



*Devotions to Energize a  
Pastor's Day-to-Day Ministry*

P A U S E

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R E C H A R G E

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R E F R E S H

H. B. LONDON JR.

AMERICA'S PASTOR TO PASTORS

FOCUS  
ON FAMILY

*Pause, Recharge, Refresh*

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“The Reverend H. B. London Jr. and I are both ‘only children’ and cousins who grew up like brothers. We were college roommates and nearly killed each other before we decided that it wasn’t working. Now we have grown to enjoy a collegiality and mutual admiration like none other I have known. He is one of the finest men ever to grace a church pulpit. ‘H,’ as I call him, has been my pastor, my confidant, and my beloved friend through the many storms and seasons of life.

“After H. B. had served for 32 years in various pastorates, the Lord opened the door in 1991 for him to join us at Focus on the Family. He has been our ‘pastor to pastors’ through the intervening years, and God has blessed his ministry with us in remarkable ways. After we had been working together for about a decade, we received a letter from a well-meaning woman who wrote, ‘It is wonderful that you are able to spend your declining years together.’ We both still thought of ourselves as ‘Joe College,’ and were shocked by the implications of her letter. After reflection, I decided that H. B. was definitely declining, but I was not.

“Some of my most treasured memories have been with my Cuz. I hope you enjoy his book. It contains a lifetime of encouragement, ideas, and inspiration. I might even show up on several pages. Greetings to you all.”

—Jim Dobson

“The brains” of the family

“Encouragement seems to be the fuel for our spiritual enthusiasm. With that being said, H. B. London is bringing a great service to the spiritual leaders of this country in reminding us to pause, recharge, and refresh. If we are to be for Christ what He has called us to be, and to His body that which we need to be, these three principles will have to be a reality in our lives. Read and be refreshed. Blessings!”

—Dr. Johnny Hunt

Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, GA  
President, Southern Baptist Convention

“I have had the privilege of working alongside and observing H. B. London for more than 17 years as he has served as ‘pastor to pastors’ for Focus on the Family’s Church & Clergy outreach. From a lifetime of personal experience, as well

as his unique vantage point of ‘sounding board’ for thousands of pastors and their spouses, H. B. understands the day-to-day ups and downs of fulltime ministry. He is able to address those challenges and opportunities in a practical and encouraging manner that few others can match. This new book offers devotional insights that will benefit anyone who has heard and accepted Christ’s call to serve His body in a leadership position. I heartily recommend *Pause, Recharge, Refresh.*”

—Jim Daly

President and CEO, Focus on the Family

“Pastors must win the war over burnout and discover a rhythm of life that will strengthen and sustain them. We are called to nurture and shepherd the people of the local church while remaining dependent on the Good Shepherd ourselves. Pastor London gives all of us practical insight and proven ideas to do just that.”

—Brady Boyd

Senior Pastor of New Life Church, Colorado Springs, CO

“I enthusiastically recommend that every pastor and family member not only read H. B. London’s inspirational and encouraging book *Pause, Recharge, Refresh*, but that you study and meditate and pray through it. I am sure it will lift you up in the same way it did me.”

—Dr. Walt Kallestad

Senior Pastor of Community Church of Joy, Glendale, AZ

In reality this book has taken 17 years to write,  
and it most likely will be my last.

*I am indebted . . .*

To Dr. James Dobson for the opportunity he gave me in 1991 to serve as a pastor to pastors. He has accepted me as a brother and colleague.

To Beverley, my wife, for her love and encouragement through 31 years of pastoral ministry and now 18 years at Focus on the Family.

To my sons, Brad and Bryan, who were great PKs and are even better husbands and fathers.

To Sue McFadden, my assistant for more than three decades, for her valuable input and support.

To Jim Daly, President of Focus on the Family, for his friendship and ongoing confidence to serve our ministry and God's church.

To my staff in Church & Clergy who have held up my arms as Aaron and Hur did for Moses. We have traveled long and effective miles together.

