

CANON MARK'S DAILY DEVOTIONALS #301

20TH – 24TH APRIL 2026

MONDAY

WHAT A LOVELY SERVICE YESTERDAY FOR THE LICENSING OF CANON MARK AND OUR HONORARY ARCHDEACON, DR BOB STEPHEN. THE SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO SEE ON FACEBOOK AND THE SERMON (BETTER QUALITY) IS ALSO AVAILABLE TO LISTEN TO.

20th April – Morning all... Faith doesn't have to be complicated. We often think we need to say the right words, have the right answers, or look the part. But Micah brings us back to what really matters. God is far more interested in how we live than how impressive we appear. Someone was sharing a story with me from the weekend that really stayed with me. They were standing in a supermarket queue, ready to pay, when the person in front realised they didn't have enough money. You know the moment. Awkward silence. People shifting their weight. A few sighs. Everyone suddenly very aware of the time. It would have been easy to get frustrated or just look away and pretend not to notice. But instead, someone quietly stepped forward, paid the difference, smiled, and walked off. No fuss. No comments. No expectation of thanks. Just kindness, done simply. As they were telling me, this verse came to mind: "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8) It reminded me that faith doesn't have to be complicated. God isn't asking us to impress Him or anyone else. He's interested in how we live, especially in the small moments when no one is watching. How we treat people when we're tired. How we respond when we're under pressure. How we choose kindness when it would be easier to stay silent. Someone once said, "Humility isn't thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less." Walking humbly with God looks a lot like that. Quiet choices. Gentle responses. Love put into action without needing recognition. Often, it's the quiet acts of faith that speak the loudest.
Revd Canon Mark Spiers

TUESDAY

DO YOU HAVE SOMEWHERE TO SIT AND BE STILL AND FEEL GOD IS PRESENT?
WEDNESDAY MORNINGS ARE ALWAYS SPECIAL AS I MEET WITH CANON MARK FOR A CUPPA AND A TIME OF PRAYER IN THE STILLNESS OF OUR CHURCH. YOU CAN SENSE IT - HE IS HERE.

21st April – Morning all... Someone said to me recently, "I don't feel like God is doing much at the moment." I think many of us have felt that at different points in our lives, particularly when life gets busy, energy dips, and we sit there waiting for something to change, while everything just feels a bit... flat. That feeling isn't new. Jacob knew it well. He was on the run, unsure what the future held, bedding down for the night with a stone for a pillow. He genuinely thought he was on his own, trying to figure life out as best he could. But the reality was very different. God was already there, long before Jacob realised it. After his dream, Jacob woke up and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not realise it." (Genesis 28:16) That line feels painfully familiar. How often do we miss what God is doing because we're waiting for something obvious? A clear answer. A big breakthrough. A moment that removes all doubt. But God doesn't tend to work to our timetable, and He rarely makes a big announcement. More often, God works quietly. Patiently. Faithfully. He nudges rather than shouts. He shapes things beneath the surface. He lays foundations we only recognise later, when we look back. So maybe the question today isn't, "Where is God?" Maybe it's, "Have I slowed down enough to notice Him?" What if God is already at work in your situation, in your workplace, in your relationships, even in your weariness, and you've just been too tired or too busy to see it? What if the silence you're experiencing isn't absence at all, but an invitation to pay closer attention? Today, resist the urge to rush past the ordinary. Pause for a moment. Listen a bit more carefully. Look again. God may already be at work in this place. The real challenge is whether we're willing to recognise it.
Revd Canon Mark Spiers

WEDNESDAY

WORDS HAVE POWER—CHOOSE TODAY TO SPEAK LIFE, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND HEALING INTO EVERY MOMENT.

22nd April – Morning all... What sticks with you longer, a criticism or a compliment? Most of us know the answer straight away. I heard recently about someone who was having a tough week and was close to giving up. Then a colleague said, almost casually, “You’re doing better than you think.” That was it. Just one sentence. But it landed. It lifted them enough to keep going. The Bible captures the power of moments like that when it says, “Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones” (Proverbs 16:24). Not just nice to hear, but genuinely life-giving. And yet, when we’re tired or frustrated, gracious words are often the first thing to go. Sharp replies come easily. Kind ones take intention. They require us to slow down and think about impact, not just release. Here’s the challenge. Every day, our words shape the atmosphere around us. At home. At work. In passing conversations, we think don’t matter. Our words can either add weight or bring healing. So today, be deliberate. Say the encouraging thing. Choose gentleness over sharpness. You may never know how much your words heal someone else. But God does.

Revd Canon Mark Spiers

THURSDAY

OUR NEW CHURCH KITCHEN IS COMING ALONG WELL, WITH MOST OF THE BASE AND WALL UNITS NOW IN PLACE. EACH DAY CAN FEEL ENDLESS, BUT I’M GRATEFUL TO CANON MARK FOR THE REMINDER NOT TO SETTLE FOR JUST GETTING THROUGH THE DAY—GOD INVITES US INTO A LIFE FILLED WITH HIS POWER, PRESENCE, AND LIMITLESS LOVE.

23rd April – Morning all... We live in a world of deadlines, commitments, and opinions coming at us from every direction. Most days it feels like we’re just keeping our heads above water. We move from one thing to the next, ticking boxes, responding to messages, trying not to fall behind. And without realising it, we can shrink our expectations of God down to survival mode. In Ephesians 3, Paul prays something striking for the church. He doesn’t ask for fewer problems or lighter workloads. Instead, he prays that they would be “strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,” and that Christ would dwell in their hearts through faith (Ephesians 3:16–17). Paul’s prayer points us beyond simply coping. He prays that people would grasp “how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,” a love that “surpasses knowledge,” so that they may be “filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:18–19). It’s a reminder that God’s vision for our lives is far bigger than just getting through the day. C.S. Lewis once said, “We are far too easily pleased.” It’s easy to settle for survival mode, especially when life feels busy or overwhelming, but Paul’s prayer suggests God invites us into something deeper, stronger, and more rooted. So today, ask yourself honestly. Have you limited what God can do because life feels overwhelming? Have you settled for Jesus helping you cope, rather than allowing Him to lead? God’s vision for your life is bigger than your current capacity to imagine it. The question is not whether God wants more for you. The question is whether you are willing to let Him fully in.

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FRIDAY

THE VERSE CANON MARK USES TO DAY WAS THE CONFERENCE THEME FOR THE RECENT GAFCON MEETING IN ABUJA, NIGERIA. A SERIOUS CHOICE INDEED.

24th April - Morning all... Every day starts with choices. Some feel small and routine, others carry more weight, but each one matters more than we often realise. But it’s our daily decisions that quietly shape the direction of our lives. And if we’re honest, it’s easy to drift. One thing I’ve learnt over the years is that we don’t usually decide to move away from God it gradually happens. A missed moment here. A distracted day there. Before long, we realise we’ve been coasting rather than choosing. That’s why these words from the Book of Joshua speak so clearly to us: “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...” (Joshua 24:15, NIV). Faith isn’t accidental, it’s intentional. There are days when choosing God feels natural. But there are also days when it’s a decision you have to make despite how you feel when life is busy, heavy, or uncertain. Joshua makes it personal: “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” He draws a line, not based on convenience, but conviction. And that’s where faith becomes real for us too. Because a life of faith isn’t built in a single moment, it’s built in daily decisions. So, as we head into the weekend, take a moment to reflect where your choices are leading you, and what it might look like to choose Him afresh today.

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