

CANON MARK'S DAILY DEVOTIONALS #303

4TH – 8TH MAY 2026

MONDAY

CANON MARK, APART FROM HIS COMPUTER GLICHES, SPENT THE BANK HOLIDAY WITH LIZ AND ME, CLEANING AND MOVING EVERYTHING BACK INTO THE NEW KITCHEN, WHILE WE WAIT ON THE NEW SINK. AFTERALL TODAY WAS STAR WARS DAY! MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU!

4th May – Morning all, sorry this is a day late. I wish I could say it's because I was being extra spiritual and reflective... but honestly, I was staring at a computer that refused to turn on. Yesterday, I nearly launched my computer out the window. Not even exaggerating, I sat there pressing the power button, like it might suddenly feel bad for me, and decide to cooperate. I tried everything I could think of. Unplugged it, plugged it back in, held the button down longer (as if that magically fixes things), stared at it like I could will it into life... nothing. Just a black screen staring right back at me. At one point I actually paused and thought, "How far could I realistically throw this?" I wasn't asking for much. I just wanted something. A flicker. A sound. A sign that it wasn't completely dead. Unfortunately, that feeling lingered longer than I expected. It made me realise it's not just computers that feel like that sometimes. It's those moments where you're doing what you know to do, trying again, hoping for some kind of response, and all you get back is... silence. No movement. No clarity. Just that same blank, unchanging "screen." Then this Scripture came to mind: "Even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you." (Psalm 139:12) That hit differently this time I read it. Because what feels like a completely dead, unresponsive moment, isn't dark to God at all. He's not staring at the same blank screen I am, wondering what's going on. He sees it clearly. Where I see nothing... He sees everything. Genesis starts with darkness, not as a problem, but as the place where God begins. "Darkness was over the surface of the deep..." and it's right there that He speaks light into existence. So maybe the darkness I was staring at wasn't the end of something, it's just a part of where God is about to move.

Revd Canon Mark Spiers

TUESDAY

IN MY QUIET TIMES, I LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN JUST SITTING IN CHURCH AND BEING STILL. MY THOUGHTS CAN BE RAMBLING AND FAR REACHING, BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO BE DAILY ANCHORED IN HIS LOVE.

5th May – Morning all... Recently, I came across this quote by a gentleman named Friedrich Nietzsche; "He who has a why to live can bear almost any how." It really stopped me for a moment. It's simple, but it lingers. It made me ask myself, what is my "why" right now? And more importantly, is it strong enough to carry me when life feels heavy? Nietzsche wasn't a Christian thinker, in fact, he was often critical of Christianity, but some of his reflections on human nature and the search for meaning still resonate. That idea of needing a "why" in order to endure the "how" is something many people recognise, whether they share his worldview or not. It raises a real question about where we actually find meaning, and for me that question leads straight into Scripture. "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." (Colossians 2:6–7) Paul doesn't point us to a newly discovered "why." He points us back to a Person we already know. Just as you received... continue. You see, faith isn't about constantly searching for meaning elsewhere; it's about going deeper into the One who already gives it. To be rooted means you're not easily shaken. Trees don't survive storms because they suddenly try harder, they survive because of what's already happening beneath the surface. For many of us it's easy to focus on what's visible and urgent, while neglecting what's quietly forming the depth underneath. But real strength doesn't come from the surface. It comes from being anchored in Christ before the pressure hits. And Paul doesn't stop there. He builds the picture: rooted, built up, strengthened... and then overflowing with thankfulness. It's what flows out when your life is grounded in the right place. When Christ becomes your "why," even in uncertain seasons, something steady remains. So today, I'm reminding myself as much as anyone else, don't get pulled in every direction. Come back to what matters most. Stay rooted. Stay grounded. Stay in Him.

Revd Canon Mark Spiers

WEDNESDAY

WHAT AN HONOUR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSECRATION OF BISHOP JABSON WATSON IN CHRIST CHURCH, BROADSTAIRS TODAY. I'M AFRAID THAT IT WAS ADDING ANOTHER LOAD ONTO HIS BACK. BUT LET US ALL PRAY THAT IT WILL BE BLESSED AND A FRUITFUL ONE.

