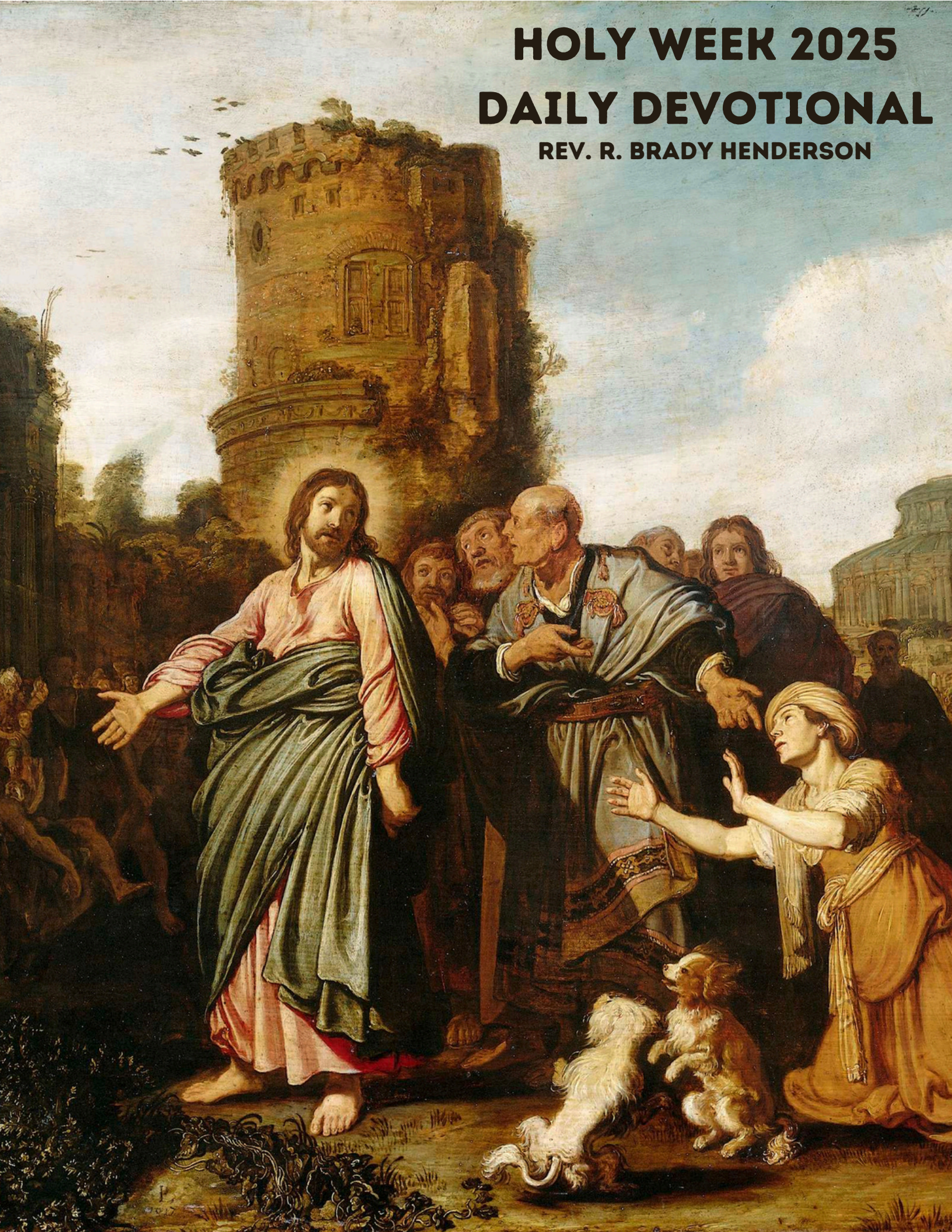


**HOLY WEEK 2025**

**DAILY DEVOTIONAL**

**REV. R. BRADY HENDERSON**





Greetings,

For the believer in Christ Jesus, this week is the most important week of the calendar year. This is the week that we get to celebrate the path Jesus took to the Cross to die for our sins, and rise from the grave three days later. I personally believe that we can better understand the meaning and magnitude of Easter Sunday when we ponder the events in Jesus' life each day of Holy Week.

