

# CANON MARK'S DAILY DEVOTIONALS #302

## 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2026

### MONDAY

WHEN THINGS FEEL BROKEN, OUR FIRST INSTINCT MAY BE TO ACT, BUT THIS DEVOTIONAL INVITES US TO PAUSE, PRAY, AND LET GOD SHAPE OUR RESPONSE BEFORE WE MOVE.

27th April – Morning all... When you break something, is your natural instinct to fix it quickly? There's something in us that wants to respond straight away, to put things right, to take action, to do something that makes it better. We don't like sitting in the tension. We don't like feeling helpless. So we move, sometimes too fast, hoping that action will ease what we feel. But in the Book of Nehemiah 1:4, Nehemiah hears that Jerusalem is in ruins, his response is very different. He sits down. He weeps. And then he prays for days. Before rebuilding walls, he builds a foundation of prayer. Now that's not always our natural response. We often reverse the order. We act first, pray later, if we pray at all. We rely on our own strength, our own thinking, our own urgency. But prayer does something important. It slows us down. It creates space for God. It brings honesty. It shifts our focus from what we can do to what God is able to do. Nehemiah didn't ignore the problem; he prepared his heart before stepping into it. And maybe that's the invitation for us too. Because there are things in life that feel broken, situations we can't fix easily, pressures we carry, questions we don't have answers for. And the temptation is to rush in and try to hold everything together ourselves. But what if the first step isn't action, but surrender? What if instead of rushing ahead, we paused long enough to bring it before God? Prayer doesn't mean doing nothing, it means starting in the right place.

Revd Canon Mark Spiers

### TUESDAY

THERE'S A LOVELY HYMN WE SING CALLED - HE KNOWS MY NAME. CANON MARK REMINDED ME OF IT. YOU CAN HEAR IT HERE:

[https://youtu.be/jc0r\\_i2f1dU?si=0NKjHPRV2NbkRsue](https://youtu.be/jc0r_i2f1dU?si=0NKjHPRV2NbkRsue)

28th April – Morning all... Have you ever felt like you're just one person in a crowd, easily overlooked, quietly carrying things no one else can see? Maybe you've smiled on the outside while something heavier sits underneath. Maybe you've kept going, showing up, doing what needs to be done, while holding things together that no one else fully understands. In Mark's Gospel chapter 5, we meet a woman who had been suffering for years. Not just physically, but socially and emotionally too, isolated, overlooked, likely exhausted from carrying it for so long. Yet something in her refuses to give up. She pushes through the crowd, not to be noticed, not to be seen, but to simply reach Jesus. "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." (Mark 5:28) And in a crowd full of people, Jesus stops. He notices. He turns and says, "Who touched my clothes?" (Mark 5:30) This wasn't because He didn't know, it's because she needed to know that she was seen. C. S. Lewis once wrote, "We are never so lost that God cannot find us." Maybe that's what this woman needed to discover, not just that she could be healed, but that she wasn't invisible. It's comforting to know that God sees the parts of our lives no one else notices. He understands what we haven't been able to put into words. He meets us not at the surface, but in the depth of what we're really going through. So, keep coming to Him, even if it's quietly, even if it's just reaching out in faith. Because even in the crowd, He knows your name.

Revd Canon Mark Spiers

### WEDNESDAY

YOUR PAST MAY SHAPE YOUR STORY, BUT IN CHRIST IT NEVER HAS THE FINAL WORD...