To these and the tens of thousands of clergy families it has been my privilege to serve . . .

I dedicate this book as an expression of my love, genuine admiration, and appreciation.

H. B. LONDON JR.

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# *Acknowledgments*

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Thank you to all my coworkers at Focus on the Family who encouraged me during the writing of this book. Kathy Davis, my editor at Focus, you were so diligent in spending hundreds of hours wordsmithing my prose to make it a far better book than I ever imagined it would be. Thank you to Tyndale House Publishers for recognizing the value of this book to pastors and for your good communication and guidance in making it more effective. Special thanks, too, to Josh Shepherd, Cami Heaps, Jane Terry, and Shari Martin for your contributions to marketing and packaging. Many others gave their time and talent to making my dream for this book come true. I wish we could list everyone.

Thank you and bless you all!

H. B. LONDON JR.

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# *How to Use This Book*

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Dear Pastor,

We have designed this book to be different from most other devotionals. We believe that at least two distinct differences merit an explanation so you can use it to your greatest advantage.

In addition to a devotion for each ordinary day, we've included special devotions for some of the significant days of the year that pastors often like to recognize, meditate upon, and pray for. Special attention is given to national holidays such as Independence Day and Mother's Day, as well as such noteworthy days as Sanctity of Human Life Sunday and National Day of Prayer. You'll find a devotion for every day of Holy Week, including the day after Easter, and for each day of the Advent season through Christmas Day. Since many of these observances do not consistently fall on the same day each year, you'll find them at the back of the book in a section titled Devotions for Special Days.

The second distinctive is that we have purposely left the regular days of the week undated so you can pick up this book anytime and find day-to-day encouragement.

It is our prayer that this devotional book will bring great encouragement to you and recharge and refresh your everyday experience as a pastor. Be blessed and be a blessing!

H. B. LONDON JR.

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# *Introduction*

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One thing we know for sure: Life is very unpredictable. That is especially so for those of us who serve the body of Christ as pastors or undershepherds. In Proverbs the writer cautions, “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth” (Proverbs 27:1). In other words we live life day to day.

In some ways this is what our book is all about: day-to-day living. Making the most of every day. Counting each day as a gift. Entering every day with the echo of the Psalmist: “This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24).

I have served the church—and you, its leaders—for some 48 years, 31 of them as a pastor, the other 17 as a pastor to pastors staff member at Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I have loved and highly valued my assignments. I have learned from you and from my experiences some valuable lessons. One that stands out is to hold very lightly those things that are of greatest value to you. Why? Because those things are most likely God’s gift to you—not so much to possess as to protect, to surrender if need be, ever hoping that what He has given you has been invested properly to His satisfaction. There is not one of us who does not want to hear our Father’s affirmation: “Well done, good and faithful servant!” (Matthew 25:23). How do we achieve that affirmation? By investing our gifts and opportunities day to day as though it will be our final opportunity to satisfy or fulfill the Master’s expectation. That is what I call day-to-day living.

I was sailing along just fine in 2008. I had more triumphs than failures, more acceptance than criticism, many more good days than bad, until November 27th when I was admitted to John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Indio, California. It was early (3:00 A.M.) on Thanksgiving morning when I realized I was in distress. I was unable to breathe normally, and the pain in my chest was severe. I was in trouble. I woke up Beverley, my wife, and asked her to take me to a place where I could find help.

When we arrived at the ER, they could tell I required immediate attention. The receptionist ushered me into an area where I could be examined. The first diagnosis was that I was critical and suffering from heart failure. The second, and correct, diagnosis was that I had an advanced stage of pneumonia. My left lung was, for all practical purposes, so infected that it was basically useless.

For the next several days my doctors did everything they could to stem the infection, but to no avail. Finally they decided, since the antibiotics were not working, to do a surgical procedure called thoracotomy. They would go into the area between the lung and the chest and clean out the infection that was blocking the medication's access. This they did, and for a total of 13 days I was in the intensive care unit under very close attention.

