

# Sharon Methodist Church

2030 Holden Beach Road • Supply, NC 28462 • Admin@sharonmethodist.org • (910) 842-2929

## WEEKLY HOME DEVOTION For Sunday, April 26, 26

**Scripture: John 10:1-10 (11); 1 Peter 2:19-25**

**Sermon Title: Jesus on Guard: The Gate, the Good Shepherd**

### Day 1: The Hope That Never Disappoints

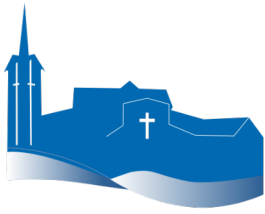
**Devotional** - In a world where promises are broken daily and hope often leads to heartbreak, we desperately need something solid to anchor our souls. Political leaders disappoint us, relationships fail, and dreams crumble. Yet there's one hope that stands apart from all others - Jesus Christ, our living hope. Unlike earthly hopes that can vanish overnight, Jesus offers us something eternal and unshakeable. His resurrection wasn't just a historical event that happened 2,000 years ago; it's a present reality that transforms our lives today. Death no longer has the final word because Jesus conquered it. When everything around us feels uncertain, we can rest in the certainty that our Savior lives and reigns. This living hope doesn't just promise a better tomorrow - it changes how we face today's challenges. Every struggle, every disappointment, every fear is filtered through the truth that Jesus has already won the victory. Your circumstances may be difficult, but your hope is secure in the One who cannot fail.

**Bible Verse** - 'For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.' - 1 Peter 1:23

**Reflection Question** - What earthly hopes have disappointed you, and how might anchoring your hope in Jesus change your perspective on current challenges?

**Quote** - We come as sinners and we are received and transformed and made new into the saints of Christ.

**Prayer** - Lord Jesus, thank You for being my living hope that never fails. Help me to trust in Your victory over death and find peace in Your unchanging love, especially when earthly hopes disappoint me.



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### Day 2: God's Perfect Timing

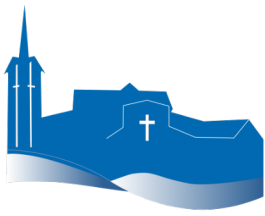
**Devotional** - Have you ever looked back on your life and noticed how certain events perfectly aligned, even when you couldn't see it at the time? God has been working in your story long before you even knew you needed Him. His prevenient grace - His love that goes before us - orchestrates circumstances for our good and His glory in ways we can only appreciate in hindsight. Maybe it was a job loss that led to a better opportunity, a difficult relationship that taught you valuable lessons, or a health scare that drew you closer to God. What seemed random or even painful at the time was actually God preparing your heart and circumstances for His perfect plan. This divine preparation often spans years, weaving together threads we couldn't see to create a beautiful tapestry of His love. When we understand this truth, it changes how we view our current struggles. Instead of seeing them as meaningless suffering, we can trust that God is working even now, preparing something beautiful for our future. His timing is always perfect, even when we can't understand it.

**Bible Verse** - 'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.' - Romans 8:28

**Reflection Question** - Looking back, where can you see God's hand preparing circumstances in your life before you even realized you needed Him?

**Quote** - God works in your lives before you even know you need him.

**Prayer** - Father, thank You for working in my life even before I knew I needed You. Help me trust Your perfect timing and see Your hand at work in my current circumstances.



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### Day 3: The Only Way

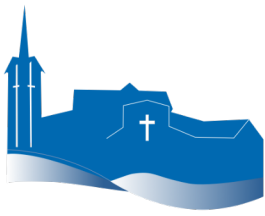
**Devotional** - In our culture of tolerance and relativism, claiming there's only one way to anything sounds narrow-minded and exclusive. Yet Jesus boldly declares Himself as both the gate and the Good Shepherd - the only way to the Father. This isn't arrogance; it's love. When someone is drowning, you don't offer multiple options for rescue - you throw them the one lifeline that works. Jesus is that lifeline for humanity's greatest problem: separation from God. The exclusivity of Christ isn't meant to keep people out but to invite everyone in through the one door that actually opens. Every other path leads to disappointment, destruction, or dead ends. Only Jesus offers true life, forgiveness, and eternal hope. This truth requires courage to proclaim in a world that wants to believe all paths lead to the same destination. But love compels us to share the truth, even when it's unpopular. The Good Shepherd doesn't just point the way - He is the way, and He laid down His life to make that way possible for us.

