

## MLS DEVOTION

### John 19:5

*So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"*

Have you been convinced that no one loves you? *"Behold the man."*

Have you wondered if God has lost interest in you? *"Behold the man."*

Have you asked what the point is pressing on in a world with little interest in the gospel? *"Behold the man."*

Have you been betrayed by friends and family? *"Behold the man."*

Have you lost track of the anchor of your faith, and been tossed about by the waves of passing fads and pious platitudes? *"Behold the man."*

Have you faced tests tougher than you wanted to take? *"Behold the man."*

Has grief over the death of a loved one taken hold of you and refused to let go? *"Behold the man."*

Have you mistaken suffering for God's curse and popularity and prosperity for his blessing? *"Behold the man."*

Have you dressed God up in your image, rather than reveling in this image of God dressed in your flesh? *"Behold the man."*

Have you thought you were the first to sorrow, to weep, to feel the sting of a fallen world? *"Behold the man."*

Have you asked God why? *"Behold the man."*

Have you groped about in the darkness for something to hold onto? *"Behold the man."*

Has your cup run over with troubles? *"Behold the man."*

Have your prayers seemingly fallen on deaf ears? *"Behold the man."*

Have your crosses pressed down harder than you'd like? *"Behold the man."*

Have you wavered in the face of temptation? *"Behold the man."*

Have you asked if this was one sin too many? *"Behold the man."*

Have you wrestled with the devil? *"Behold the man."*

Have you been broken by your failure to stand firm in the faith you've professed? *"Behold the man."*

Have you found more questions than answers in the Word? *"Behold the man."*

Have you thought God's grace had its limits? *"Behold the man."*

Have you taken for granted what was given at such a great price?

*“Behold the man.”*

Have you thrown the old Adam a life jacket in the baptismal waters poured upon you that he should drown? *“Behold the man.”*

Has your mouth been busier than your ears when you’ve met God?

*“Behold the man.”*

Have you chosen the Barabbas of lust, or greed, or pride, of the here and now? *“Behold the man.”*

Have you been distracted by the concerns of the world? *“Behold the man.”*

Have you wondered why each word of the Word must matter? *“Behold the man.”*

Have your eyes lost sight of the prize? *“Behold the man.”*

Have you considered sin but lightly? *“Behold the man.”*

Have you confused free grace with cheap grace? *“Behold the man.”*

Have your doorposts fallen in need a new coat of the Lamb’s blood?

*“Behold the man.”*

Have you forgotten where what you eat and drink in the Supper has really come from? *“Behold the man.”*

This is the week fast approaching. This is what matters. This is the kernel, the heart and core, the center, the beating heart of the Faith to which your faith nods in assent. Here is the answer. Here is the solution. Here is the new hope. Here is the high point of all human history. Here is your escape and your mighty fortress. Here is forgiveness, life, and salvation. Here is the prescription for what the disease into which you were born. Here is the fearless Shepherd to chase away the wolves. Here is what makes you Lutheran, and what makes Lutheran so marvelous to be. Here is God made man, made you, made scapegoat and Passover meal. Why? To turn sin’s thorns into mercy’s blossoms, to stomp the brains out of the serpent that dreamt up your fall, to turn your grave into a waiting room and to tie pilgrim’s sandals onto your wayward feet.

*“Behold the man.”* Look and listen. Here is what you need, whether you know it or not. Here is goodbye to **“have you”**s and hello to **“I have,”** to **“I have Him, and that’s more than enough.”** *“Behold the man,”* and watch Him die your death to give you His life in the week to come. Amen.