaos.

- *How do you usually fill the silence in your life? [Or] what do you do to avoid silence?*
- *Set a timer for 5 minutes (or longer if you have time). Sit in silence and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Write down what He says to you and how you will respond.*

TUESDAY // 40 DAYS TO BRING SOMETHING TO DIE

Read Genesis 6:1-8 and 7:1-5. This 40-day period was used to bring death because wickedness was "great on the earth." Yet, even in that, God was merciful to Noah by saving him from destruction. Afterward, God continued to show mercy by promising to never judge the earth like that again. For us, we don't know if God may or may not be using this time to judge the world, but we do know that God is definitely using this time to bring unhealthy things to death in us. He personally wants us to reflect on our lives. He wants you to see what you have allowed into your life that actually is killing your soul. (For instance, maybe God wants an unhealthy habit in you to die.)

Ask: "What is God revealing to me that needs to die?"

- *Set a timer for 5 minutes (or longer). Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what needs to die in your life. Write down what he reveals to you.*
- *What specific steps do you need to take to replace that unhealthy thing with something healthy?*

WEDNESDAY // 40 DAYS TO FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

Read Exodus 24:12-18. Unlike Elijah, God used the mountain top and the fire to speak to Moses. God used that time to give Moses His word—the Ten Commandments. God

may be using this time to get your attention onto His word rather than other things. Most of us probably spend our time consuming different forms of media, but don't spend time with God's word. Nothing else will give us the life and peace that we need like the Word of God will give to us. When we are reading the Bible, we are literally reading the words of God spoken to us.

God wants to give you principles In His word that will lead you to life and peace.

- *What are some specific ways that you have experienced the word of God filling you with life and peace?*
- *Set a timer for 5 minutes (or longer). Ask God who you could invite into an accountability relationship to stay accountable to these daily devotionals? What specific steps do you need to take to start?*

THURSDAY // 40 DAYS OF TAUNTING FROM THE ENEMY

Read 1 Samuel 17:1-16. Israel's enemies taunted them for 40 days. They were filled with great fear because they believed the lies of the enemy. They didn't believe that God was their ultimate hope. Maybe that's where you find yourself in this quarantine. Maybe you've listened to the taunting of the enemy, and he has lead you back into sin. If you keep reading the story, God used David to show Israel that God is stronger than the enemy that tries to entrap us. God wants you to know that you are loved by the One who has defeated the enemy. God wants you to know that you don't have to submit to the lies that Satan tries to tell you.

The truth from God about you is stronger than the lies of the enemy.

- *What lies has the enemy been telling you that you've believed recently?*
- *Set a timer for 5 minutes (or longer). Ask the Holy Spirit for comfort. Ask Him to tell you the truth about who you are in Jesus.*

FRIDAY // 40 DAYS OF REPENTANCE

Read Jonah 3:1-10. Jonah received mercy from the Lord even though he had run from God. Jonah was given a second chance to turn—or repent from his ways. The message that he was given was similar. God wanted Jonah to preach repentance to the people of Ninevah because He wanted to give them a second chance. Jonah preached this message to the city, and the entire city repented within a 40-day window. Whether we are new to the faith, or whether we have been following Jesus for many years, we all need to turn from sin regularly and turn to Jesus.

Read Luke 4:1-13. When we are called to repentance, we turn to Jesus who stayed faithful during His own 40-day moment of temptation. Through His whole life, Jesus said "no" to sin so that He would be able to rescue us from our sin.

- *How does Jesus' faithfulness in His life show you how much you mean to Him?*
- *Set a timer from 5 minutes (or longer). Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you. From what do you need to repent?*