This is the second year I've written a daily devotional guide for Holy Week, and the 4th year that I have put together daily reading guides. I encourage you to read the scripture of what happened each day during Holy Week, and then grab this devotional and allow the Lord to speak to your heart. In addition, there will be daily Holy Week videos available on YouTube and Facebook, that explain and describe the devotional and daily reading guide. This year the reading guide and devotional book will be from Mark's account of Holy Week. It's been 3 years since we read through Mark's account during Holy Week. On Easter Sunday this year we will officially conclude our year-long sermon series through the book of Mark. I feel the Lord wants us to read Mark's Holy Week account one more time this year, as we prepare for Easter Sunday. Here's the goal of this particular daily devotional book for Holy Week of 2025:

1. To **Encourage** the follower of Christ with the actions of Jesus during Holy Week over 2,000 years ago.
2. To **Edify** the follower of Christ with daily applications from the life of Jesus during Holy Week.
3. To **Engulf** you in the Word of God as you reflect on what Jesus did for you as He went to the Cross.
4. To **Educate** all who read the words on these pages that Jesus Christ is Lord and to have an accurate understanding of what the scriptures say about Holy Week.

I hope and pray you are **encouraged, edified, engulfed** and **educated** by reading this Holy Week Devotional. I love you in Christ our Lord!

-Rev. Brady Henderson

**HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL**

# MONDAY, APRIL 14TH, 2025

Read: Mark 11:12-19

## 'Promising Yet No Production!'

On Monday of Holy Week our Lord was traveling on the way to Jerusalem from Bethany. Earlier this year we looked at this text in our sermon series through the book of Mark. This morning as we revisit this text of Scripture looking at what our Lord did on Monday of Holy Week nearly 2,000 years ago we find the well known story of the cursing of the fig tree and the abolishment of the temple.

The humanity of Jesus is clearly exposed with the phrase Mark uses in verse 12, 'He was hungry'. To translate this, you and I may say Jesus was 'Hangry'. In verse 13 we are told that as Jesus approaches the fig tree, He sees that the tree is producing leaves. Between March and April small green knops would appear. Though their taste was bitter, they were edible, and we know Jesus was hungry. First the Knops would grow and then leafs would appear. Meaning, if a fig tree had leaves, Knops were to be there for the taking. As Jesus approached the tree and realized there were no knops, He cursed the tree. He did so because it was a tree that was promising, yet deceptive. There are many times in my own personal life where I portray one thing, and then inside, I'm the complete opposite. If we are all honest, we all are this way from time to time.

Similar to the fig tree, the temple also showed promise, yet no production. In the outer court on Monday of Holy Week Jesus showed righteous anger by driving out the merchants from making a prophet with animal sacrifices. During the passover week the population of Jerusalem would be multiplied by 10. Many Jews would travel to the Holy city. Gentiles too, would come, though they were only allowed in the outer court. These merchants would price gouge pigeons and other animals by 16 times what they were regularly worth. The temple and the fig tree both promised one thing, yet no production. Does your life mirror the temple and the fig tree on Monday of Holy Week?

Have a Great Monday, Pastor Brady loves you.

# HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL

# TUESDAY, APRIL 15TH, 2025

Read: Mark 11:20-13:37

## 'Love God, Love People!'

This morning's reading is the longest of Holy Week this year, because of all that Mark records that could have happened on that day.

Remember, Peter was most likely over Mark's shoulder as he wrote his Gospel account. So, there is quite the 'Peter' flare all throughout Mark's Gospel account.

In Mark 11:27, it seems to be Tuesday of Holy Week and Jesus will continue to have conversations with the Pharisees and Sadducees and attempt to teach them in parables. I find it interesting that when confronted with one of the most judgemental groups of people, Jesus gives them a practical and profound command. Grab your Bible this morning and turn to Mark 12:30-31. These verses answer the Scribe's question of 'Which commandment is the most important of all?'

Here's what Jesus said in Mark 12:30-31, 'And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

At this time I believe Jesus was just days from going to the Cross. He could've tried to convince the 'religious elite' to spare His life. He could've destroyed them with just one word. There's nothing our Lord couldn't have done. But here's what He did, He instructed them and us today to do two really important things.

1. Love God with all your Heart. (v. 30).
2. Love your Neighbor as yourself. (v. 31).

Satan and his demons will try many different times in your life today to distract you from doing these two things. He'll try to convince you not to spend time with your Father, and not to love others. You can defeat him today, but only through Christ. On Tuesday of Holy Week, Love God, Love People.