In a somewhat dramatic way I came to understand the meaning of day-to-day living. One physician told my family I was very fortunate to be alive. I believe that.

It was sobering to learn that when you become very ill, it is difficult to pray for yourself. But later I found out that thousands of people—maybe you were one of them—were praying for me, for my recovery, and for my return to ministry.

I'm not sure why God has chosen to give me more days to serve Him, but I do know this: I plan on doing just that. Doing whatever I can in every opportunity I am given, knowing that for me and for you it is all day-to-day. Each day is a gift.

I hope that as you have time to read these pages, you will find encouragement and strength to face each and every day with excitement and expectation.

The devotionals contained here are dedicated to you and your family. May you know each day His guidance, and may you sense His power to complete your task. May you experience grace to show His love to those you meet along the way and have His patience to bloom where He has planted you.

In the words of the Psalmist, "Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD" (Psalm 27:14).

When you stop to think about it, it really is day-to-day, isn't it?

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## *God's Great Expectations*

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I would imagine that when you entered the ministry you were filled with great expectations. I know I was. In time, reality sets in, and those expectations are tempered by many variables—namely people, places, and chemistry between you and those you were called to serve. In some ways, your great expectations are at the mercy of others' expectations for you. I didn't like that part very much, but let me encourage you with a few timely passages from God's Word.

“If the LORD delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm” (Psalm 37:23).

The Lord spoke through Jeremiah, “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Paul wrote, “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20).

Paul quotes from Isaiah 64:4, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

It's all about God cheering you on! He has great expectations for you!

Sometimes I think we forget how much faith God has in us, and we give in to our own self-doubt and challenges. Don't do that! His hopes and dreams for you are great—even more so than what you believe for yourself. You are a winner—live like it!

In John 14:12, Jesus startled Philip with the promise, “I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these.”

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## *My Hopes for You*

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Here are my hopes for you and your family. Specifically . . .

- I pray that your intimacy with God will be even closer and that your motivation for doing what you do will be influenced by your conversation with Him rather than the latest fads and programs.
- I covet for you a really close friend—someone you can trust to hold you accountable and one who allows you the privilege of genuine honesty.
- I ask God to remove those roadblocks in your ministry that would prohibit you from finding the fulfillment you desire, and to bring about healing in any relationships with your parishioners that cause you to be anxious or fearful.
- I challenge you to “speak your word with great boldness,” and I long for you to experience within your labors “miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus” (Acts 4:29, 30).
- I envision a multitude of you pastors falling in love with your call all over again, and finding great satisfaction in a servant/shepherd relationship with the people you pastor. Love them!
- I beg you to let your own family know how valued they are by you . . . and, from time to time, to ask them how they are doing.

“Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” (2 Corinthians 3:5-6).

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## *God's Healing Balm for the Hurting*

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In Isaiah 61, and again in Luke 4:18, the Bible speaks of freedom and recovery and release. It could refer to those within your congregation who are in a prison of drugs, perversion, and addiction. When Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah, He identified Himself as one who had been sent “to proclaim freedom for the prisoners [those in bondage] . . . to release the oppressed.” What a calling!

As you walk among your people, you are confronted every day with those who desperately need the freeing, healing balm that only God can provide. The problem is that such folks are troubled, they take your time, and they often fail in their attempt at whatever. Then you have to begin all over again.

Jesus felt the effort was worthwhile, and He spent a great deal of His time with those on whom others had simply given up. Who in your care desperately needs “to be free”? What are you willing to invest in that person? When was the last time you knelt in the dust to minister to a needy person—one with whom you must take the risk of loss before you win? I really believe it's worth a try. God will bless you.

“On hearing this, Jesus said to them, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners’” (Mark 2:17).

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# *When Our Children Go into Ministry*

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What do you think of your child or grandchild being in ministry?

