

## In Between May 11-16 2026

**Monday May 11, 2026** Scripture – John 16: 2-3 “They will expel you from the synagogues, and indeed the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is doing a holy service to God. They will do these things because they have never known either the Father or me.”

Observation: Part of the Paraclete discussion by Jesus at the Last Supper.

Narrative: Most religious traditions of the world have done some pretty heinous things in the name of religion or invoking God(s). If at one time they knew love (God) or the sacrifice, compassion, and forgiveness (Jesus) that love demands, sometimes slowly and sometimes they deliberately warped their view of religion for negative and destructive ends.

Question: Do you have an example from your life, of religion or a religious leader warping the basics of their beliefs to a negative or destructive end?

**Tuesday May 12, 2026** Scripture: John 16:5 Jesus said to his disciples: "Now I am going to the one who sent me, and not one of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'"

Observation: A continuation of Jesus' teaching/message on the paraclete at the Last Supper (see yesterday). Out of fear and pre-grief perhaps the disciples did not ask as Jesus tells them in the next verse and then goes on to tell them that it is good that He is going because the paraclete/Holy Spirit will come to them all, which Jesus would say in so many words is what they (the world) need.

Narrative: I have found in the chaplaincy that was my service to others for 5 years, that not exclusively but impressively, those close to the end here on earth who had a soul-sense that they were going home, went through the dying process with more grace. I am not saying that the emotional and physicality of dying was necessarily easier, but that they simply felt they were going home.

Question: Personally, this haunts my thoughts and prayers a fair amount. In pondering what my life has been about, with all the aspirations, striving, challenges, and triumphs, has it most centrally been about preparing to go home? In other words, has my journey been enough about being in full communion with love (God) that I am heading towards full communion in the end?

## **Wednesday May 13, 2026**

Scripture – John 16:15 “Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said: all he reveals to you will be taken from what is mine.”

Observation: Still immersed in the teachings of Jesus at the Last Supper according to the author of John.

Narrative: Again in my simplified version of theology and christology, everything that love (God) has belongs to sacrifice, compassion, and forgiveness (Jesus) >> all that love reveals is taken from the attributes and ministry of Jesus.

Question: Has sacrifice, compassion, and forgiveness been revealed to some depth of unconditional love in your life?

## **Thursday May 14, 2026 Feast of St. Matthais**

Scripture - John 15:17 “This I command you: love one another.”

Observation: In the Acts (1:15-17, 20-26) reading for the day, the filling of the role/12th spot vacated by Judas was completed by prayerful and spirit guided choice between Matthais and Joseph of Barsabbas, also known as Justis, both by tradition were with Jesus from His baptism in the Jordan till His ascension.

Narrative: In the entire reading for the day (v. 9-17), Jesus refers to loving God, Him, and each other ~ three times. If there was a litmus test or crux of Jesus' socio-political-theos, it would be LOVE, as in the compassion, empathy, and presence with others. Yes, in human history, that has been a very slippery slope on all fronts > how socially and politically we stray from that foundation with innumerable rationalizations >> to even the Church making it as much about promoting rules, regs, dogma, doctrine, and even the institution, over the type of love Jesus had in mind.

Question: Would you be as gracious as tradition states Justis was, for not receiving the place of honor as one of the twelve?

**Friday May 15, 2026** Scripture - John 16:20-22 "In all truth I tell you, you will be weeping and wailing while the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. A woman in childbirth suffers, because her time has come; but when she has given birth to the child she forgets the suffering in her joy that a human being has been born into the world. So it is with you: you are sad now, but I shall see you again, and your hearts will be full of joy, and that joy no one shall take from you."

Observation: The author of John has Jesus instructing the disciples concerning his imminent doom at the Last Supper; from a biblical scholarship standpoint a reflection back on the events that happened in the early "church" some 60 years after Jesus' death.

Narrative: In some places and circumstances, the world rejoices at the demise of Christianity, and indeed some Christians suffer and are sorrowful at the abuse and terror brought upon them because they are Christian. But in my instance, in this country, the sorrow of Christianity is the more subtle attempt to make the message of Jesus insignificant, trivial, and irrelevant in a society currently bent more on individual enlightenment and self-promotion.

Question: Have you found our culture of individualism and self-centeredness lacks true joy (which is different from having fun or being happy for a while)?

**Saturday May 16, 2026** Scripture - John 16:28 For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have come to believe that I came from God.

Observation: At the Last Supper, Jesus would mention how closely linked to the Father they are because they have known Him and believed in Him. So much so that after He has gone to the Father, they can appeal (pray, etc) directly to the Father in Jesus' name.

Narrative: In other words, the building grounds for seeing God as evident in three closely interconnected forms/ways/"persons" >> the Father who loves us with no ifs, ands, or buts. The embodiment of that love as revealed to us in Jesus. Finally, through the grace of God (Father > Son) the Spirit will and can guide us.

Question: In regards to God's love for you, are you a "no matter what" person, or are you more an "I am not worthy" person and think you will always fall short?