

# RECONCILIATION DEVOTIONAL

A one-week devotional towards reconciliation

---

## CONTENTS

Day 1: Encountering Jesus

Day 2: A Journey through Samaria

Day 3: The Heart of Jesus

Day 4: A Hard Teaching

Day 5: The Gospel Message

Day 6: A Multicultural Church

Day 7: Our Future Hope

## DAY 1: ENCOUNTERING JESUS

Prayer: Lord, help me to encounter You today. I want to know You better. Help me to understand your character and follow in your ways. Help me to love others as You have loved me. Thank you for your grace. Amen.

Scripture References: John 1:43-51, Psalm 32:1-2

*The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."*

*"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.*

Let's pause here for a moment. Read that last line again, and let it sink in.

Do you realize how biased and ignorant Nathanael's comment was? How could anything good come from that place? And of all people, he was talking about the Messiah!

Digging deeper, do you perhaps hear echoes of his statement in your own heart? How can anyone good come from the ghetto? We should close our borders to the Middle East (or wherever else). What good could come from there? I don't want to be their friend—they come from the bad side of town.

It's just one comment from Nathanael, but it made enough of an impression to be recorded in Scripture and remembered by future generations. Let's come and see how Jesus responded.

*"Come and see," said Philip.*

*When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."*

*"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.*

*Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."*

*Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."*

*Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."*

Significantly, Jesus claimed that he saw Nathanael even before Philip called him. He must have known the rude comment that Nathanael had just made about Jesus's hometown. Why, then, did Jesus call Nathanael "an Israelite in whom there is no deceit" (John 1:47)?

I think Nathanael was familiar with the Old Testament Scriptures. After all, when Philip invited Nathanael to meet Jesus, he referenced "the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote" (John 1:45). One of those prophets was King David, who wrote in the Psalms,

*Blessed is the one  
whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

*Blessed is the one  
whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.*

Nathanael could be considered as someone “in whom there is no deceit” because his transgressions were forgiven, and his sins were covered. Although he had spoken wrongly about Jesus’s heritage, the Lord did not count it against him.

This is radical grace. This is what happens when we encounter Jesus: our sin is exposed, but it is also forgiven. I believe that the only way to truly eradicate racism from our hearts is to fully encounter the God who made each of us in his own image.

Together, may we encounter Jesus, who forgives all our sins, dismantles racism, and creates a new family from every nation, tribe, people, and language.

## **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND ACTION:**

- What is your reaction to the grace of Jesus in this passage?
- What hurtful, biased, or racist comments have you spoken in the past? Ask God for his forgiveness, and if appropriate, ask forgiveness from that person(s) as well. If comments against you come to mind, ask God to heal your heart and help you forgive.
- How is God calling you to use your words for healing rather than hurting? Who can you encourage today?

## DAY 2: A JOURNEY THROUGH SAMARIA

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that You are all I need. Like water to my thirst, You refresh my soul. Thank you for drawing close to me in my brokenness. Please heal the wounded places of my heart and help me to bring your healing to others. I pray this in Your name. Amen.

Scripture References: John 4:4-10, 15-26

*Now Jesus had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.*

*When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)*

*The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)*

Fellow travelers on this road to racial reconciliation, let us sit down at the well beside Jesus and listen in on this unique conversation between a Jewish man and a Samaritan woman. The conversation has begun awkwardly: the Samaritan woman is already pointing out their differences, the deep and historical separation between Jews and Samaritans. Still, let us not hurry away too quickly with the disciples. Let us linger with Jesus and listen.

*Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."*

*The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."*

*He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."*

*"I have no husband," she replied.*

*Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."*

While conversing across cultures, Jesus understood this woman's personal history and pain. He cared deeply about her individual story. Moreover, Jesus was the very One who would heal the pain of her past. He was the Bridegroom (see John 3:27 just a few verses before this story) who would redeem this woman after many failed relationships—the same One who will heal every wound in each one of us. He was also the One who would now mend the cultural divide, inviting all people to worship the Father in Spirit and in truth.

*"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."*

*"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."*

*The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."*

*Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."*

With these words from Jesus, a new narrative began transforming the Samaritan woman's thoughts: Beloved, you are the kind of worshiper the Father seeks. You who were rejected by other cultures and an outcast even to your own people, you are sought out and loved by the Messiah. You are the bride of Christ. Excited by this new revelation, the woman hurried to tell her whole village the good news about the Savior of the world.

The disciples entirely missed this redemptive conversation. They were too busy trying to meet their own needs, going to the town merely to buy food. They were slow to realize that Jesus had traveled through Samaria to invite even their former enemies into God's global family. Someday, though, they too would join Jesus in his redemptive mission.

