

The Eternal Exchange

An Easter devotional by Marni Hawkins

Introduction:

John Piper once stated, “Don’t exchange your God for anything; exchange everything for Him instead. God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him.” When we are dissatisfied we often exchange a corruptible image, for something temporary. In reality the incorruptible image of the face of His Son Jesus Christ being revealed in us should be our greatest satisfaction. My question friends as we begin this Holy Week devotion, is this: Is image your everything or is it God’s glory?

We have become strangers to the reality of what Philippians 3:8 says, “I count everything as loss to gain Christ. “What have you gained in Him and How? I have defined it The Eternal Exchange. You’ll find out what I mean over the next seven days. Exchange has several Greek meanings: to either alter or to make different, something given as compensation, a transforming change in form of reconciliation or to throw in turn.

We humans have a tendency to seek glory by our outer works what we do instead of being willing to suffer within and allow the Holy Spirit to show us our true selves. *2 Corinthians 13:5* reads, “*Examine yourselves, to see if whether you are of the faith, test yourselves.*” This friend is what we have been fasting about for the past two weeks with our focus on Isaiah 58:1-7. One week left to go.

The way I was told by the Lord to write this is really out of my box. This quote from Threads of Grace summarizes where we’re headed. “Somewhere in the middle of sorrow and surrender God answered, and still is!” Middle can be described in one Hebrew word Paga which basically make contact through intercession or arrival. Throughout the week, there will be a daily detailed paga definition of how Jesus accomplished this and be a scripture comparison between two chapters of scripture. One aspect will be on the suffering servant from Isaiah 53:4-6, where our Messiah suffered sorrow in and on His body. The second is the result of fasting, which results in our surrendered lifestyle from our prayer focus text in Isaiah 58:8-14. Lastly, since it is Passion Week I think a reminder of things that Jesus did on those days leading up the Resurrection is needed.

Think about two things, how Christ interceded or Paga, took upon Himself for our punishment *Isaiah 58:12* “...to intercede for the transgressors (our active treason/rebellion against God my emphasis).” Second, the Father had expectations that had to be satisfied through his Son i.e. sorrows and has expectations of us, in our surrendered lifestyle which should mirror the servant. Let your worship glorify Him eternally. I want to say, Amen, but that indicates an ending when we are just beginning, Praise God!

DAY ONE, 3/30/26:

Do you want satisfying life or one that seems like a frustrating ritual?

Well on this day of Passion Week Jesus dealt with religious ritualistic events happening in the Temple Court. He drove the buyers and sellers out and cleansed the temple. Matthew 21:12-13, "He overturned the tables of money. My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves." The Lord wants no formality, repetition or empty words just emptied out hearts. Don't exchange robbery for the reality of relationship.

The Paga term for today reflects Jesus arrival when he came between us and our debt of sin by making contact on our behalf, so we could reach a spiritual place that we could not get to on our own because of it.

Isaiah 53:4, "Surely he bore our infirmities in His body..." Jesus vicariously suffered so we could be healed of all our grief, weaknesses, anxieties, sicknesses, maladies, etc, because He took it upon Himself first.

Isaiah 58: 8, "...Health springs forth speedily..." Quick healing in the physical, spiritual, or emotional will manifest in a life giving relationship that has active compassion like Christ which honors God by practicing social justice towards others who are oppressed.

Prayer: Lord, Restore our joy! Help me not to satisfy myself with emptiness. Don't let me exchange ritual for reality of relationship. In honoring you I can receive fullness of healing in all aspects of my life. In Jesus name, Amen.

DAY TWO, 3/31/26:

Do you delight in answers which result in loving your neighbor as yourself or do you just ask a lot of misaligning questions?

Day two of Holy Week Jesus gives such an answer to Pharisees, who seem to not want to be accountable for answers nor to their neighbor, but love to trap people in their responses, especially ones they see as beneath them. *Matthew 22: 37-39, "Master what is the greatest commandment? The greatest commandment is this, love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. The second is like it; love your neighbor as yourself."* This means loving God/others is total and undivided, aligned with God. It is intentionally giving and not flippant, and should not be an empty response with no requirement of thought/accountability.

The Paga Term today is the Lord carried our burdens, literally within Himself. All of them were laid on Him first, so we could do the same for others. Even though he may have felt abandoned by many others. Much of this type of exchange, our pain He carried was internal but no less in intent, silently, as we also do in life.

Isaiah 53:4 "... He carried our sorrows, yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten, and afflicted of God." All of our immoral weight was laid upon Himself, to bring our redemption. Jesus passively suffered by

not resisting against His accusers as the perfect voluntary and substitution for sacrifice, by one being struck and violently beaten, and two, plagued with deep humiliation.

Isaiah 58:8 "...your righteousness shall go before you and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard." Our Surrender should result in righteous acts of mercy and justice to pave the way of us a worshiper because our life is an intentional response that is not out of alignment with God. In this, God provides full protection from the back as well as the front.

