

In Between

April 27 - May 2, 2026

Monday April 27 2026

Scripture - John 10:11-13 "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and runs away, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; he runs away because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep."

Observation: Being a herd and agrarian society, the crowd of first century Palestine would have been very familiar with this imagery.

Narrative: Unfortunately, in the present Church age that we may still be experiencing the ramification of, I went negative immediately when I read these verses for today. Blessed and ordained as they are, the many priests who abused children and as importantly the many bishops who hid the truth are the hired hands in these verses. When we got to the point where the protection of the Church structure and hierarchy was more important than the people themselves, we departed about as far as we can go from the central teaching and sacrifice of Jesus in my opinion. Studies have shown that it takes about 7 affirmations to overcome one condemnation; we as the Church continue to have a lot of affirming ahead of us to overcome the base self-interest and narcissism of some clergy of the past and present(?).

Question: Even if we are/were not the perpetrators, it is our Church. So what affirming steps are you willing to take to raise the care and concern for the people of God above all else?

Tuesday April 28, 2026 Scripture - John 10:24-25 The Jews gathered round him and said, 'How much longer are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us openly.' Jesus replied: I have told you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name are my witness.

Observation: Part of the sheep and shepherd discourse; Jesus according to the author of John has Jesus in Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication; Jesus would announce/say that the Father and He are one. The Jews were looking for a different type of Christ/Messiah >> most likely a strong political/military leader to confront the Romans and the puppet kingship of the family of Herod.

Narrative: It can't be that simple can it? That the 'way, truth, and life' as Jesus preached comes through unconditional love, sacrifice, compassion, and forgiveness. Really? - nothing more dramatic, political, or powerful than that. As simple as it seems, Jesus core message was extremely dramatic, political, and powerful because it focused on the person instead of the institutions of influence. Give the people hope and a message to follow, and the institutions of power will feel threatened...

Question: Whether in the news lately or in your personal experience, when have you seen/witnessed the power of personal hope and enlightenment challenging the power structures and injustices present?

Wednesday April 29, 2026

Scripture - John 12:46 'I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness.'

Observation: Today's total reading (v. 44-50) is the end of Jesus' public ministry in John's gospel. With disciples around Him, the crowds were there as well, and Jesus' was at a point of despair and frustration due to the people's lack of belief no matter what he did on their behalf; He "cries out" at the beginning to the people in v. 44-50. Jesus at an earlier point in chapter 12, even went and hid from the people. After verse 50, chapter 13 begins immediately with the disciples gathered and the washing of the disciples' feet.

Narrative: You don't call for or want light unless it is dark. Jesus is claiming that the people are in a nearly permanent state of darkness by using the word "remain."

Question: What areas of your life could use some "light?" Has the mission and message(s) of Jesus assisted you in viewing life as brighter, lighter, and more hopeful?

Thursday April 30, 2026

Scripture - John 13:16; 20 'In all truth I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, no messenger is greater than the one who sent him... In all truth I tell you, whoever welcomes the one I send, welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me.'

Observation: Jesus next words after washing the disciples feet and imploring them to do as he has done.

Narrative: A stress on humility, perspective, and focus. Jesus' message is that we must focus on the source (God=love) and not on ourselves; if you wish to welcome love (God) into your life, you must be willing to be a servant to that love as well.

Question: Do you ever consider yourself as a servant of love? Or perhaps a messenger of love?

Friday May 1, 2026

Scripture - John 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You trust in God, trust also in me."

Observation: Last Supper discourse continues. Obviously, the disciples were troubled with Jesus coming to Jerusalem with rumors of the Jewish leaders wishing to arrest him.

Narrative: When my heart is troubled, it is a challenge to trust in love (God) and the sacrifice (aka Jesus) it demands.

Question: How do you best cope during troubling challenges?

Saturday May 2, 2026

Scripture - John 14: 11 "You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe it on the evidence of these works."

Observation: Again, since Tuesday, the readings from the last supper discourse of Jesus.

Narrative: If belief is a stretch, being grounded and following sound action is usually evidence that one is on the right course. When things get really tough, and belief in goodness is shaken, sometimes all one can do is, keep on-keeping on, as the saying goes. Deliberate, but thoughtful auto-pilot > doing the best you can under the circumstances is all you can ask of yourself sometimes.

Question: What safe place, person, action do you go to when times are tough?