6th May – Morning all... This morning on the way into work, I saw a little boy walking with his dad. He couldn't have been more than four or five. He had this tiny backpack on, but he was dragging it more than carrying it. Every few steps he'd stop, adjust it, try to pull it up again, and you could see the frustration building. It wasn't a big bag, but for him, it clearly felt heavy. His dad noticed, slowed down, and said something to him. The boy shook his head at first, like he wanted to prove he could manage it. But after another few steps, he gave in. He stopped, turned around, and without saying a word, just lifted his arms slightly. His dad took the bag off his shoulders and carried it for him. Instantly, the boy's whole posture changed, he was almost skipping to keep up. This really resonated with me this morning, because I do the same thing more than I'd like to admit. Sometimes I even resist help, not because it's not offered, but because pride or habit tells me to just keep going. There's a small but powerful line in scripture that speaks right into this kind of moment: "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." (1 Peter 5:6) Sometimes humility looks like that little boy. Not having all the strength, not pretending you do, but simply allowing yourself to be helped. Trusting that the One walking with you is more than able to carry what you can't. Today isn't about proving how much you can hold, but it's about knowing when to let go, and who to give it to.

Revd Canon Mark Spiers

THURSDAY

WHEN WE INVITE GOD INTO THE HIDDEN PLACES OF OUR HEARTS, HE DOES NOT COME TO CONDEMN US, BUT TO BRING HEALING, FREEDOM, AND GRACE. FOR THE BED SITUATION - MARK, GET A DIVAN SO THERE'S NO ROOM TO HOARD!

7th May – Morning all... Last night I decided to sort out under the bed. I don't know why I thought it would be a quick job. The moment I pulled one thing out; it turned into uncovering an entire hidden world underneath there. Old paperwork. Random cables. Shoes I forgot I owned. Receipts from years ago. At one point I found something and genuinely had no idea why I'd ever kept it in the first place. I realised under the bed had become the perfect hiding place. Not organised enough to deal with properly but hidden enough that I could pretend it wasn't there. Just shove it underneath and move on. Future me can sort it out later. And honestly, I think we do the same thing internally sometimes. We push things down into hidden places. Disappointments. Fear. Conversations we replay in our heads. Things we never fully dealt with, just tucked away somewhere we hope nobody sees, sometimes not even ourselves. But eventually all that hidden clutter still takes up space. Then I thought of David praying: "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) That's actually a courageous prayer. David is inviting God into the hidden places, the places we'd often rather leave untouched. Not because God wants to shame him, but because healing often begins with honesty. And the beautiful thing is this: when God searches our hearts, He doesn't come with condemnation. He comes with grace. He doesn't pull things into the light to crush us, but to restore us.

Revd Canon Mark Spiers

FRIDAY

CANON MARK TALKS ABOUT FORGETTING WHY HE ENTERED A ROOM AND REMEMBERING AS HE COMES OUT. I DO THE SAME BUT MOSTLY I NEVER REMEMBER WHAT I WENT IN FOR! NOW THAT'S GETTING OLD! HAVE A BLESSED WEEKEND AND MINISTERS, PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY THE PRAYER FOR CONVOCATION ON PAGE 66 OF OUR PRAYER BOOK. LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING SOME OF YOU ON MONDAY AT HIGHGATE HOUSE.

8th May – Morning all... This morning I walked into a room and completely forgot why I'd gone in there. I stood for a solid few seconds just staring around like the answer might suddenly appear written on the wall somewhere. Then I walked back out, remembered instantly, and had to go back in again. Apparently this is what happens as you get older. But that made me think about how easy it is to lose focus spiritually too. We start the day with good intentions, clarity, purpose... and then life happens. Before long, we forget what mattered most in the first place. Paul writes in Colossians 3:2, "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." That doesn't mean ignoring real life responsibilities. It means remembering what ultimately anchors us while we live through them. Because whatever consistently fills our attention eventually shapes our perspective. The truth is, distractions rarely announce themselves as dangerous. Most of them seem harmless. But over time they quietly pull our focus away from God without us even noticing. I think sometimes we don't need more motivation; we just need realignment. A moment to stop, breathe, and remember what truly matters again. So, if your mind feels pulled in a hundred directions today, come back to centre. God is still there, even when your attention has wandered.

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