

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: More Than Number One

Devotional

When someone asks to be your priority, they usually want the top spot on your list. But Jesus doesn't work that way. He doesn't want to compete with your career, relationships, or dreams for the number one position. He wants to transform your entire perspective so that everything flows from your relationship with Him.

Think about how this changes everything. Instead of trying to balance God with other priorities, we begin to see every aspect of life through the lens of His love and purpose. Your work becomes a place to serve Him. Your relationships become opportunities to reflect His character. Your dreams align with His calling on your life.

This isn't about giving up everything you care about - it's about discovering that when Christ is the foundation, everything else finds its proper place. The pressure of constantly juggling priorities disappears when you realize that following Jesus isn't another item on your to-do list; it's the lens through which you see everything else.

Bible Verse

'As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.'" - Luke 9:57-62

Reflection Question

What areas of your life are you still trying to keep separate from your relationship with Jesus?

Quote

God doesn't want to be number one on your list. God wants you to know that he is the list, period.

Prayer

Jesus, help me see that You don't want to compete for space in my life - You want to transform my entire perspective. Show me how to live with You as my foundation rather than just another priority.

Day 2: The Power of Presence

Devotional

Samuel was just a young boy sleeping in the temple when God called his name. But here's what made the difference: Samuel was there. He had positioned himself in the presence of the Lord, near the Ark of the Covenant. His availability created the opportunity for revelation.

How often do we wonder why we don't hear God's voice more clearly? Sometimes the answer isn't about God speaking louder - it's about us being present and available. When we consistently show up in worship, prayer, and Bible study, we're positioning ourselves to hear from Him.

Availability doesn't mean perfection. Samuel didn't even recognize God's voice at first. But he was present, he was listening, and he was willing to respond. That's what God is looking for - not perfect people, but available people.

Your willingness to be present with God, even when you don't feel particularly spiritual or when life is chaotic, creates space for Him to speak into your life. The revelation comes not because you've earned it, but because you've made yourself available to receive it.

Bible Verse

'The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was.' - 1 Samuel 3:3

Reflection Question

How are you positioning yourself to be available for God's presence in your daily life?

Quote

Availability precedes revelation.

Prayer

Lord, help me to be consistently present and available to You. Open my ears to hear Your voice, even when I don't immediately recognize it.

Day 3: The Urgency of Now

Devotional

"Lord, first let me..." These words reveal one of the greatest obstacles to following Jesus: the belief that there will always be a better time later. The man who wanted to bury his father wasn't necessarily dealing with an immediate death - in that culture, this often meant waiting for an inheritance or until family obligations were complete.

Jesus responds with urgency because He understands something we often miss: tomorrow is not guaranteed, and delayed obedience is often disobedience in disguise. When God calls us to step forward, to forgive someone, to serve in a new way, or to make a difficult change, He says "now," not "when it's convenient."

This doesn't mean being reckless or abandoning wisdom. It means recognizing that God's timing is perfect, even when it doesn't align with our plans. The opportunities He places before us today may not be available tomorrow.

What is God asking you to do right now that you've been putting off? What step of faith have you been postponing until the timing feels better? His invitation is always present tense.

Bible Verse

'For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay." And, "But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back." But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.' - Hebrews 10:37-39

Reflection Question

What is one thing God has been asking you to do that you've been postponing until "the right time"?

Quote

Jesus says now, not then.

Prayer

Jesus, give me the courage to respond to Your call with immediate obedience. Help me trust Your timing even when it doesn't match my plans.

Day 4: Eyes Fixed Forward

Devotional

Jesus uses a farming illustration that His audience would immediately understand: when you're plowing a field, looking back creates crooked, useless furrows. The same principle applies to following Christ - constantly second-guessing His direction or longing for what we've left behind makes our spiritual journey ineffective.

Looking back doesn't just mean missing the past. It can mean constantly questioning God's guidance, wondering if we made the right choice, or being paralyzed by "what if" scenarios. When we keep glancing over our shoulder, we lose focus on where God is leading us.

This doesn't mean we can't learn from the past or that we should ignore wisdom. It means we don't let yesterday's failures or successes dictate today's obedience. We don't let fear of the unknown keep us from moving forward with confidence in God's faithfulness.

Remember Lot's wife, who looked back at Sodom and became a pillar of salt. Sometimes what we think we're missing isn't worth holding onto. God has something better ahead, but we have to keep our eyes fixed on Him to see it.

Bible Verse

'Remember Lot's wife!' - Luke 17:32

Reflection Question

What from your past are you still looking back at that might be keeping you from moving forward with God?

Quote

Anyone who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for service in the kingdom of God.

Prayer

Father, help me fix my eyes on You and trust that what lies ahead is better than what I'm leaving behind. Give me faith to move forward without constantly looking back.

Day 5: His Presence in the Storm

Devotional

Following Jesus doesn't come with a guarantee of smooth sailing. In fact, He promises the opposite: "In this world you will have trouble." But here's the beautiful truth - He doesn't promise the absence of storms; He promises His presence through them.

When we commit to following Christ wholeheartedly, we might face misunderstanding from family, challenges at work, or seasons of uncertainty. The enemy wants us to believe that these difficulties mean we've made the wrong choice. But Jesus offers something far better than comfort - He offers companionship.

His presence doesn't always calm the storm, but it always calms our hearts in the storm. When we walk through difficult seasons with Jesus, we discover a strength we never knew we had and a peace that doesn't depend on our circumstances.

The troubles of this world are temporary, but His victory is eternal. When everything around you feels chaotic, remember that the One who has overcome the world is walking beside you. You're not alone in the struggle, and the struggle is not the end of the story.

Bible Verse

'I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.' - John 16:33

Reflection Question

How has God's presence sustained you through a difficult season, and how can that experience encourage you today?

Quote

When there are struggles, the promise of Jesus is not the absence of troubles, but the presence of Christ.

Prayer

Lord, thank You that Your promise isn't the absence of trouble but Your presence through it. Help me find peace in knowing You have already overcome whatever I'm facing.