## **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND ACTION:**

- Read through the entire story in John 3:27 and John 4:1-42. How does Jesus connect with the Samaritan woman and offer her hope? How does Jesus offer you hope?
- Take some time today or this week to travel, like Jesus, to a place with a different culture than your own. Ask God to lead you. Here are some potential examples:
  - Dine at a minority-owned restaurant and engage the owners or fellow customers in conversation. Be a learner of their culture.
  - Visit a homeless shelter and talk with someone there to learn their story.
  - At work, in your neighborhood, etc., start a meaningful conversation with someone you would not normally talk to. Listen well and encourage them.
  - Ask yourself if you have any bias against a group of people. If so, seek out a way to learn about their culture. Ask God to give you his heart for them.

Whatever you choose, be sure to focus not on meeting your own needs, but on compassionately interacting with someone different than you.

- What lifestyle changes should you make to engage with diverse people more frequently?

## DAY 3: THE HEART OF JESUS

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank You for loving me beyond what I can even imagine. You sacrificed everything so that I can live in peace with God. Thank You for your grace to me. Transform my heart to be more like You. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Scripture Reference: John 17:20-26

I want you to imagine Jesus's last night before the cross.

This night was different than any other, for Jesus knew that he would soon be betrayed. His heart was troubled, but he remained steadfast in love. His actions and words on this historic night would be forever seared into the memories of his disciples.

He had earnestly desired to eat this Passover meal with his disciples. The Jewish customs of the feast had been passed down without change for generations, but this night was different. On this night, Jesus took the bread and broke it, saying, "This is my body, broken for you." Images of the cross flashed through his mind.

Jesus then lifted the cup. "This is my blood of the covenant," he proclaimed, "which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." His heart pounded in his chest, pumping the lifeblood that would be spilled out for others.

Setting aside his own grief, Jesus then stood up from the evening meal. He humbly wrapped a towel around his waist, poured water into a basin, and knelt on the ground. As he gently washed the feet of Simon Peter, Judas Iscariot, and the others, Jesus' eyes teared up a little. Filled with love, Jesus strengthened the disciples with many encouraging words.

Knowing that the hour of his death was approaching, Jesus loved his disciples to the end. On his way towards the garden where Judas would soon betray him, he paused and gazed up to heaven and poured out his heart before God. In the last moments before his betrayal, he prayed not for himself but for his disciples and then for you:

*"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

*"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.*

*"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."*

Now imagine yourself in the garden with Jesus, watching him pray for you. Tears flow from his eyes as he cries out to the Father on your behalf. Lord, let them be united! May they be one with You! Please, Father, let the world know how much You love them! Only minutes later, Jesus would be arrested, tortured, and crucified. But in this moment, he's praying for you. For unity.

Typically, we consider a person's dying wish to have substantial significance. If that is the case, shouldn't Jesus's last prayer motivate us to live in unity? Yet unfortunately, we often notice division and disunity, even in the church. So, did God even hear this prayer of Jesus? As James 5:16 says, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." God's plan and desire for his people is still to bring us to unity. How will we respond to the heartfelt prayer of Jesus?

## **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND ACTION:**

- Is unity as important to you as it was to Jesus? How do you feel about any disunity you have witnessed? Talk to God about the pain or questions disunity has caused in your own heart.
- Consider reading this excellent article about Christian lament: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/dare-to-hope-in-god>. Form your own prayers of lament around this biblical pattern: turn to God, bring your complaint, ask boldly for help, and choose to trust.
- Spend a few minutes praying for the same requests as Jesus:
  - That all believers may be one, brought to complete unity.
  - That the unity of the worldwide church will resemble the unity of God.
  - That through our unity, the world will know that God sent Jesus and that God loves them.

## DAY 4: A HARD TEACHING

Prayer: God, I know that following You is not always easy, but it is worth it. So, I pray with the psalmist, “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24). Amen.

Scripture References: Matthew 5:21-24, 43-48, 7:3-5

I know you’re not a murderer—well, most likely not, anyways.

You didn’t hold that gun; you didn’t pull the trigger; you’re not to blame for society’s issues. You consider yourself innocent.

But what does Jesus say about you and me?

*“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.*

*“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”*

Jesus sets an incredibly high standard for us. He claims that we are not innocent merely by avoiding “big sins” such as murder. Instead, our anger returns judgment to us, and calling someone a fool warrants the worst punishment of hell. Clearly, each one of us needs forgiveness.

For this reason, Jesus tells us to seek forgiveness from others. Although God graciously forgives all our sins, it matters to God that we also seek forgiveness from the people we have wronged. Surely this principle applies to minor offenses as well as major ones. If any brother or sister holds something against us—whether or not we feel that their grudge is deserved—Jesus commands us to immediately go and be reconciled. This command to reconcile falls on the offender rather than the offended.

