



## Into the Mess & Other Jesus Stories: Reflections on the Life of Christ by Debi Thomas—

**Week 8** Chapters 42 My Broken Hosanna –50 You Know Everything

### Check in Question:

At what sorrowful time in your life did Jesus hold you?

### Opening Prayer

Jesus, companion on the road,  
you meet us in paradox, in love, and in the shadow of the cross.  
As we gather, open our hearts to your presence—

in our hopes, our doubts, our fears, and our longing to love as you love.  
Walk with us, stay with us, and teach us to recognize you along the way.  
Amen.

Amen.

### Reflection questions:

#### Based on Chapter 42: My Broken Hosanna

1. Jesus is full of paradox. Thomas asks whether we will accompany Jesus on his “ridiculous donkey” or choose the delusional empire. How do you hear this question in your own life?
2. What does divinity look like to you?

#### Based on Chapter 43: Do You Know?

1. How does your understanding or definition of love differ from Jesus’ understanding of love?
2. At the end of this chapter, Thomas strings together a series of statements. Which one or ones resonate most deeply with you?
  - Love until you surprise people.
  - Love until the powerful of this world feel the threat of your love.
  - Love until the broken of the world are healed and the starving of the world are fed.
  - Love until love becomes your signature, your trademark, your calling card, your identity.
  - Love until you understand what I have done for you.
  - Love until the world understands who I am.
  - Remember me, and remember this: I have made you for love.

#### Based on Chapter 44: A Crucified God

1. What parts of the world—or which communities—are living in the shadow of the cross today?
2. What do you believe Jesus’ crucifixion accomplished?
3. Embracing Jesus’ cross takes a lifetime. Where are you on this journey?
4. How do you respond to Thomas’ statement: “The cross is a lifelong challenge precisely because it is not about remaining passive”?
5. What does it mean to say that Christianity is not a spectator sport?

#### Based on Chapter 45: Father, Forgive Them

1. Thomas suggests that sometimes our healing requires severing ties with those who have harmed us, even after we have forgiven them. Have you experienced this?
2. In what ways are you reminded that forgiveness is something we must practice again and again?
3. What does forgiveness mean to you?

**Based on Chapter 46: Today With Me**

1. How would you describe your vision of paradise?

**Based on Chapter 47: It Happens in the Dark**

1. What tasks, dreams, or callings do you still hope to accomplish?
2. Are there areas of your life that still feel hidden or in darkness?

**Based on Chapter 48: Embodied**

1. At the resurrection, Jesus invites his followers to move from fear to love. How is this invitation still alive in your life today?
2. How do you understand your call to be the Body of Christ?
3. Why do you think we are so often frightened or doubtful, even when Jesus is present among us?

**Based on Chapter 49: But We Had Hoped**

1. What are some of the hopes you have carried in your life?
2. How long did it take for the story of the resurrection to become believable or meaningful for you?
3. Jesus engages the travelers on the road to Emmaus. What question do you wish Jesus would ask you?
4. How do you invite Jesus to “stay” with you?

**Based on Chapter 50: You Know Everything**

1. How did your family of origin handle disagreement—through conversation, silence, conflict, or something else?
2. Have you ever denied Jesus, or denied someone else? What happened?
3. Has anyone ever denied you? How did that experience affect you?
4. In what ways has Jesus helped remove shame from your life?

**Closing Prayer**

For whom and what shall we pray...

Risen Christ,  
thank you for meeting us here.  
Take what we have shared and carry it into our lives.  
When hope feels fragile, remain with us.  
When fear or shame holds us back, lead us into love.  
Make us your body in the world today.  
Amen.