**Bible Verse** - 'Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.' - John 10:7,9

**Reflection Question** - How does understanding Jesus as the exclusive way to God challenge you to share this truth with others, even in our relativistic culture?

**Quote** - We're going to stand up and we're going to proclaim clearly the name of Jesus Christ is the only way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through him, but he is the gate.

**Prayer** - Jesus, give me courage to proclaim You as the only way to the Father. Help me share this truth with love and boldness, knowing it's the greatest gift I can offer others.



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### Day 4: Don't Follow Your Heart

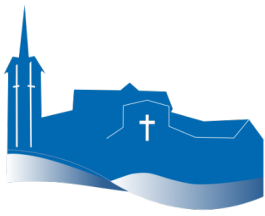
**Devotional** - "Follow your heart" might be the most dangerous advice our culture offers. While it sounds romantic and empowering, our hearts are often unreliable guides that lead us into trouble. The heart that seems so trustworthy can deceive us, justify sin, and lead us away from God's best for our lives. If our hearts were sufficient guides, Jesus wouldn't have needed to come and redeem them. The world tells us to do whatever makes us happy, but God calls us to something higher - obedience to His design for our lives. True freedom isn't found in following every impulse or desire, but in submitting to the One who created us and knows what's best for us. When we walk away from God's path, we don't need to fear His punishment - our own choices become their own consequence. God's commands aren't restrictions meant to limit our joy; they're guardrails meant to protect our happiness. His way leads to the abundant life we're all searching for. The question isn't whether God's way feels good in the moment, but whether we trust Him enough to follow His wisdom over our feelings.

**Bible Verse** - 'The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?' - Jeremiah 17:9

**Reflection Question** - In what areas of your life are you tempted to follow your heart instead of God's Word, and what might change if you chose obedience over feelings?

**Quote** - If your heart was all you needed, Jesus wouldn't have had to come and redeem it. Your heart will get you into trouble.

**Prayer** - Lord, help me trust Your wisdom over my feelings. Give me the strength to follow Your Word even when my heart pulls me in a different direction.



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(1 Samuel and Psalms- in the daily reading)

Sermon Title: Blessed are those who Believe

### Day 5: Abundant Life Starts Now

**Devotional** - Eternal life isn't just about what happens after we die - it begins the moment we surrender our lives to Jesus Christ. This abundant life transforms everything: how we work, how we speak, how we love, and how we treat others. When people see you after church, they should be excited because they know you've been with Jesus and it shows. This isn't about putting on a religious performance; it's about genuine transformation that radiates from within. The abundant life Jesus offers isn't found in accumulating more stuff or achieving more success. It's found in saying, "Here, Lord, is my everything." When we live like our lives depend on following Jesus - because they do - everything changes. Our relationships become healthier, our work becomes meaningful, and our words carry life instead of death. This isn't about perfection; it's about direction. Are you moving toward Jesus or away from Him? The devil wants to destroy those he tempts, but Jesus came that we might have life abundantly. Your eternal life starts right now, in this moment, with this choice to follow Him completely.

**Bible Verse** - 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.' - John 10:10

**Reflection Question** - How would your daily life change if you truly believed that abundant, eternal life starts right now through complete surrender to Jesus?

**Quote** - Are you going to live like your life depends on following the way of Jesus? Because there is no other way to have the abundant life of Christ than to say, here, Lord is my everything.

**Prayer** - Jesus, I want the abundant life You offer. Help me surrender everything to You and live in a way that reflects Your transforming power in my life.