Each of us, then, must grow in selfless love. Jesus has much to say on this topic as well:

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*

Jesus’s standard for love goes far beyond any cultural standards. In our human nature, it is far too easy to silence and dislike those who disagree with us. But God’s grace extends to all, and he expects the same from us. The next time you watch a beautiful sunrise, remember that God is painting the sky for the “evil” person just as much as he is for the “good” person. We were all created by God, and he loves each one of us. Let us then love one another as God loves us.

But how can we love those murderers and haters? Shouldn’t we address these major sins? Later in the same sermon, Jesus answers these questions in a countercultural way:

*“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”*

Jesus knows our hypocrisy. Even while we accuse others, we allow the same sinful tendencies to grow within ourselves. We are quick to throw stones without first examining our own hearts. Are we perfect? Anger, name-calling, hate and all other sins must be eradicated from our lives. Only then can we see clearly to remove the specks from our brother’s eye.

We have already seen that Jesus is full of grace. He forgives our sins, and he draws near to us to heal our pain. Even when facing death, he begged God on our behalf for unity among believers. Yet in this passage, his grace comes in the form of a hard teaching that challenges us to seek a better way of life.

### **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND ACTION:**

- Ask God to help you examine your own heart and to remove any sin, no matter how seemingly small it may be.
- Do you know anyone who holds a grudge against you? In obedience to Jesus’s command, call them today and humbly ask for their forgiveness.
- How would first “taking the plank from your own eye” change the way you communicate with others?

## DAY 5: THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for my sake. As I reflect on your sacrifice for me, I pray that you will deepen my understanding of your death and resurrection. Grant me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that I may know You better. Amen.

Scripture References: Romans 5:8-11, Ephesians 2:13-22, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Why did Jesus die?

Take a moment to pause and answer that question for yourself.

What did you say? That Jesus died to forgive us from our sins? That he died because of an unjust trial and soldiers who nailed him to the cross? That he died because it was God's plan to rescue humankind? That by sacrificing his life, he showed us how much he loves the world?

All these answers contain truth. I also wonder, did you mention reconciliation?

Reconciliation means bringing a relationship that was previously divided back into a place of unity. Although we were once separated from God by our own choices, in love God pursued us and drew us back into a relationship with him. Notice how many times reconciliation is mentioned in this gospel presentation from Romans:

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

This concept of reconciliation is a central component of the gospel message, found in several passages throughout the New Testament. In the letter to the Ephesians, the author elaborates on this same concept by describing the highest price that Jesus paid for our reconciliation.

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

Jesus died to destroy racism, for through the cross he put to death our hostility. He has destroyed every barrier and has removed the walls of hostility: It is finished! Jesus paid the highest price for our peace. His purpose was to create one new humanity, one family in one Spirit—in a word, reconciliation.

This message was essential to the early church and continues to be a felt need in this modern age as well. Reconciliation is not a periphery issue that we should only mention on certain occasions or in response to current events. Rather, reconciliation is central to the heart of God and the message of the gospel. Again, in 2 Corinthians, it says,

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

Our ministry is this: God is reconciling the world to himself in Christ. Beyond individual salvation, God longs to draw entire people groups—families, tribes, communities—into his global family. Ultimately, God will reconcile all things in heaven and on earth (see Colossians 1:20), bringing all of creation back into right relationship with our Creator. And God has committed to us the message of reconciliation: the life-changing message of the gospel.

### **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND ACTION:**

- How does the concept of reconciliation deepen your understanding of the gospel?
- Ask God to reveal the ways that you have contributed, either intentionally or unintentionally, to the “dividing wall of hostility.” Spend some time in repentance, and then thank Jesus for dying on the cross to destroy this wall of hostility. Finally, ask God to replace hostility with his peace.
- How is God calling you to share this message of reconciliation with others?

## DAY 6: A MULTICULTURAL CHURCH

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I pray that You will open the eyes of my heart so that I will know the hope to which You have called me. Help me to be sensitive and obedient to your voice. May I live in peace with all people as a part of your multicultural church. Amen.

Scripture References: Acts 9:10-20, Ephesians 3:10-11

Do you want to see Jesus more clearly?

If so, you might need other believers to help restore your vision. This was the case for two believers named Ananias and Saul, who both needed new sight. This is their story:

*In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered.*

*The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."*

*"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."*

*But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."*

*Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.*

In this story, Saul, a persecutor of the church, had been blinded by his encounter with Jesus. In the city where Saul had intended to arrest Christians, he fasted for three days and prayed to God for mercy. God could have healed his blinded eyes at any moment. Instead, he called to Ananias in a vision and commanded him to place his hands on Saul to restore his sight.

