

# GRACEPOINT CHURCH

## Weekly Devotional

**Faith in Christ: An Invitation to unity for Great Works – Mzwandile Molo –3.5.2026**

### Scripture

Psalm 31:1-5; 15-16; John 14:1-14

Open your mind and heart as you read the passage of Scripture aloud and then again quietly to yourself. Listen for God's word to you.

Spend some time in worship.

### Observation

*Psalm 31:1-5; 15-16*

There is nothing in this psalm to pin it to a specific event in David's life, but he was often facing trouble and it resonates with a deep and personal trust in God in the depths of difficulties. It was often quoted elsewhere in Scripture by Jonah, Jeremiah, Paul, Luke in both Acts, and in his gospel (23:46) where he records Jesus quoting it on the cross.

The Psalmist begins by declaring his trust in God in times of trouble. He was aware that his righteousness was a gift of God and so he continued to trust Him. He states he is not ashamed to declare such trust, even in front of his enemies. As a result, he asked God to save him from his troubles; to listen to him closely, as a man would listen closely to someone who was dying; to be his place of protection and safety; and to guide him into the future – not because of any goodness of his own but because God would be honoured.

David committed the deepest part of himself to God by committing his spirit into God's hands. Jesus later used these same words on the cross (Luke 23:46). Later Stephen was to use them too, as have many other believers during the ages. David knew his surrender was appropriate for God had redeemed him. He already belonged to God and he re-stated his belief that God is the God of truth and so required David's service and faithfulness. ... The Psalmist continues to state his trust in God however great his troubles were. He was at peace with the thought that his life was in God's hands. He asked that God would shower His goodness and favour on him.

*John 14:1-14*

In the previous chapter, Jesus had just told his disciples that one of them would betray Him, they would all desert Him and He was going to die. But then He told them not to be troubled. He encouraged them to believe in Him, just as they believed in the Father. Jesus spoke to them with confidence about heaven. He knew there was room for everyone who believed to have a

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place to stay there forever. He told them He was going to prepare this place for them. He was not going because others would kill Him; He was going because it was a path the Father had planned; and He would return for them again. They would be reunited with Him once again in heaven.

Thomas, as honest and confused as he often was, protested that they did not know where Jesus was going. Jesus responded by saying He is the way; they could believe in Him for He is the truth; and they could continue forward for He is the life. He is the only way to God. In this He set aside the temple and its rituals as well as other religions. Scripture consistently declares One True God (Exodus 20:2-3) and denounces other false gods (Isaiah 41:21-29; 1 Kings 18:19-40 etc.). Jesus is the only way because He is the perfect depiction of God. To know Jesus is to know God. The disciples had been close to Him, walking with Him for three years yet they still did not understand Him and Philip requested an explanation. Jesus understood their lack of understanding for they had not yet seen the full revelation of God's love at the cross or His power at the resurrection. Once again, He explained that anyone who saw Him also saw the Father – in His love and His actions.

He did not do anything outside the Father's authority and guidance. He encouraged them to believe in Him as a person or believe because of the miraculous works He performed, which He had done in partnership with the Father, in God's unlimited power. Jesus' work on earth was ended – and now He promotes His disciples. They were to trust in, rely on and cling to Him in faith because they would continue His work – and do even greater things than they had seen Him do. This work was not greater in sensationalism but wider in influence. The believers He left behind would spread His Kingdom to more people and places that Jesus had done during His lifetime. When Jesus ascended into heaven, He would send His Holy Spirit to empower His followers. He promised to do anything His followers asked for in His name that was in line with the will of the Father so that the Father and the Son will be glorified.

### *Icebreaker:*

When have you accomplished some task or achievement that surprised even yourself?  
What was the result? How did you feel?

### **Application**

- Are there people within the community of God whom you struggle to get along with? (**NB** Do not name them!) How can Jesus help you to accept them as fellow believers, work with them for His glory, and even come to love them?

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- *Jesus invites us to see beyond our current death possibilities into a victorious presence with Him:* What does this mean to you at this moment? What new possibilities and transformative moments could there be for you? How can Jesus' invitation make a difference in your current circumstances? Will it take courage for you to accept it? Why?
- *Our unity is in the diverse and vulnerable unity of the Triune God as represented by Father and Son:* God created you and loves you – He knows that your best is yet to come. How does this make you feel? Are you prepared to make a radical commitment to your community of believers? What would that mean in your life? What difference could it make for your community?
- *With faith in Christ, one with the Father, we are empowered for great works:* What could we do that is greater than the things Jesus did? (Think of spreading the Word via the internet; the travel available to us to take the Word to places it could not be heard before etc). Could this be the 'greater works' than those Jesus did? What else can you think of? How can we influence our present-day community (and our country) by bringing unity and fulfilling God's plan for His followers? Are you prepared to stand for unity in spite of what the world might say?
- *When we are called to greatness in Christ, our greatness is found in sacrificial service to others rather than domination:* Where can you serve God sacrificially and how can you do that? Are you prepared to humble yourself to serve others in Jesus' Name? How could that impact your world?
- How can the group help you with the struggles you have mentioned during this session?

### Prayer

Pray for our leaders – the President, the Premier, the Mayor, Ministers of Christ's universal Church, that God may call them to serve above all else in their positions of 'power' and that they may hear and respond to that call.

Pray also for one another in regard to the issues that have been raised during your discussion time, and in regard to other needs of the group.

### Service

Be aware of areas of service in your community, family, workplace, and anywhere else you mix with people. Look for opportunities to serve them this week.

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## Bibliography

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