

11-16-25 5 Day Devotional

5-Day Devotional: Following Jesus Without Distraction

Day 1: Our Primary Job

****Reading:**** Matthew 22:34-40; Romans 12:1-2

****Devotional:****

Like firefighters who can forget their primary purpose while cooking or cleaning trucks, we often lose sight of our main calling: following Jesus. The greatest commandment isn't about performing religious duties—it's about loving God completely and loving others sacrificially. Today, examine your life honestly. What distractions have displaced Jesus from the center? Perhaps it's busyness, entertainment, or even good activities that have become ultimate things. Paul urges us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, transformed by renewed minds. This isn't about adding more religious activities; it's about reorienting everything around Christ. Ask yourself: If someone observed my life, would they see Jesus as my primary pursuit, or just another interest among many? Surrender begins with honest assessment and deliberate reordering of priorities.

Day 2: From Salvation to Following

****Reading:**** Luke 9:23-26, 57-62; James 2:14-26

****Devotional:****

Salvation isn't a finish line—it's starting blocks. Jesus never called people merely to be saved; He called them to follow Him continually. The rich young ruler walked away sad because he wanted salvation without surrender. James reminds us that faith without action is dead. Real faith moves, serves, and transforms. Consider your spiritual journey: Have you been standing in the starting blocks, content with a past decision, or are you actively following Jesus deeper? Following means daily choices to deny yourself, take up your cross, and walk in His footsteps. It means allowing His holiness to work through you, not manufacturing your own righteousness. Today, identify one area where you've stopped following and ask God for renewed strength to move forward. Remember: you cannot follow Jesus

and stand still simultaneously.

Day 3: Speaking What We've Seen

****Reading:**** Acts 3:1-4:22

****Devotional:****

Peter and John declared, "We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." Their boldness came from genuine encounter with the risen Christ. When threatened with punishment, they chose obedience to God over human approval. Contrast this with our often-silent witness. Why can't we speak about Jesus? Perhaps we haven't truly seen Him lately. We've become spectators rather than participants in His ongoing work. The crippled man's healing opened doors for testimony because Peter expected God to move. When was the last time you invited Jesus into something—even something as mundane as fixing a bread machine? God wants relationship in every detail. He longs to demonstrate His reality in ways that make you unable to remain silent. Today, ask God to open your eyes to see Him at work, then share what you witness with someone. Let your testimony flow from authentic experience, not religious obligation.

Day 4: Refreshment for Parched Souls

****Reading:**** Acts 3:19-26; John 7:37-39

****Devotional:****

Peter promised that repentance brings times of refreshing from the Lord. How many of us are spiritually parched, going through motions while our souls remain dry? Jesus offered living water to the woman at the well and invited thirsty people to come and drink. Refreshment isn't found in more religious activity but in turning fully to God, allowing Him to wipe out sins and renew our spirits through His Holy Spirit. This refreshing is meant to be continual, not occasional. Examine your spiritual condition honestly: Does your life reflect refreshment or exhaustion? Are you drawing from Christ's living water daily, or trying to survive on yesterday's encounter? God doesn't want you merely surviving—He offers abundant life. Today, spend extended time in His presence without agenda. Let Him refresh your weary soul. Confess where you've been trying to manufacture spiritual vitality in your

own strength. Receive His renewal.

Day 5: Sacrifice and Surrender

****Reading:**** Romans 12:1-8; Mark 8:34-38

****Devotional:****

Paul urges us to offer our bodies as living sacrifices—our spiritual act of worship. Unlike burnt offerings that died once, we're called to daily place ourselves on the altar, dying to self-will and rising to God's purposes. This transforms how we think, enabling us to discern God's will. Yet Paul immediately warns against thinking too highly of ourselves, reminding us to maintain sober judgment. True surrender requires honest assessment: Where am I holding back from God? What would it cost me to fully follow Jesus? For some, it's comfort, reputation, or security. For others, it's control over time, money, or relationships. The disciples who couldn't help but speak of Jesus had laid everything down. They'd experienced resurrection power and found nothing worth keeping from Him. Today, identify what you're clutching tightly. Bring it to the altar. Remember: you cannot sacrifice what you won't release. Full surrender opens the door to experiencing God's good, pleasing, and perfect will.