Have a Great Tuesday, Pastor Brady loves you.

# HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL

# WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16TH, 2025

Read: Mark 14:1-11

## ‘The Opportunity to Pounce!’

Most scholars and theologians believe very little happened on Wednesday of Holy Week. The anointing of Jesus at Bethany most likely occurred a different day, not on Wednesday of Holy Week. But there is something that happened on Wednesday of Holy Week that affected humanity forever. On Wednesday of Holy Week the plotting and planning began to put Jesus on the cross. This was something that the Pharisees and religious leaders had been waiting on. They were waiting on an opportunity to pounce and divulge their deceptive deed. Look with me at Mark 14:10-11, ‘Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.’

The religious leaders now have an opportunity through Judas, to get to Jesus. They took the opportunity to pounce on Jesus through one of the disciples, the keeper of the money (treasurer), Judas. Money has been the downfall of many a man, and it happened to Judas here. When it comes to Judas and the Religious leaders, they have several things in common that I want to point out this morning.

1. They prey on someone else’s downfall.
2. Pride takes priority over relationships.
3. Greed clouds reality.

What Judas did on what I believe was Wednesday of Holy Week, fulfilled the prophecy of Psalms 41:9. The Pharisees put out an inconspicuous order to see who would take the bait in handing Jesus over to them. Judas took it, and had to identify Jesus at night, which would’ve been quite difficult without all the modern lighting systems that we have today. As you begin a new day, be careful. Watch your motives. Make sure you aren’t preying on someone else’s downfall, that pride isn’t a problem in your life, and watch the greed meter in your heart. Have a great Wednesday, and we will see you tonight. Love you!

# HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL

# THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH, 2025

Read: Mark 14:12-72

## 'Thy Will Be Done!'

Thursday of Holy Week is commonly referred to as 'Maundy Thursday'. In the English language we get the word 'maundy' from the Latin word 'mandatum'. Which in Latin, means command. But, Maundy in the English language refers to the ceremony of washing feet of those we are poor. Thursday of Holy Week was very significant in the life of Jesus as you've already read this morning in the Scripture text for today. Jesus celebrates the Passover with His Disciples and during this evening He washes their feet and institutes the Lord's Supper for the first time. Also in this text, we find the gruesome encounter in the garden of Gethsemane. That's what I want to focus on this morning as we embark on what will be a terrific Thursday.

Jesus knew all evening, and all throughout His life, that the events of Friday, His Crucifixion, were coming. But in Mark 14:34, Jesus tells His disciples that this 'My soul is very sorrowful, even to death'. This phrase 'very sorrowful' is rendered from the Greek word *Perilypos* (Περίλυπος) which means very intense grief. While some people do experience this kind of intense grief that Jesus did, I don't think everyone necessarily experiences this same level of intense grief. Dr. Luke's account of this situation in Luke 22:44 explains that Jesus was in so much personal agony that He sweat drops of blood.

In Mark 14:36, Jesus, alone with His Heavenly Father in prayer, asks that if it all possible, that this cup pass from Him. We know that God decided this was the only way for our sins to be forgiven, for Jesus to endure this painful physical death. But notice what Jesus also said in Mark 14:36, 'Yet not what I will, but what you will'. Several things we can learn from this. First, take everything to God in prayer. Everything. The good, bad, and ugly! He can handle it! Secondly, don't pray selfishly, but with God's will at the forefront of your mind. Oftentimes we will pray with our own preferences instead of for God's plan.

Have a great Thursday! Pastor Brady loves you!

# HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL

# FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH, 2025

Read: Mark 15

## ‘Love Kept Him There!’

I trust this morning that the Lord was able to move in your heart during your time in Mark 15 as He moved in mine while preparing this devotional for you on Good Friday. After reading Mark 15, it is hard to think that we can call that dark and gloomy Friday, ‘Good’. But, because we know the truth of the resurrection, we know that Sunday is coming. We know that Jesus defeated death, HELL and the Grave! Hallelujah.

Out of all we read this morning, I want to take us right to the front on Friday of Holy Week nearly 2,000 years ago. Look with me at Mark 15:31-32. ‘So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.’

