

In Between

May 25-30, 2026

Monday May 25, 2026 Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus

Scripture - John 19:25 Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.

Observation: The story/image of the crucifixion of Jesus with the 3 Marys present... The other two had a very close relationship with either Jesus or Mary, the mother of Jesus. Right after these verses, Jesus has his dying conversation with His mother Mary and the apostle John.

Narrative: I can't even imagine the emotional pain each woman experienced as Jesus hung on the cross during the horrifically brutal death he was undergoing. As the whole of the Christian faith rests on the humiliating death, burial, and then resurrection of Jesus, knowing and indirectly feeling this passion is one essential component of being a Christian.

Question: To what depth and clarity do you understand the specifics of Roman crucifixion during Jesus' time?

Tuesday May 26, 2026

Scripture – Mark 10:28-31 Peter took this up. 'Look,' he said to him, 'we have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'In truth I tell you, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times as much, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land -- and persecutions too -- now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life. Many who are first will be last, and the last, first.'

Observation: Peter was commenting on the interaction between Jesus and with the rich man who had kept all the commandments. Jesus told him one other thing would be necessary to inherit the kingdom of heaven – give all you have to the poor.

Narrative: In that time, disciples of a teacher would leave their families and other responsibilities behind for stretches. While focused on Him, Jesus states clearly that other priorities are secondary when compared to the good news > the life and message love, compassion, justice, and forgiveness. Jesus calls us to be a

disciple of the good news first and foremost, and then bring that life approach to every other priority in life.

Question: When have you put your primary responsibilities on the back burner for the sake of the gospel? Or is the good news your chosen approach you take into your life's priorities?

Wednesday May 27, 2026

Scripture Mark 10:32 They were on the way, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus went ahead of them. They were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. Taking the Twelve aside again, he began to tell them what was going to happen to him.

Observation: Jesus and His followers were approaching Jerusalem for Jesus' ultimate fate. The author of Mark presents Jesus telling them what was going to happen. They all knew the animus towards Jesus by the religious elites was intense. Yes, they would have been afraid to approach Jerusalem during the time of Passover.

Narrative: Fear is a powerful force in human lives. A paraphrase of fortitude or courage is often stated as follows: Courage is not the lack of fear, but the ability to act in spite of it.

Question: Fear or Courage, Wonder or Worry, Bravery or Backpedaling. How have you managed the fluctuations of human life and emotions?

Thursday May 28 2026 Scripture - Mark 10:49-52 Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, he is calling you." He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see." Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

Observation: Eventually Jesus and His followers came to Jericho before ascending up to Jerusalem. The blind beggar, Bartimaeus, was begging Jesus to have mercy on him. Many around Jesus were telling Bartimaeus not to bother Jesus. In that period of time of Judaism, if you had a major physical disability or illness, it was thought you were not in God's favor and you or one of your close relatives must have done something wrong and/or sinful.

Narrative: Notice Bartimaeus was asking for mercy (forgiveness). He wanted to see. Faith would “save” him and he would see. Besides the literal event, this has deep metaphorical meaning with Jesus’ teachings. A person who faces their own fault, wrongdoing, or sin has a feeling of being blinded to true living and wants to see again to openly and joyfully engage in life again. Faith in the redeeming mission of Jesus can do that for any individual.

Question: In what way(s) do you “see” and enjoy life more fully given the “blindedness” of society and culture around you?

Friday May 29 2026

Scripture - Mark 11:7-10 So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out:

“Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!
Hosanna in the highest!”

Observation: Jesus had just entered from Bethany (probably from the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus) on the colt procured in town as Jesus suggested. The Jewish elites and Romans watching would notice the symbolic significance of all three: the colt (for the king in Zechariah 9:9), the spread out of cloaks (for royalty), and palm leaves (waved as a remembrance of the victory during the time of Maccabees ~167-160 B.C.E.). He would come the next day, first damning a fig tree for being unfruitful and then cleansing the temple because of its market environment (buying and selling access to God).

Narrative: Yah, Jesus was asking for it...or from my childhood phrase...cruisi’in for a bruis’in...can you hear the rumblings, murmurs, and thoughts of threats heightening amongst the powerful elites. The ultimate in walking the talk for me...willing to go to the cross over your mission.

Question: Does walking the talk against strong opposition sing true for you at a moment(s) in your life?

Saturday May 30, 2026

Scripture - Mark 11:29-33 Jesus said to them, "I shall ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Was John's baptism of heavenly or of human origin? Answer me." They discussed this among themselves and said, "If we say, 'Of heavenly origin,' he will say, '[Then] why did you not believe him?' But shall we say, 'Of human origin?'"—they feared the crowd, for they all thought John really was a prophet. So they said to Jesus in reply, "We do not know." Then Jesus said to them, "Neither shall I tell you by what authority I do these things."

Observation: Jesus and followers had returned to Jerusalem three days in a row after entering on a colt, and then cleansing the temple the second day according to the author of Mark. The religious elite had just asked Jesus by what authority had he done these things.

Narrative: Yes, the Gospel authors, in my opinion, softened a bit the anger and vitriol that the religious elites were showing towards Jesus AND vis versa. It likely became quite a verbal "pissing match" aimed at each other in the last few days of Jesus' Life.

Question: In Eph 4:26 and James 1:19 the use of what is called righteous anger is advised, as Jesus demonstrated in the above verses. Ever had to resort to righteous anger? When and why?