Prayer: Lord, restore our love in righteousness. Help me to not ask questions that keep me out of alignment with You. Instead help me to be intentional with all of my being to love you and my neighbor. Teach me to be accountable to the Word and other so I do not think more highly of myself than I should. In Jesus name, Amen.

DAY THREE, 4/1/26:

Do you exchange the Lords life in secret, for something cheaper than what He did for you on the Cross that was not secret at all?

On Day 3 of Passion week, Jesus in secret is betrayed by Judas. *Matthew 26: 15* reads, "*Judas Iscariot asks the chief priests,*" *what are you willing to give me if deliver him to you?*" For 30 pieces of silver, the price of a slave, Judas makes a covenant with the devil. What was secretly in Judas's heart opened the door of betrayal (sin) that should have stayed shut. What kind of things do you say in your heart but never voice that can be used an opportunity for betrayal (sin) against God and others? In many circumstances, Satan will present that opening but it will take discernment to realize later that it was not from the Lord. Shut that door!

The Paga term today means Jesus took a penalty by chancing upon, on purpose, suddenly lending or finding something to hit a target of intercession for our sin. Jesus exchanged our penalty by being wounded on the tree to the point of obedience leading to death.

Isaiah 53:5 "... but he was wounded (pierced) for our transgressions..." Here are examples of wounds Jesus openly took to heal our wounds that have come others or ourselves are: scourging, head trauma, facial bruising, fractured septum, sever contusions on shoulders from carrying the cross, deep nail wounds in wrists and feet, spear wound in his side that later entered the chest cavity into his heart, physical shock resulting in severe blood loss, dehydration, exhaustion. Lastly asphyxiation!

Isaiah 58:9 "...you shall call and I the Lord will answer." The Lord acted in His timing not ours to free us, to receive instant answers when we "stop putting forth the finger and speak vain things." Our surrender should never be for nothing. A living sacrifice worships God by living righteously. The fruit of that is the obedience of our faith. This distinguishes a circumcised heart from an uncircumcised one!

Prayer: Lord, restore our obedience. Help us to discern your open doors and ours. We need You to reveal especially, what is open to the enemy in secret so our wounds can be bound up and our hearts can no longer be broken but circumcised. We want you close so we don't sell who You are for the price You paid for our own disobedience and offenses. In Jesus name, Amen.

DAY FOUR, 4/2/26:

Have you submitted to being washed (cleansed) fully by Jesus so you can share fellowship with and share in eternal life with Him or only partly?

On the fourth day of Holy Week at the Last Supper, Jesus washes all the disciples' feet and has communion with them. After prayer in the garden, he will be arrested. *John 13:8 and 15 says, If I don't wash you, you have no part with me. I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you."*

The Paga term for today means Jesus arrived to strike or attack the enemy down like lightning strikes the earth. He was in spiritual attack mode. His exchange was abundance to the full. Against what? What we lack. I added to the full for a reason, not that Christ's sacrifice did not finish all at the cross, but we hold back that which should be His wholly i.e. to the full! Be whole not just for yourself but especially for others.

Isaiah 53:5 "... he was crushed (bruised) for our iniquities (sins)..." So we could be whole. The term crushing reminds me of myrrh that Jesus was anointed by Mary for the day of His death. Myrrh is a fragrant sap that is often crushed or bruised to extract the sap which flows from the wounds of the tree. This is also the color of the sap. Does this remind you of anything? He shed His blood for the healing of His soul and ours emotionally.

Isaiah 58:11, "And the Lord shall guide thee continually and satisfy thy soul in drought. And make fat thy bones..." Our surrender involves acknowledging our lack of emotional expression to God as a lifestyle of worship. Once we repent not just individually but corporately, healing of the will and mind of society takes place. Our once afflicted souls, now healed, draw others to others who are unsatisfied still longing for the same healing.

Prayer: Lord, restore our emotions with Your continuous guidance. Help us to acknowledge our lack of expression, and not stay silent with our lifestyle. May we be satisfied not just for ourselves but the afflicted souls who don't know what to feel or how so the mind will and emotions in our society can be whole too! In Jesus name, Amen.

DAY FIVE, 4/3/26:

Do you live strong and satisfied lives in what Jesus fulfilled for you? Or do you still feel like something is missing?

Today is Good Friday, the day Jesus dies, and is buried. This is the day everything changed and everything was done! *Luke 23:44-46 ESV, "It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. For the sun stopped shining, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father into your hands, I commit my spirit."*

The Paga description for today is Jesus' entreaty, which was his urgent essential pleading to the point of pressing through on behalf of us as believers. One word fits this perfectly is, Atonement which

means for us to be at one with Him. How? His body pressed through in darkness until His atoning work was finished and we were reconciled back to the Father once more as our covering.

Isaiah 53:5, "the chastisement of our peace was upon him. " His sorrow was to be chastised or to be punished or inflicted with pain until correction is achieved. What needed to be corrected? The gap between us and God fell entirely on Jesus Christ. The pontifex, the bridge builder, pressed into all our sin, so we could have fellowship with our heavenly Father.

