

HIGHER PURPOSE CHURCH

Real People. Real Life. Real Love.

YOUR SOPHOMORE YEAR

A Five-Day Devotional

Graduation Day — Message 2 of 4

R.E.A.L. Discipleship: E — Educate

John 8:30–32 | John 6:26–69

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Don't drop the class in the middle of your education.

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

Take five days with this message instead of five minutes. Read the scripture out loud before you read anything else — out loud matters. Sit with the reflection question long enough to answer it honestly rather than quickly. Pray the prayer, then keep praying in your own words. And use the notes lines; what God says to you this week is worth writing down.

One more thing. Peter answered in the plural, and so should you. If you can, walk through these five days with somebody else — a spouse, a friend, a group. You cannot get to remaining by yourself.

DAY 1

Right Action, Wrong Reason

SCRIPTURE

“Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.”

John 6:26

DEVOTIONAL

The crowd got in boats and crossed a lake to find Jesus — and Jesus still named their motive out loud. Crossing water to find Him was the right action; they simply did it for a reason that could not survive a hard season. They knew He could feed them, and that was true, but they built an entire relationship on one true thing and assumed it was enough. The problem was never that they knew nothing about Jesus. The problem was that they thought what they knew was enough.

REFLECTION

What is the one thing Jesus did for you that your whole relationship with Him is still resting on?

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for how I came in. Show me where I have been following what You do instead of getting to know who You are, and give me the honesty to admit it.

NOTES

DAY 2

The Word That Emptied the Room

SCRIPTURE

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.” • “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.”

John 8:31 • John 6:56

DEVOTIONAL

“Hold to” in John 8 and “remains” in John 6 are the same Greek word — *menō* — and it means to stay put, to take up residence, to live there rather than visit. Which means the command that makes you a disciple in chapter 8 is sitting inside the very sentence that emptied the room in chapter 6. The thing that offended the crowd is the thing that would have made them. Abiding is not a feeling you wait for; it is a decision to still be there tomorrow.

REFLECTION

Where in your walk with God have you been visiting when He has asked you to move in?

PRAYER

Father, I don’t want to be a visitor. Teach me to stay in Your Word when it is not comfortable and not clear, and let staying become the place where You form me.

NOTES

DAY 3

When He Breaks the Pattern

SCRIPTURE

“On hearing it, many of his disciples said, ‘This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?’ Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, ‘Does this offend you?’”

John 6:60–61

DEVOTIONAL

Your mind runs on pattern — that is how you were built — and following Jesus will eventually take you somewhere your pattern cannot go. Unanswered prayer breaks the pattern. A delayed door breaks the pattern. A word from God that sounds more like an inconvenience than an answer breaks the pattern. And your history with Him does not exempt you from the confusion; these were men who had already watched the loaves multiply in their own hands. He is not trying to become more reasonable to you. He is trying to make you able to receive Him.

REFLECTION

What has God done recently that you could not make fit — and what did you conclude about Him because of it?

PRAYER

God, I confess I have measured You with an instrument that was never built to read You. Break the pattern if that is what it takes, and give me new sight on what I have been staring at.

NOTES

DAY 4

From Expectation to Trust

SCRIPTURE

“You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.’”

John 6:67–69

DEVOTIONAL

Peter began with a picture — a Messiah, Rome overthrown, a kingdom he could recognize — and that is what expectation is: an outcome you can describe. One picture at a time, God took them all away, until the day the crowd walked out and Peter had nothing left to picture. Notice he never says “now I understand.” He says, where else would I go. Expectation asks what He will do; trust asks who He is — and faith is the evidence of things not seen, which means you cannot have it for something you can already see.

REFLECTION

Which picture has God taken off your wall — and have you been reading it as punishment instead of promotion?

PRAYER

Jesus, where else would I go? You have the words of eternal life. Move me off of what I expect You to do and onto who You have already proven Yourself to be.

NOTES

DAY 5

You Were Never Meant to Stay Alone

SCRIPTURE

“From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him... ‘We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.’”

John 6:66, 69 · John 8:31–32

DEVOTIONAL

Verse 66 is plural — they did not leave one at a time, they left together, because departure is almost always a group activity. And then Peter answers in the plural too: we have believed, we have known, and not one “I” in the whole sentence. His conviction was his own, but it was formed in a room with other people. He sent them out two by two, and He never taught us a private version of the prayer — it is Our Father. Signing up for a group is not extra. It is equipment.

REFLECTION

Who is actually working the same problems beside you right now — and if you cannot name anyone, what is your next step this week?

PRAYER

Father, thank You that You see a disciple who is still developing where I only see a bad score. Put people around me who will stay in the material with me, and keep me in the class until knowing You is what holds me.

BOTTOM LINE

You started for what He did. Continue for who He is.

NOTES

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I am not failing. I am enrolled.