Despite the negatives we want our children to avoid, the ministry is a great calling, one that your children can and should consider. Let me offer a few suggestions that can cast a more positive light on your daily walk and make it shine more brightly for your children:

1. Be positive about the role God has called you to fill.
2. Help your family understand your calling.
3. Live your private life as a mirror of what you say and do in public.
4. Encourage any inclinations your children and grandchildren have toward ministry.
5. Pray daily that God will work in the hearts of your family, that they will be sensitive to His voice.

It really is a great thing God has given us in ministry, isn't it? God in His wisdom put His hand on you and me from among more than six billion people. Unbelievable! And He might have something just as special in mind for our children and grandchildren.

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last” (John 15:16).

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# Accountability

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Each of us is just one decision away from failure, and none of us is immune to temptations and weaknesses. I am no paragon of virtue, so I built several habits into my life as a pastor that helped me stay accountable:

1. I met every Tuesday morning with a group of men who cared for me. We held each other accountable as a fellowship of Christian brothers who cared enough about each other to ask the big questions.
2. During my three decades as a pastor, in each ministry I found a man who was willing to enter into a covenant with me. Like Jonathan did with David, this friend “made a covenant . . . because he loved [me] as himself” (1 Samuel 18:3). We promised each other to meet once a week, pray for one another by name every time we prayed, and ask each other the big questions.
3. The third point of accountability was Beverley, my wife. She asked me the big questions. She also addressed little weaknesses or concerns along the way that were potentially dangerous to us and to my ministry.

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (James 5:16).

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## *Accountability—Second Verse*

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Being accountable means asking ourselves some hard questions, searching our hearts, and being honest with ourselves and our Lord. It requires taking the time to think deeply about where we are in our spiritual walk.

Here are the hard questions you should ask yourself often, according to Chuck Swindoll:

1. Have you been with a woman anywhere this past week that might be seen as compromising?
2. Have any of your financial dealings lacked integrity?
3. Have you exposed yourself to any sexually explicit material?
4. Have you spent adequate time in Bible study and prayer?
5. Have you given priority time to your family?
6. Have you fulfilled the mandate of your calling?
7. Have you just lied to me?

We deal every day with members of the clergy and their families who are facing their own dilemmas . . . forced terminations, unrealistic expectations, false accusations, moral failures, doubtful calling, mistakes in judgment, and spouses who just do not want to be in the ministry any longer. The list seems endless. We listen to these folks when they call. We pray with them, but we know each person must face his own issues in his own way. Asking yourself the hard questions can help you gauge where you are in your walk with the Lord and where you need to pay extra attention. Ask yourself the hard questions often and answer honestly. They may just spare you and your family some pain.

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come” (John 16:13).

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## *He's Still There*

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It's a beautiful winter day in Colorado Springs, but our weather can change dramatically from one day to the next (or one moment to the next). We, in our city, are blessed by a sight we sometimes take for granted—Pikes Peak. It stands majestically along the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. When you look to the west, it is nearly always visible. But there are days when the clouds hang low and the 14,000-foot peak is hidden.

It seems strange when you can't see "The Peak," but I am reminded of a truth I heard from an old pastor years ago. He said, "Remember, son, even when the clouds hide the beauty of the mountains . . . the mountains are still there, and that is what makes the difference."

What a comforting thought for folks like you and me. Sometimes trouble, distress, setbacks, or sickness overwhelms us to the point where we feel separated from God. During those times, behind the clouds of despair, beyond the fog of doubt, we know God is there, and that is what makes the difference. That is what we call faith.

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1).

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## *New Year's Day: A Prayer for the Coming Year*

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I am not much for resolutions, but as I examine my life each new year, I determine to do better at what God has called me to do. With the world in such chaos, your role as a spiritual leader is more significant than ever before. Let's all vow to be better. How? Look forward, not backward. Forget, and move to the next level of obedience and challenge. Brush off the failures and setbacks of the past year. Learn from them and, like Joshua, hear God saying, "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9, NKJV).