At this moment the chief priests were making fun of the power of Jesus. They chose not to understand that Jesus was able to heal others, but in this moment did not take Himself off of the cross. In their unbelieving and pagan minds, they could not see this. Because they chose not to see it. Because they chose to reject Him. Even verse 32 is clear, that one of the thieves on the cross hurled insults at Him. As human beings it’s hard to fathom people ridiculing us, mocking us, and taunting us and not responding. As human beings, at least for me personally, holding my tongue as James speaks about is easier said than done. So, why did the King of Kings decide not to prove the Chief Priests wrong? The thieves on the Cross wrong? Why did He not correct their false ideologies about Him once and for awhile? Jesus stayed on the Cross for you and for me. Love is what kept Him on the Cross! Secondly, the time had not yet come for Him to show His power. That would come on Sunday, as He was resurrected from the Grave. Sunday’s coming!! Have a Great Good Friday, Pastor Brady loves you!

# HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL

# SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH, 2025

## No Reading, Silent Saturday

It is Saturday before Easter Sunday! It's possible that as you're reading this morning's devotional, that you are thinking of all that you have to do today to get ready for tomorrow. Maybe that is taking the kids to go Easter Egg hunting, or getting everyone's 'Easter Outfits' dry cleaned and ready to go. Or maybe you're spending this Saturday in the kitchen preparing food for all your family and friends that may be having Sunday lunch with you tomorrow. Or, if you're apart of our awesome hospitality team, then you are getting ready for the breakfast we will eat tomorrow as a Church family. Whatever it is, I want you to pause and stop for just a minute. Read this scripture below with me.

"Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth!" Psalms 46:10

Today is silent Saturday. On the Saturday between Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday nearly 2,000 years ago the entire world held it's breath. Would satan and his demons rejoice? Or would they run and flee with the defeat of death for all eternity? Only Sunday would tell. But for us, we know Jesus won! We know He obtained the victory that we get to claim and hold this very day.

When we look at Psalms 46:10, we are presented with a great challenge. We find the imperative from the beginning, 'Be still'. This phrase is translated from the Hebrew verb 'har·pū' (הִרְפוּ) which literally means to 'sink in, and relax'. We may know that Sunday is coming. We know that Jesus Christ is Lord and that He defeated death. But often, you and I really struggle with the silence. With the unknown. If we are honest, sometimes we really struggle with the idea of 'tomorrow'. What's going to happen? Where will I be? What will I do? You know how your mind can run rampant, if you let it. Today as you enjoy the Saturday before Easter, spend some time right now in silence with God. Talk with Him, but be sure to listen. Be still and know, He is God! Have a great Saturday, and I'll see you tomorrow! Pastor Brady loves you.

# HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL



# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rev. Robert 'Brady' Henderson currently serves as the Senior Pastor of Gaston's First Baptist Church in Gaston, South Carolina. He became the Pastor there in 2021 when he was 21 years old. Since then, the Church has been able to see great growth all for God's Glory. Before serving at First Baptist Church of Gaston, Brady served as the Associate Pastor/Youth Pastor at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Williamston, SC (where he was licensed and ordained) as well as the Minister of Connections at His Vineyard Church in Greer, SC. Brady currently serves on Futuring Team for the Lexington Baptist Association as well as Chairman of the Administrative team for the Lexington Baptist Association. Brady is currently serving the South Carolina Baptist Convention as a member on the Committee on Committee's.

Brady was born in Lancaster, SC, as his parents were serving in youth ministry at White Springs Baptist Church in Lancaster. Shortly after this his family moved to Greer, SC, where he grew up. Brady grew up at Fairview Baptist Church in Greer and served with his grandfather, the late Dr. Tom Burns (Worship/Administrative Pastor), for several years before his retirement in 2017.

Brady attended and later graduated from Greer High School in 2018 where he met his high school sweetheart, Hannah McGill. They both graduated from Anderson University together and married in August of 2022. Brady graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing while Hannah graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. She is currently the Director of Communications at the Lexington Baptist Association and also works for the South Carolina Baptist Convention's Women's Missionary Union. Brady is currently an online seminary student at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and will graduate in the summer of 2025. They both reside in Lexington with their beloved dog, 'Beamer' Blake Henderson. In addition to serving at First Baptist, Brady loves history and the Gamecocks! In his free time, you can find him playing golf or traveling the state preaching at revivals and conferences wherever God opens the door, as well as an occasional minor league baseball game.

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**HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL**