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Die, rise and go with Christ. What a beautiful message to reflect on for three days. I remember my first TEC in January 2016 like it was yesterday. I had been anticipating the day I could finally experience the retreat because my family members had been talking about it secretly for years. I can't recall every detail from that weekend, but I hold onto the moments and surprises that changed my heart.

I've continued reminding myself of a few lessons I learned at TEC. First, God challenges me to let go of my sins and hardships and lay them at His feet. I'm asked to surrender the burdens I carry so that I can become more of the person He's called me to be. Second, Jesus reveals His love to me every day in so many ways if I would just open my eyes enough to realize it. Whether through cuddles from my 11-year-old brother or a breathtaking sunset, He nudges me subtly to show me His constant presence. Third, He encourages me to go out and share my faith with others, encouraged by the Holy Spirit's fire within me. I will graduate from college in May, and I have no idea what the future holds. Each season seems to be further out of my comfort zone, testing my willingness to trust Him. TEC caused me to deepen my relationship with the Lord in ways I never expected. What are you waiting for? Will you accept His invitation?