29th April – Morning all... I was recently reading about a man named John McAvoy, during the early 2000s, he was serving time in prison for serious crimes, and many assumed that was the end of his story. But while in prison, something began to change. He started to reflect, take responsibility, and to slowly rebuild his life. Over time, he became an endurance athlete, even breaking indoor rowing records. What struck me was this, his past didn't disappear, but it no longer defined his future. And it made me think how many of us carry things from our past in a similar way. We've all had moments we wish we could undo. Words we wish we hadn't said. Decisions we wish we could take back. In Luke 7, a woman known for her past walks into a room where she is already judged. Before she even

speaks, people have already decided who she is. But she doesn't defend herself. She doesn't explain. She simply comes to Jesus. And everything changes. Because while others focus on her history, Jesus focuses on her heart. He says to her, "Your sins are forgiven." (Luke 7:48). And then, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." (Luke 7:50). No condemnation. No reminder of who she used to be. Just grace. And that's where this becomes personal. Because it's easy to believe that our past disqualifies us. That it creates distance between us and God. That we need to fix everything before we can come to Him. But she comes as she is, and that's enough. So, whatever you carry from yesterday, don't let it define your today. Jesus doesn't just see where you've been, He sees who you can become.

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## THURSDAY

WHAT IF THE GREATEST BLINDNESS IN OUR LIVES IS NOT WHAT WE CANNOT SEE, BUT WHAT WE ASSUME WE ALREADY DO? THERE'S A LOVELY HYMN WE OFTEN SING - OPEN MY EYES THAT I MAY SEE.... (MP 544)

30th April – Morning all... Growing up I had perfect eyesight, 20:20 vision. I could see everything clearly, no effort needed. But unfortunately, as the years have gone by, I've started to notice things changing. Words aren't quite as sharp as they used to be, what I once saw easily now takes a bit more focusing. How often is that true spiritually as well? We often assume we see things clearly. We form opinions quickly. We draw conclusions based on what's in front of us. We think we understand situations, people, even what God is doing. But sometimes, what we think we see isn't the full picture. In John 9, Jesus heals a man who has been blind from birth. For him, the change is immediate and undeniable. But what's fascinating is what happens next. The man begins to see, physically and spiritually. But those around him, who already had sight, remain blind to the truth. Religious leaders question him, doubt him, even challenge what's happened. They can see with their eyes, but they cannot see who Jesus is. And in the middle of all that, the man simply says: "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" (John 9:25) Maybe that's the challenge for us today, not to assume we see everything clearly, but to come humbly and to ask God to open our eyes. To trust that God sees what we cannot, and to ask Him to gently guide our perspective, because He is always working, even when it's not immediately clear.

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## FRIDAY

I REMEMBER THE TRAIN INCIDENT CANON MARK MENTIONS. THE TRAIN MADE AN UNSCHEDULED STOP AT HUNTINGDON STATION FOLLOWING A KNIFE ATTACK ON MULTIPLE PASSENGERS ON A MOVING LNER TRAIN TRAVELLING FROM DONCASTER TO KINGS CROSS STATION. THE RAIL WORKER WAS HAILED AS A COMPLETE HERO. HAVE A BLESSED AND SAFE WEEKEND.

1st May – Morning all... Not sure if you've ever thought about this, but some of the most powerful moments in life aren't planned, they're revealed. In November 2025, a calm commute turned into chaos, an ordinary day suddenly becoming something no one would forget, and in an instant what was inside a person was brought to the surface. A 48-year-old rail worker placed himself between danger and the vulnerable, reports say he shielded a young girl with his own body, he didn't pause to weigh the cost, he simply absorbed it and was left with severe injuries while others walked away alive. And in that moment it became unmistakably clear, courage like that isn't manufactured on the spot, it's revealed under pressure. And that's exactly where Peter takes us in 1 Peter 1:6–7. He's writing to believers who are hurting, not because they've failed, but because they've followed, their faith has led them into hardship, not away from it, and he doesn't brush past their pain, he names it, "You may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials..." that's real, that's where many of us find ourselves at times. But then he lifts their eyes, "These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith-of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed." In other words, the fire has a purpose, it doesn't just expose, it refines. And just like that moment on the train revealed what was already inside the rail worker, our trials often reveal what God has been quietly forming within us, not weakness, but faith that holds under pressure. So maybe the question isn't, "Why is this happening?" but more, "What is this revealing?" Because Peter reminds us that this isn't wasted, and it isn't the end, it's proving something eternal, faith that's real, faith that's refined, faith that will stand when Christ is revealed.

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