Initially Ananias resisted. Understandably, he had heard reports about the harm that Saul had done and had to remind God about these facts. Undeterred, God commanded Ananias to go, and Ananias obeyed. Overcoming his fear, Ananias greeted his "brother Saul," thus welcoming his former enemy into the family of God. As Ananias prayed, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes. Saul's sight was restored.

I think that Ananias received new sight on that day as well. Before his very eyes, God transformed a former enemy of the church into an apostle who would suffer to advance the cause of Christ. As the scales fell from Saul's eyes, God changed the heart of Saul, a proud Jewish man, and appointed him as a cross-cultural missionary, to humbly proclaim the name of Jesus to the Gentiles. Watching this miracle unfold, Ananias saw the transformative power of God with renewed clarity. His spiritual sight was restored.

In God's plan, Ananias and Saul needed one another to expand their vision of God's kingdom. We know from the Bible that Saul was forever changed by this experience. Later known as Paul, he labored for the rest of his life to plant multiethnic churches among Jews and Gentiles. While imprisoned for his faith, he wrote about God's plan for the church:

*His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

The church is meant to display the manifold wisdom of God like a prism disperses a ray of light into all the colors of the rainbow. We need one another to see Jesus in all his magnificent beauty. When we encounter Jesus in this way—his glory revealed through the manifold cultures of his church—we too may be blinded by the light of this revelation. Like Ananias and Saul, may we then pray for the scales to fall from our eyes so that we live in unity as a transformed people.

### **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND ACTION:**

- How do other believers in your life help you see Jesus more clearly?
- Ask God to remove any of your blind spots and give you His vision for the church. Then write a journal entry or draw a picture about the revelation you receive. Allow God to inspire your imagination!
- Consider visiting a church that is predominantly a different race, ethnicity, or culture than your own. While there, notice the unique ways that this church displays the manifold wisdom of God. Participate fully in the worship experience. Which aspects of God's character are highlighted?

## DAY 7: OUR FUTURE HOPE

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for the gift of reconciliation. We long for the day when we are reconciled fully with You and with one another. Bring us into that blessed unity. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Scripture References: Revelation 5:6-10, 7:9-10; Matthew 6:9-10

“I have a dream.”

These famous words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. have inspired thousands to lift their eyes to a noble goal, the day when we will no longer separate from or misjudge one another based on the colors of our skin. Though today we walk through the valleys of injustice, we still set our sights on the mountain peaks of racial equality and unity. We hope for brighter days ahead.

As Christians, we have not only a dream, but also a promise. The purposes of God stand firm in the heavens; they will never be shaken. Catching a glimpse of this heavenly reality in the last book of the Bible, we again gaze upon Jesus: the Lamb who was slain, whose blood purchased the salvation of all peoples.

*Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. And they sang a new song, saying:*

*“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,  
because you were slain,  
and with your blood you purchased for God  
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.  
You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will  
reign on the earth.”*

Here we see Jesus as the Lamb of God, worshiped in splendor, and worthy to open the scroll that foretells our future because he was slain for our sake. Only two chapters later, we are then offered a glimpse of the kingdom to come: a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, gathered together before the throne of God and before the Lamb.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

*“Salvation belongs to our God,  
who sits on the throne,  
and to the Lamb.”*

Do you hear this beautiful symphony? Singing together in one voice,

*¡La salvación viene de nuestro Dios, que está sentado en el trono,  
y del Cordero!*

救恩来自我们坐在宝座上的上帝，也来自羔羊！

*Le salut est à notre Dieu qui est assis sur le trône et à l'Agneau.*

ससहिसन पर सरिजमान हमारे परमेश्वर की जय हो और मेमने की जय हो।

In these languages and countless others, people from every nation, tribe, people and language will worship God before his throne. Notice how few details are mentioned about the multitude, but importantly, the crowd's racial and ethnic diversity is emphasized. God is not colorblind; he loves the diversity that he has created. According to God's promise, someday all peoples will be restored to this right relationship with our heavenly Father and with one another. Displaying God's creative diversity, we will be united as one multitude.

For now, our future hope remains our current priority. May we pray together in the words of Jesus,

*“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”*

## **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND ACTION:**

- Are you captivated by these visions from Revelation? How does this future reality impact the way you choose to live now?
- Join in the diverse worship experience of heaven by listening to worship music in other languages. If you need ideas to start, try The Ethnos Project or Hillsong Global.
- Reflect on the devotionals from this past week. Which Scripture passage or experience made the most impact on you? Why?