Isaiah 58:11b, "you shall be a well watered-garden like a spring of water whose waters fail not." Our surrender is to discipline rebellion within us, until its end and peace (reconciliation) is restored. Reconciliation and wholeness equals PEACE. Shalom the Hebrew word for peace has many definitions. If you ask a Jewish person, they would tell you it means nothing missing, nothing broken. In other words, we live strong and satisfied lives because is now Christ's life is welling up from within us through the Holy Spirit!

Prayer: Lord, restore our peace with God wherever we have not disciplined rebellion in our lives that has caused us not to have it fully. Correct us, until it's your living water that gushes from our innermost being. Fully strong and fully satisfied in You! We long for uninterrupted, intimate fellowship with You Lord. In Jesus name, Amen

DAY SIX, 4/4/26:

What needs to be torn down in you so you can have a restored and rebuilt foundation of the indwelling gospel?

The sixth day of Passion Week is often known as Black Saturday where Jesus descended into hell and triumphs over death. While the disciples and more are in mourning, in *1 Peter 3:18-20, Jesus preached to spirits in prison proclaiming victory over sin and death, visited the paradise side of the underworld(Luke 23:43, 16:22), and " led captivity captive" (Ephesians 4:8-10).*

The Paga connection for today simply means Jesus went to reach a border where two boundaries needed to meet. Those boundaries were life and death! First His then Ours! He was leading souls to Him not resting, never giving into death that was trying to hold Him. He silenced the graves boasting. For He was being prepared to rise again!

Isaiah 53:5, "...and by His stripes we are healed." Let's go back the sorrow of the scourging which Jesus received on his back, legs and arms at the whipping post. How many is up for debate by some, mostly say thirty nine. The "cat of nine tails", is a whip had strips with bone fragments sown down the length of each strand. It was meant to pull the victims skin totally off whenever they made contact to make then unrecognizable. In Jesus case, each strike on Him represented a healing of a major disease. There are thirty nine diseases by name, listed in the old and New Testament combined. This speaks of mercy we didn't get what we deserved! Jesus took it on Himself for us!

Isaiah 58:12 "Those from among thee shall build up the old waste places, thee shall raise up the foundations of many generations, and thee shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in." Our surrender looks like what? This verse of scripture some say is the pre-incarnate message of the gospel. The Gospel before the gospel. We stop oppressing others because we have the true foundation the Gospel of Jesus Christ within us and we rebuild and restore with mercy.

Prayer: Lord, We need your mercy to triumph over judgment in our lives so You can rebuild ancient ruins and restore a living gospel to collectively heal the world. Thank for the stripes You endured to heal all my disease! In Jesus name, Amen.

DAY SEVEN, 4/5/26:

Are you eating from the Tree of life or from the tree of knowledge of good and evil which brought death to Adam and Eve and can do the same to us?

On the seventh day, He arose! Happy Resurrection Day everyone! *Matthew 28:6* reads, “*He is not here, he is risen as He said.*” Who was waiting there for him, Mary the one who had seven demons Jesus set her free. The number seven in scripture represents completion. The Life Giver gives yet again. The Life that keeps on giving to all those who come to Him! Oh death where is your victory now? Grave where is your sting?

The Paga definition today is simple. Jesus reached the target of His Father’s will by precisely, directly, striking the mark. COMPLETELY!

Isaiah 53:6 NIV reads, “*Like sheep we all have gone astray, each of us has turned; to his own way and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*” Christ’s sorrow exchanged our internal and external exile by replacing our wandering with Himself as a guilt offering. A guilt offering requires repayment to the wronged party to bring about restoration. Jesus is our paid in full stamp. Sin exiled from God and made us his enemy. He overcame that and remade a way to access the tree of life in the garden for us.

Isaiah 58:13 says, “*If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day...call the Sabbath a delight...*” vs. 14... “*Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord I will cause thee to ride the high places of the earth and you shalt feed on the heritage of Jacob your father.*” Our surrender is to not seek your own pleasure or speak your own words. It’s the opposite of eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil which denies full access to the Tree of Life which is Jesus. Let the Lord be your delight. Just Honor God and what’s holy. Avoid the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

Prayer: Lord, restore our life Lord to Yours. One where we die and are buried to our old man, and can rise again in the newness of eternal life. Help us to know which tree we are eating from. You are the life giver and the tree of life which brings healing to the nations. You are the resurrection and the life! Live in me now and forever! In Jesus name, Amen

Conclusion:

In conclusion, John Piper wrote, “Christ lived for us, died for us, rose for us, reigns for us, will come for us, and is our advocate as final judge.” Our chief end as humans is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. Enjoy the Life Giver He is, in that He is most glorified. Do everything for His glory. Jesus poured himself out completely for your sake and mine. He came to rebuild our ancient ruins that had made us lose. We were lost and alone without Christ. Not now, His spirit is always with us. Until we meet again in our next devotion, many blessings my friends.