Sometimes we underestimate the hand of God in our lives. We can act like orphans and feel we are all alone, but that is never the case.

And now, my prayer for you and your colleagues as you all enter a fresh, unblemished new year:

Dear God, our heavenly Father, thank You for my colleagues who serve You so unselfishly. Father, I pray for my brothers and sisters that they be ever more sensitive to the moving of Your Spirit in their lives. Help them to live with great expectation, standing on tiptoes of faith, as they survey the vast panorama of Your opportunities. May they have a renewed interest in Your Word, and a hunger to spend quality "first-of-the-day" time with You. May they—we—know it is from those times that we gain our strength to follow Your direction.

Please, Father, may they be instruments of peace—first in their own homes, and then elsewhere. Keep them free from jealousy and envy. And, Father, challenge them to guard their hearts. May they find reward for their labor. Amen.

"We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:3).

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## *Sanctity of Human Life Sunday: Preaching Compassionately*

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In our book *They Call Me Pastor*, Neil Wiseman and I wrote, “When you raise your voice to speak with such tenacious authority about the evils of abortion, be sure to lower that same voice to speak with great compassion to those who have been damaged by sin, assuring them there is healing, forgiveness and mercy. . . . Tell them that coming to God is the answer to the crushing anguish they carry.”

A veteran minister who had been a pastor for nearly a lifetime said, “I never deal with any sin without getting a tear in my eye. A tear of sadness for the consequences I see in a sinner’s life. A tear of joy that no sin is too great for a Savior to forgive. And a tear that God, by grace, kept me from the same sin.” Never preach against abortion without a tear in your eye.

I do urge you to preach against this evil, but to listen to your message through the ears of the most needy in your congregation. Do you offer them hope? Are you communicating Christ’s boundless love? It might surprise you to know how many of those who come and go through your church doors—both men and women—carry the pain of an aborted child.

The fight for life is an ongoing battle. Even if you do not feel comfortable addressing the issue of life from the pulpit, I pray you are finding ways to assist your congregation in remembering that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made.” God has something in mind for every one of His creations—those that have been born and those who are yet to be born.

“My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be” (Psalm 139:15-16).

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## *Valentine's Day: Reaffirming Our Love and Support*

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February 14 gives us a chance to reaffirm our love and support for our spouses. Have you made any special plans to recognize the contribution your spouse has made to your life and ministry on Valentine's Day?

Here are some thought-provoking questions for you to consider and perhaps talk about with your husband or wife:

When/where did you first meet?

What was the subject of your first conversation?

What did you do on your first date?

How did you/he propose marriage?

Where did you go on your honeymoon?

What was the highlight of your first ministerial assignment?

What do you usually disagree about?

Did you ever agree on how many children you would have?

What is his/her favorite dish?

When was the last time you paid your spouse a heartfelt compliment?

When you have free time, what do you most enjoy doing together? (Perhaps you could include that in your day tomorrow.)

Please take some time just to be together and laugh out loud. If you have some negative stuff going on, this would be a great time to do what it takes to live peacefully together.

“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken” (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

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## *Lent: A Time of Personal Examination*

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The Lenten Season should be much more than planning for a big crowd and festive weekend. It should also be a time of preparation for your heart, your attitude, your message, and your relationship with the risen Christ. The apostle Paul wrote, “For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power” (1 Corinthians 2:2-5).

As a pastor, I used the days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday to call my people to a time of personal examination. Every service, including mid-week, had an Easter theme that would draw people along the road to Jerusalem, to the foot of the cross, and into the celebration of the empty tomb.

During the Lenten Season, I would ask our congregation:

1. Who among us has someone to forgive?
2. Who among us has a blockage that would keep the Holy Spirit from moving freely in his or her life?
3. Who among us has allowed their relationship with the risen Lord to stagnate?

What if, during this time of preparation, you guided your people to a new plateau of intimacy with Jesus? The celebration of Easter can hold great significance, especially to the new believer. I pray that your Easter activities will be underscored by the Spirit’s power.

“Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure” (1 John 3:3).

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## *Palm Sunday: Preaching Liberation*

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Jesus rode into Jerusalem on that memorable Palm Sunday as a liberator. As He approached the city, He wept over it (Luke 19:41). He was crying because He knew the fickle nature of people. He cried because they had missed the point. He had not come to them to be a rescuer or a miracle worker. He had come to be their Savior. They totally misunderstood the reason for His visitation (Luke 19:44).

Though many of those He loved did not understand why He had come, Jesus' role was set in stone centuries before in Isaiah 61: "The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor . . . to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners" (verse 1). He read from the Old Testament scroll in Nazareth (Luke 4:18-19) and concluded, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21).

Jesus' words are so relevant on Palm Sunday—"If you . . . had only known . . . what would bring you peace" (Luke 19:42). Will the people in your pews understand the urgency of the message He proclaimed and the great compassion He has for them? During Holy Week, I urge you to preach liberation from sin, addiction, fear, pain, loneliness—you name it. Jesus is the greatest liberator the world has ever known, and He is available to your people. I assure you, they will be open to the message of freedom, receptive to the possibility of deliverance. Sin and evil have been overcome by the mercy of a loving Lord. Preach freedom, my colleague! That is the Easter message!

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Luke 19:38).

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## *Monday: Power*

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On Monday, Jesus chased the moneychangers out of the temple (Mark 11:12-17) and taught a lesson over a cursed fig tree (Matthew 21:18-22).

So much of who Jesus was, as well as the nature of man, was revealed in the course of one week.

What will it take to ignite the church and our people? What will it take to experience a Palm Sunday kind of excitement in which our congregations are filled with praise and our lives are vibrant with enthusiasm about the resurrection reality?

You can be a catalyst if during the next few days, your messages are bold and your joy contagious. Challenge your people to lift “Holy Hurrahs” and give God credit for all things. Urge them to give witness to their faith and live with a sense of victory in a world of sorrow.

In short, you hold the key, my colleague—through your very countenance you can let your flock see how blessed you feel to have an Easter message to deliver and eternal hope to anticipate.

“As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:15, KJV).

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## Tuesday: Confrontation

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On Tuesday, Judas betrayed his teacher (Luke 22:3-6); Jesus was in conflict with the Herodians, the scribes, and the Pharisees (Matthew 21:23–23:39); and the conspiracy against Christ continued (Mark 14:1-2).

As we approach the climactic moments of Easter, how are you doing—spiritually, emotionally, physically? Are you “all together” as you face the challenges of this week? You need to be if you are going to do right by yourself, your people, and your God during this most important time of the year. You have a few days to prepare your people, look deep within your own spirit, and anticipate the climactic event. There is no greater event than the celebration of our Lord’s resurrection. May I suggest a working day off to “live” the Easter story?

Find a quiet place and begin by reading through the Gospels’ account of Easter week. Each day has documented significance with the exception of “silent” Saturday. In your mind, see the disciples as they journey up the hill to Jerusalem. After you have followed Jesus to the cross, concentrate on His seven last words. Imagine the circumstances that surround each phrase. Then pray for those who will assemble for Holy Week services. Pull the mantle of the Holy Spirit around you and let Him anoint you for the task ahead.

Finally, secure a copy of an Easter film. It might be *The Passion of the Christ*, or *The Robe*, or *The Gospel of John*. Sit back and soak in the sounds and sights of that unbelievable event. If you have been to the Holy Land, it might make sense for you to get out your pictures and relive your experience.

The better prepared you are to interject yourself into Passion Week, the better your people will relate to the awesome sacrifice that was made for them and the miracle of the resurrection.

I remind you that there will be people in your services who have never bowed their knee at the foot of Jesus. Please give them a chance to witness the transformation that comes when a person finds Jesus as his or her Savior.

Jesus said to His disciples, “As you know . . . the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified” (Matthew 26:2).